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Flint situation to 'get worse'

By Rachel Brackins
Head Copy Editor

The residents of Flint, Michigan, unknowingly drank lead-poisoned water for two years until President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency on Jan. 16, 2016, according to a CNN report.

Flint once a thriving industrial city, fell into a financial crisis in April 2014 after multiple car manufacturers shut down plants in the surrounding areas. In an effort to save money, Flint officials decided to draw water from the Flint River instead of continuing to pump it from Detroit, according to an ABC News report.

The water from the Flint River has a different chemical makeup than the water being pumped from Detroit. The chemicals in the Flint River water reacted to the outdated pipes, which then caused lead to leach into the water, eventually carrying that lead into the homes of thousands of people over a span of two years, according to a CNN report.

Former Harding student Coleman Yoakum moved to Pontiac, Michigan, in 2011 to start a community development organization. He said he works closely with Flint citizens, and that many people had complained about several problems — the unpleasant smell and brown color of their water, hair loss, the development of rashes and upset stomachs — but that Michigan's leadership, including Gov. Rick Snyder, had ignored them.

It was only after pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, who had been researching the levels of lead in Flint children, released her findings during a press conference that the government started to acknowledge the situation, according to a CNN report. According to Hanna-Attisha, the lead levels in children had doubled in the past two years.

"When pediatricians hear anything about lead, we absolutely freak out," Hanna-Attisha said in an interview with CNN. "Lead is a potent known neurotoxin. The CDC

(Centers for Disease Control), the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), everybody tells us that there is no safe level of lead."

Yoakum said the effects of the lead poisoning will affect Flint for years to come.

"You just had a whole generation of kids exposed to lead poisoning for two years," Yoakum said. "Whenever you encounter high levels of lead, it stops your mental development. It's going to get worse for Flint, because now you have thousands of stunted citizens."

Junior Amanda Floyd, who grew up a 30-minute drive from Flint, Michigan, said the crisis is a hard blow to an already hurting city. Floyd said she feels that the negative media coverage is making the situation worse, instead of helping it.

"It just makes me sad because we were already at the bottom, and now it's even worse," Floyd said. "And now we are in the spotlight of the country ... we just look even worse than we did before."

According to a CNN report, over the month of January, Snyder issued boil advisories, deployed the National Guard to distribute bottled water and filters, and apologized in his State of the State address. The city has switched back to pumping water from Detroit, but it may take weeks for the water to clear up.

While the water may be clearing, Yoakum said he thinks the people of Flint are just now starting conversations about the possible underlying cause of the crisis. According to Yoakum, decisions made years ago having to do with race may have influenced the poor choices.

"There is a big part of the conversation saying that this is a problem of racism, and I'm not exactly sure how I feel about that," Yoakum said. "I think actions from 20 years ago are finally adding up. So maybe not racism today, but decisions from a long time ago that are having an effect."



Courtesy of the Office of Public Relations
Elijah Anthony was one of the first integrated students to graduate from Harding. Anthony will be on a four-person panel discussing race relations.



Courtesy of Grant Schol

Alumni Blake Hunter was involved in Pied Piper, several plays and was a Spring Sing host in 2014. Hunter was the head choreographer for Spring Sing in 2015 and 2016.

In memory of Blake Ryan Hunter

By Claire Heffley
Guest Writer

I was sitting around a fire with my friends the Saturday night after Blake Hunter's death that morning. We were waffling between small talk and big talk — cheerful talk and tearful talk — trying to keep our minds light while our hearts were undeniably heavy. One of my friends suddenly gasped, "Oh my gosh," as her jaw dropped and she pointed to the sky. The shooting star lasted long enough for us all to stand and turn, watch it complete its fall, and end with one final, silent burst of light, burning a glowing trail in the night sky. It was hands-down the most magnificent shooting star any of us had ever seen.

God only gave us 25 years of

Blake Hunter's light. It was so brief, yet so bright. It affected every single person fortunate enough to experience it. It did not matter how dark your night was, and it did not matter if one person or thousands of people were present. It did not matter if you were grabbing a quick coffee one-on-one or if you were just a face in the audience and he was on stage. Blake was there to shine his light, and he did so without ceasing for 25 years.

On Saturday morning, the angel chorus up in Heaven gained a really good vocalist. The theater troupe gained a fabulous performer, and their musical choreography got way, way better. I'm assuming there are Pied Pipers there, too, and they just got funnier. Their

soccer team also grew stronger. Every child in Heaven, I can assure you, just found a new best friend and role model. The heavenly family gained the most encouraging son, brother, cousin and nephew it could ask for, and every family meal will now be much more entertaining.

God only gave us 25 years of Blake, and I can't decide if I'm mad or not that I ever experienced his brief and brilliant light. I can't decide if the darkness we find ourselves in now is as bleak as the darkness we were in before knowing Blake. Would it have been better never to know what I and so many others will now be missing the rest of our lives?

But like that shooting star, Blake did not go without leaving

a glowing trail behind him. He did not shine so that he would be glorified — Blake served as a mirror for the light of his Savior. His memory and his legacy live on in the countless people he influenced as he worked to expand God's kingdom. I now know that at the end of my life, the light at the end of the tunnel will be a little bit brighter because my friend Blake has been added to it. He will be waiting in that light at the end of the tunnel for us all, shining brighter than ever.

The celebration of Blake's life was held at College Church of Christ on Jan. 26. His family has asked that memorials be sent to The Harding Theatre Department HU Box 12238 Searcy, AR 72149.

Surprise snowstorm brings three day weekend



AMANDA FLOYD | THE BISON
Students enjoyed a day of relaxation,

On Jan. 22, an overnight storm brought several inches of snow to Searcy. Students enjoyed a day of relaxation, hot chocolate and snowball fights.

ASI to host panel featuring first integrated students

By Hannah Moore
Beat Reporter

Each semester, the American Studies Institute (ASI) hosts several speakers as a part of its Distinguished Lecture Series. The first event of this semester, titled "Exploring Race Relations: An Honest Conversation," will be held on Feb. 9 and will feature a panel of speakers moderated by the university's president, Dr. Bruce McLarty.

Kim Kirkman, associate executive director of ASI, said that the panel format has never been used in the history of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

"The idea kind of evolved out of some planning meetings, but Dr. McLarty wanted to have something where multiple voices were heard about different experiences and different views of how race relations have gotten better or stayed the same or deteriorated, if that be the case," Kirkman said.

The panel will feature Elijah Anthony, Fred Gray, Anastasia Pittman and Howard Wright. Anthony and Wright were the first two black students ever to

graduate from Harding in 1968, and Wright also serves on the board of trustees. Gray legally represented both Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. early in the Civil Rights Movement. Pittman represents the 48th District in the Oklahoma state senate.

Senior Brent Hall, student executive vice president of ASI, said that learning about past race relations at Harding will be a challenging experience.

"These four panelists will be able to lend wise and insightful voices regarding the truth of racial issues, both in the past and in the present," Hall said. "Part of the importance of this conversation is the transparency with which Wright and Anthony will speak concerning their experience at Harding in the '60s. It should be a special, though perhaps difficult and troubling, evening."

According to senior Austin Yates, student president of ASI, said that this evening will give listeners an important insight into the lives of others.

"While this panel is important for many reasons, I think it is most important because

we often succumb to the idea that if something doesn't affect us then we have no reason to worry about it," Yates said. "As Christians, this view is fundamentally wrong. We are called to walk a mile in others' shoes, to give voices to those who have none, and to stand boldly in the face of injustice and inequality. I look forward to an evening of exploring where we have been, where we have come and looking forward to a better day tomorrow — one filled with unconditional love for our neighbors."

Gray will also have a signing for his book "Bus Ride to Justice" in which he talks about his involvement with King and Parks. Kirkman said that she has started reading the book and believes that others will find it interesting as well.

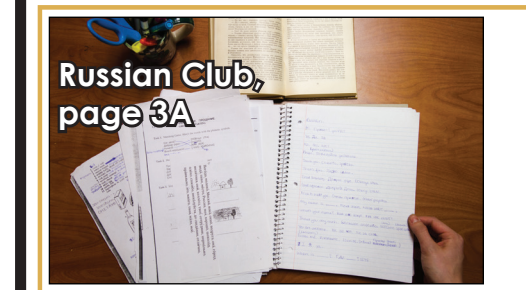
The second installment of the speaker series will take place on April 7 and feature David Barton, the founder and president of WallBuilders. He is the author of several best-selling books and emphasizes America's religious and constitutional heritage.

According to Kirkman, ASI has hosted Barton as a part of the speaker series before.

"He has been to campus before, and we don't have many speakers that we bring back to campus," Kirkman said. "He was very well-received. His name might not be as high-profile, but he is certainly a fabulous speaker, and anyone who attends will learn a lot. His presentation is very easy to listen to and 45 minutes goes by really quickly."

Yates said that the Distinguished Lecture Series is an amazing opportunity and encourages students to take advantage.

"I think ASI is one of the most special programs we have on Harding's campus," Yates said. "Rarely are students fortunate enough to hear from such wise and experienced people. We all have so much to learn, and it is my hope that every student take hold of this opportunity to gain wisdom and knowledge that will make us better citizens, better people and a better community of believers."



Russian Club, page 3A

'Making a Murderer', page 4B

Check out a review of the Netflix original documentary

Sierra Shields, page 2A

The search for the 30-year-old who disappeared continues



Track, page 2B



Courtesy of Grant School

Senior Anna Winchester and junior Josh Robinson wave to children at last year's Princess & Superhero Party. This year's party is on Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Heritage Auditorium.

Princesses, superheroes give back to community

Women for Harding to host the fourth annual Princess & Superhero Party as a fundraiser for student scholarships

By **Zach Hailey**
Editor-in-Chief

The fourth annual Princess & Superhero Party, conducted by Women for Harding, will take place in the Heritage Auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Students will dress up as superheroes and princesses and invite White County families to spend the morning playing games, eating snacks and making crafts. According to Liz Howell, vice president for alumni and parent relations, Olaf the snowman, a crowd favorite, will be present this year.

"We do this to raise money for scholarships, but also as a way to give back to the community," Howell said. "Many children won't have the opportunity to travel to California or Florida to have an experience like

this. It's so rewarding to see that much joy on campus."

Junior Alexis Jewell said she played the role of Sleeping Beauty last year and enjoyed her time with the children.

"I think the Princess & Superhero Party is my favorite part of the Women for Harding scholarship," Jewell said. "Just like the scholarship helps us students who can't pay for college, we get to help kids who might not have the money to go experience something magical."

According to Jewell, the day begins with all of the families meeting in the Heritage Auditorium. There, all of the superheroes and princesses are announced and brought to the stage. Jewell said that the children get excited to see their favorite characters. Following the entrance of

the characters, children have the opportunity to eat snacks, make crafts and have other fun activities with their favorite heroes and princesses.

"Many children won't have the opportunity to travel to California or Florida to have an experience like this. It's so rewarding to see that much joy on campus."

-Liz Howell
Vice President for Alumni and Parent Relations

Sophomore Madison Haskins said she played Elsa from "Frozen" last year and loved the magic that came with the role.

"(Anna and Elsa) were the new princesses on the

scene, so they were very popular," Haskins said. "It seemed really magical to (the kids), like we were actually princesses, which made me feel like actual royalty."

Senior Emily Bonzagni said she will be helping out for the first time this year and is excited to help make memories.

"I'm most looking forward to being able to interact with the sweet little kids that come to see us," Bonzagni said. "It'll be so cool to be able to act like what they're used to seeing on TV and being able to bring that to life."

Tickets for the party are \$10 for children and \$5 for adults. They can be purchased at Harding Academy, the Harding Alumni Office, RadioShack, Sassy Stitch, The Tangerine Turtle and at the door on the day of the event.

Mission to find missing flight attendant aided by social media

By **Amanda Floyd**
Head Photographer

Friends and family of missing flight attendant Sierra Shields have reached out to the public for help in finding the woman who disappeared from her workplace earlier this month.

Shields has Harding connections, and Rochester Church of Christ members are aiding in the search for the missing flight attendant.

"It's unbelievable," senior Xavier Miller, who grew up with Shields in Matteson, Illinois, said. "She's so goofy and the jokester of the family. I don't think she would have run away."

Thirty-year-old Sierra Shields was last seen on Jan. 14 at the LaGuardia Airport after meeting with her supervisor and quitting her job, according to NBCNews.com. It is unclear why she quit, but her personal belongings (including her phone, wallet and keys) were left in her apartment in Queens, New York.

Since Shields' disappearance, friends and family have worked to find her. Within a few days they had covered the city with yellow flyers that included a picture of Shields' face and information, according to NBCNews.com. They also turned to social media for help by setting up the Facebook page "Find Sierra Shields" and using #findSierraNYC. The page, which currently has over 9,000 likes, posts new information about the search for Shields every day.

One post reads, "Please help find this beautiful young lady! She is a precious, bubbly and happy person. She lives her life by God's caring word and is such an amazing, helpful and caring daughter, sister and friend. All of us who know her love her very much."

Shields' disappearance has also greatly impacted the student body of Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Michigan, of which she is an alumna and current graduate student

of ministry, according to Newsone.com.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, Rochester College held a special chapel service in honor of Shields, according to senior Hannah Brackney of Rochester College. They have also helped raise awareness about Shields on social media by posting a video of the Rochester College A Capella Chorus singing a song in dedication to her.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22, a "Vigil of Hope" was held in honor of Shields. Across the country friends and family gathered together and lit candles while they prayed for Shields' safe return. Participants were encouraged to post pictures of themselves with their candles on social media using #VigilofHope. Larger gatherings took place at Shields' current congregation in Astoria, New York, her home congregation in Illinois and at Rochester College.

Brackney said that the Vigil of Hope was a last effort from the family to find Shields, because they know that after a week the public will lose interest in her story.

"Everyone on campus has been really sad and praying for the family," Brackney said. "I wouldn't say it's been a good thing for our campus, but it's definitely been a powerful thing."

According to Rochester Church of Christ officials, the church has also been financially supporting the Shields family. A fundraising account has been created for the Shields family on Crowdfunder.com called "Friends of Sierra Shields."

Shields' missing person report states that she is 5 feet 7 inches, 160 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. It is believed that she was last seen wearing a blue dress uniform. If you know anything about her whereabouts, please contact the NYPD at (800) 577-TIPS.

"Share any post you see because that makes people aware, and we want more people aware of (the circumstances)," Miller said.

Relational health issues addressed in new initiative

By **Trent B. Yurcho**
Student Writer

The Relational Health Initiative (RHI), a program through the Counseling Center, plans to give students practical help with issues ranging from anxiety and stress to dating violence and unwanted same-sex attraction. The RHI's goal is to help prevent students from feeling distress while in college, according to Counseling Center Director Dr. Lew Moore.

"The Counseling Center is a therapeutic, helpful climate," Moore said. "Our focus on the RHI is a very proactive part of the Counseling Center program. This is

the preventive, resourceful component of the Counseling Center."

According to Moore, Dr. Margaret Wehrenberg, Psy. D., a licensed clinical psychologist, will be on campus on Feb. 4 as the first speaker of the initiative.

Wehrenberg will present easily applied advice with a preventative, resourceful approach to avoiding stress, Moore said. Wehrenberg will speak in both 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. chapels on Feb. 4 about stress and anxiety. From noon to 4 p.m. she will conduct a continuing education class for therapists, therapists in training and others who are interested. She

will speak the same day in Cone Chapel at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Q&A period.

"We believe this is a good starting point because it is addressing the two very common experiences of students: anxiety and depression," Moore said.

The Counseling Center is confident in Wehrenberg's credentials and ability to teach Harding's students and faculty, according to Dr. Sherry Pollard, assistant director of the Counseling Center. Pollard said Harding counselors first encountered Wehrenberg when she spoke at a continuing education program in

Little Rock, Arkansas.

"We felt she was very on track as far as what our students needed to hear," Pollard said. "(She will also) offer some continuing education for our graduate students and faculty."

Senior graphic design major Victoria Park, who designed the logo for the initiative, said she thinks the RHI will help put student stress and anxiety into perspective.

"They seem to be addressing problems that university students experience every day in an informative, helpful way," Park said. "I'm excited to hear more about the programs and speakers they plan on having."



Courtesy of Sherry Pollard

Dr. Margaret Wehrenberg will be speaking at the Relational Health Initiative on Thursday, Feb. 4. The initiative is designed to address strains on students, including anxiety, stress and same-sex attraction.

Clogging: the “melting pot dance”

hannah johnson

guest
writer



style of music. Both clogging and Irish dancing are very rhythmic, but clogging is much more relaxed. Cloggers do not have to always have their arms and hands by their side.

As Irish, Scottish, English and Dutch-German immigrants settled in the Appalachian Mountains in the mid 1700s, folk and step dances began to meet and combine with one another. This is how clogging began.

As clogging moved its way to the flatlands, it began to be shaped and influenced more. The traditions of the Cherokee Indians, African-Americans and Russian Gypsies impacted this “melting pot dance” even more. Traditional clogging was also referred to as jigging, buck dancing, flat-footing and back-stepping. Over time, traditional line dances began to emerge as well as a form of square dancing mixed with clogging. Today, clogging has evolved into a much more complicated and detailed dance. In modern competitions, groups combine clogging with hip-hop, jazz and formation work.

Performing, as I said earlier, has been part of my life since I was very young. As a shy person, it has helped mold and push me. Today, I feel more comfortable and happy on a stage in front of a large audience than I typically do in normal, everyday circumstances and events. In October 2015, I had the amazing opportunity to perform at the Carolina Opry

with a professional clogging group called All-That. While performing my solo on the Carolina Opry stage, I felt no fear — just peace and pure joy. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.

Clogging has opened my eyes to other places in the U.S. and has allowed me to meet many incredible people. For the past two years, I have won the NCHC National Choreographed Clogging Solo title. It had been a dream and goal of mine to be a national clogging champion, but it never seemed possible. Being from Colville, Washington (a small town in the Northeast corner of the state), as well as the only person in my clogging group that had the desire to compete, made it a huge challenge. Clogging has provided me with a family of dancers all over the country as well as in other parts of the world. Through lots of hard work, fundraising, prayer, support from family and friends and the Colville community, and a dream — I was able to achieve my goal. It warmed my heart to know that I was putting Colville, Washington, on the clogging map.

HANNAH JOHNSON is a guest writer for the Bison. She may be contacted at hjohnson3@harding.edu.

joshua johnson



don't mind me...

More than a conqueror

If there was anything you noticed right away, it was the fact that he loved to dance.

Blake Hunter was both my friend and my choreography instructor. He was a fire — a bright flame that burned for far too brief a time, and then was extinguished. God only knows why. But I am convinced that Blake would tell us not to ask questions. Because despite all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. For nothing — no height, depth or power in all creation — can separate us from the love of God. Blake loved to remind his family and friends of this truth.

In all these things, he was more than a conqueror.

God works in mysterious ways. In this case, he worked through my junior-level Bible class, of all things. The weekend I got the news of Blake's death, the assigned class reading was the first few chapters of a book called “More Ready Than You Realize,” by Brian D. McLaren. Frankly, homework was the last thing I wanted to face during such a difficult time. But as I skimmed the introduction, hoping to find the answers to the study guide questions in the section headers, I realized that the book is actually about dancing.

Let me explain.

McLaren proposes that evangelism is in many ways a dance. Metaphorically, of course, unless you're just that kind of capering crusader — in which case, more power to you. What McLaren didn't realize, however, was that this kind of evangelist does, in fact, exist.

Blake was that kind of evangelist.

In all these things, he was more than a conqueror.

McLaren's theory is that, in the world of choreography, it is difficult to dance fluidly to a song that is completely unfamiliar. Rather, a dancer learns the music's melody and rhythm, its rises and falls, its heart and soul. The dancer and the song must become one entity.

So it is with evangelism, McLaren says. In order to avoid the rehearsed, mechanical monologues that touch the ears of unbelievers as nothing more than waves of insincerity, the evangelist and the music of the gospel must become one entity.

Tears rolled down my cheeks as these words took shape; I could picture the face of my friend, walking us through Spring Sing ensemble routines, or showing us how to flourish umbrellas in unison as we danced and sang in the rain.

Little did I realize at the time that his teaching was about far more than a simple dance. Blake and the power of the Spirit within him were one entity. He lived life to the beat of a song far more significant than anything Gene Kelly ever crooned.

In all these things, he was more than a conqueror.

Blake taught me how to dance, and he also taught me how to, well, dance. The song that played inside of him is a song that will never cease, as long as we are alive to carry it out into all the world.

My friend is dancing with Jesus now. I know he is. Because in all these things, he was more than a conqueror.

See you later, Blake.

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

FACES IN THE CROWD

“HOW WILL YOU FEEL IF LEONARDO DICAPRIO WINS AN OSCAR?”

Hannah Albert,
Freshman

Wes Henry,
Junior

Emily Brandon,
Junior

Jay Johnson,
Freshman



“I don't really care.”



“I'd be one proud American. He should've won a decade ago, but no.”



“I'd be pumped. It's actually something I think about a lot.”



“I'd feel pretty relieved. That man deserves one. That's my man right there.”

How Netflix saves lives

alex wingrove

guest
writer



altogether is not ideal. The chart that says “choose two: social life, enough sleep and good grades” is possibly the most accurate thing to describe my life. Although it seems like it might be useless to even try to find time for Netflix, I can assure you that making an effort to do so would benefit every college student.

What would I have to look forward to in my (nonexistent) love life if it were not for the “relationship goals” of Chuck and Blair on “Gossip Girl”? How could I possibly get through the stress and tears of finals week if I didn't make time to listen to Phoebe's horrible made-up songs on “Friends” that also make me cry, but rather from laughter? I am not sure I could survive a week of college without taking the time to stress about at least one episode of “Criminal Minds.”

I have seen way too many occurrences of my roommate's stress hives; and if that is not enough to convince you to make time

for something other than, well, studying, I do not really know what is. It is vital for your own sanity (and physical health, evidently) to take a break every once in a while to do something stress-relieving.

Now, I am not saying you should completely fall off the wagon, give up all cares and make Fs, but at least give yourself an hour a week to watch an episode of something you love on Netflix. You never know what hidden treasures you will find on that truly God-given website or the joy it will bring you just to relax, even for a hot second.

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zach hailey



hailey to the chief

Finding peace in bravery

On May 15, 1986, the Associated Press (AP) published a two-paragraph press release honoring three men in Moscow. Alexi Ananenko, Valeri Bezpалov and Boris Baranov willingly volunteered to save half of Europe from suffering an explosion in Chernobyl.

Whenever Chernobyl is mentioned in history class, minds turn to the disaster that devastated the 19-mile patch of land, which still lies desolate in Pripjat, Ukraine. Things would have been much different if these three men had chosen not to sacrifice themselves for the greater good of Europe.

According to the AP, 10 days after the initial explosion, it was discovered that water had been building up under the core of the reactor. If the core of the nuclear reactor broke through the bottom barrier into the water, the steam produced by the reactor would create a much larger explosion that would spread radiation all across the continent.

Thankfully, a fail-safe was put in place when the plant was constructed: two valves that controlled doors to drainage pipes that could remove the excess water from underneath the reactor core. Unfortunately, there was only one way to open the valves — manually. The two valves were buried beneath extremely radioactive water. A team of three divers would need to find the valves and work together to open them.

Ananenko was recorded as saying that although he was not forced to dive into the water, he decided that he was best fit for the job.

“But how could I do that when I was the only person on the shift who knew where the valves were located?” Ananenko said.

Ananenko and the two others decided to take the job.

“When the searchlight beam fell on a pipe, we were joyous,” Ananenko said. “The pipes led to the valves.”

Soon after following the pipes, the team completed its mission.

“We heard the water rush out of the tank,” Ananenko said. “In a few more minutes we were being embraced by the guys.”

As expected, the nuclear core fell into the basement where the water was, although by that time, the water was gone. The team of three died of radiation poisoning two weeks later.

I sometimes think of the guts it takes to sign up to join the military, to choose to put yourself in harm’s way for the sake of others, or to travel across the world into dangerous territory as a missionary, so that others may learn and live. What does it take to make a person willing to give his or her own life? Some say that bravery is innate, but I believe that sometimes it is the split-second decisions that show true courage. There was little time for the team to choose what they were going to do, and in the moment, they chose that the needs of the many were greater than the needs of the few — even if the few were themselves.

I wonder if after the initial panic subsided from the decision they made, the team was able to find peace in what they chose to do. I wonder if they were able to close their eyes that night while they reflected on their sealed fate, and smile. I would rather die one hundred times over knowing that I saved many, even if I didn’t make it out alive. What a tragedy — what a beautiful story. Bravery isn’t something you are born with — at least not for these men. For them, bravery was born in them when they chose to suit up, dive in and save Europe.

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

This is chair.
Chair doesn’t have a Facebook.
Chair doesn’t post about stick figure stories.
Chair is respected.
Be like chair.



illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

anna winchester



guest writer

The horses disappear as my carriage slowly rolls to a stop, its wheels collapse, and its light blue color morphs into a familiar orange. I realize my fairytale is over, and all I have left is a pumpkin.

Little girls are hardwired to dream of the day that their Prince Charming will come along. The thought of wearing a crown, living in a palace and claiming the throne captivates the mind of every little girl.

“Cinderella” was my absolute favorite movie growing up, and to this day it remains in my top five. I used to imagine my fairy godmother would appear in the midst of my greatest distress and lead me to my Prince Charming.

Well, despite opportunities for her to show up and save the day, she never came. Once I realized that life is no fairytale, I gave up the

dream that I once envisioned. I hung up my invisible crown and began to occupy my mind with other fantasies.

Now that I am a college student, my daydreams are much more realistic. When I was younger my dreams dwarfed the goals I have now. Children dream big. I think adults could learn a lot from children.

When I came to college, I finally received my invitation to the ball, so to speak. The Women for Harding, a service organization which fundraises for scholarships, hosts an event every year for children in the Searcy community called “The Princess & Superhero Party.” This event invites families to bring their children to Harding for a day filled with autographs, pictures and stories. The children dress up as their favorite superhero or princess, and recipients of the Women for Harding scholarships dress up as fairytale classics. All of the proceeds go straight to the organization’s scholarship fund.

I was asked to be Cinderella my sophomore year after the previous princess graduated. I was able to live out a dream I was once so passionate about, but had since given up on.

As Cinderella, I stand at the front of the room in my ball gown with Prince Charming as miniature Snow Whites and Sleeping Beauties

approach us for an embrace. Looking up at me, one little girl even proclaimed, “You are a real princess! I wish I was a real princess.” I smiled back at her and said, “Oh, but you are a real princess.” She smiled from ear-to-ear, and I knew that she took what I said to heart.

I know this event is special for the kids that attend, but I honestly believe I get more out of the day than they do. I did not realize why I dreamt of being a princess until the first time I put on the dress and signed “Cinderella” as my name.

My crown didn’t make me famous. I did not rule a land or rest on a throne. I did, however, become an example. I became a dreamer again.

Kids dream big because fear has not yet engulfed them. Adults have safe-zones and limits. Each year, the tiny princesses remind me to dream big, because every dream counts. Dreams should be whimsical. Dreams should be limitless. Being a princess reminds me that every dream matters, and every face behind the dream matters, too.

ANNA WINCHESTER is a student writer for the Bison. She may be contacted at awinchester@harding.edu.

Interested in writing a guest column?

Contact Joshua Johnson at jjohnson4@harding.edu.

Just the Clax

Two by two



michael claxton

There’s a poem by Billy Collins called “Obituaries,” in which he reflects on those somber newspaper sketches of people who have recently passed away. You know, the section that older folks famously turn to first over a morning cup of coffee. Collins says that the obituary is where “the final cards are shown” — how old the person was, the cause of death and his or her various jobs, honors and hobbies.

Looking over the newspaper, the poet notes all the different people who depart this world during the same week. Though they didn’t necessarily know each other in life, he pictures them going together into the beyond — two by two — like the animals on Noah’s ark. “Arm in arm they get on board,” Collins writes, “all saved at last from the awful flood of life.”

Last week much of the world focused on the twin deaths of two beloved Englishmen — singer David Bowie and actor Alan Rickman, both 69. Meanwhile, far away from the flowers piled up outside Bowie’s New York home and at Platform 9 and ¾ at King’s Cross in London, the Harding family mourns losses of its own. In the span of eight days, two vibrant young people left this world. “Too soon” hardly does justice to the tragedy — put their ages together, and they wouldn’t equal 60. But put their lives together, and it adds up to a whole lotta good.

Alicia Smith (’04) was only 33 when she died Jan. 15 of brain cancer. She had fought the disease for two years with astonishing candor and humility. Last weekend, at her funeral in Huntsville, Alabama, nearly 20 different people gave eulogies, sharing memories of Alicia’s life and of her brave battle. “I wouldn’t wish this on anyone,” she wrote in a blog post, “but I wouldn’t trade the perspective it has given me for anything.” I’m reminded of Job 32:9: “It is not only the old who are wise.”

For Alicia, her husband Sean and their 5-year-old son Tate, cancer took away so much, but it allowed them to receive the gracious hospitality of their relatively new church family.

Christian brothers and sisters who had only known them for a short time brought food, ran errands, babysat, cleaned, listened and prayed for two years. “I would not have met so many kind people if I had not gotten sick,” she said.

Yet so many of those kind people recalled ways Alicia had encouraged them — both before and during her illness. An interior design major at Harding, she shared her talents by helping others make their homes unique, often presenting hand-made crafts as gifts. She wrote notes. When a neighbor got pregnant, Alicia visited every day. She looked for joy in simple things. She put people at ease by laughing at herself. She believed her sickness helped other people deepen their prayer lives. It certainly helped mine.

Last Saturday, 10 minutes before Alicia’s Celebration of Life began, word came through social media that Blake Hunter had died. Life has a way of hitting you when you are down, and I can only imagine how it pounded the family and friends who really knew Blake.

I could have missed out on knowing him at all. During my 9-to-5 life, I’m an English teacher and hack journalist. But in 2013 I got to step briefly into a world I had always envied. As a boy I had watched with awe as my older sister performed onstage in high school and college. So when the Homecoming musical team let me behind the curtain for “Pirates,” I had the privilege and joy of a front-row seat, while so many talented students and colleagues did their thing. And watching Blake Hunter

was part of the fun.

I had loved seeing him on the Harding stage before, playing such a range of roles — a Chinese henchman, a spelling superhero in a cape and crash helmet, and a brother jealous of Joseph’s “Technicolor Dreamcoat.” One summer evening at the Ulrey I laughed nonstop as Blake chugged along as a snail postman in “A Year with Frog and Toad.” His slow-motion antics and sluggish grin brought the house down every time he moseyed onstage.

He was just as funny in high gear, zipping through the frantic lyrics of “I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General” with hilarious abandon. It was all the more difficult because of the wheezy old-man voice he created for his character. Blake ribbed me later because the exhausting song had 590 words. He had counted them. I blamed Gilbert and Sullivan.

Blake was hilarious even when he didn’t mean to be. He had a costume change before the final curtain call, with very little time to switch from a nightgown to a military uniform. He managed it, except for one rehearsal when he took a bow, having not quite finished putting on his pants. After a really long night, everyone needed the slapstick relief. And who will forget his epic hip-bump with Dr. McLarty during the show? That was Blake’s idea.

He was just 25. It’s not fair. A joyful mother and a Pied Piper. They both adored children, whether it was Alicia helping her son see nature’s wonder during a simple walk to the mailbox, or kids climbing all over Blake at an orphanage in Mexico. Such tremendous creative talent — such a willingness to use it for God. Like Billy Collins, I can’t help picturing the two of them sailing toward Heaven together, making goofy faces and swapping clever ideas along the way.

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

david salley

Salley Says



Stop being a fake fan

I don't want to make a Super Bowl prediction. That would be cliché, and obviously, I'm going to pick the Panthers. So, instead, I'm going to give an important public service announcement: stop pretending to be a Panthers or Broncos fan.

This is the worst time of year to be a sports fan – followed closely by the day after Alabama or Duke does something great. Bandwagon fans come up all the time across the sports world. It's not just an NFL problem, but it does happen every Super Bowl. For example, somewhere some kid from Texas was a Seahawks fan last year. Bandwagoning is worse in the NFL and here's why: How many die-hard NFL fans do you know at this school? I mean "never miss a game" kinds of fans that you see for college teams? Not that many.

People will gouge their eyes out for a college team. Not many Tampa Bay Bucs fans are in a state of week-long depression after their squad loses on Sundays, because a loss in the NFL isn't that big of a deal. You can rebound because of the parity in the league. Unfortunately, that produces fewer "I'm going to break things if we blow this game" NFL fans, which, in turn, makes it so much easier to bandwagon an NFL team when they are doing well. No one is going to call you out on it. No one is going to say "Hey, where were you when the Broncos lost to so-and-so during week four?" Nobody cares. Nobody cared what the Broncos were doing 13 weeks ago. They cared about one big game that week, and unless Denver happened to be playing in it, no one is going to remember what happened, or care that you don't remember either. That's just the nature of the NFL.

But I am here to call you out on it. Stop it. With the obvious exception for certain extenuating circumstances, unless you are from the Carolinas or the Colorado area, you aren't legit. Unless you cared about the Panthers when Jimmy Clausen was tossing out picks like candy to kids on Halloween, you aren't legit. Unless you watched Denver when Jake "The Snake" Plummer was quitting football in his prime, you aren't legit. Saying that you're a Denver fan because you liked Tim Tebow is not a real reason. Your fanhood means nothing to any of us. Just watch the game and quit trying to get all of us to celebrate for you that "your" team is in it. The Super Bowl isn't about you. It's about Beyoncé. So please, do us all a favor: just stop.

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



BRITTNEY GARRINGER | THE BISON

Sophomore guard Reggie Anthony pulls up in the lane during the Bisons' 76-54 win over Henderson State University on Jan. 23 at the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse. Anthony scored 22 points in the Bisons' win over Southern Arkansas University on Monday, Jan. 25.

Bisons feel at home on the road

With five wins in six road games, men's basketball shows grit and growth

By David Salley
Sports Editor

In the 2014-15 season, the men's basketball team had two Great American Conference (GAC) wins away from home. This year, they have five before February.

The Bisons have been on a tear in the last few weeks, racking up three straight wins and winning six of their last seven games. Their latest victory, an 82-67 win over Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas, gave them their fifth GAC road win of the year in six road games, a new team record since Harding joined the

conference in 2012.

Head coach Jeff Morgan, in his postgame interview with Harding Sports Information, said he was excited for his team.

"I'm just really proud of our guys," Morgan said. "They just kept battling the entire game and showed a lot of composure, a lot of guts and I'm just really proud and excited for them."

One of the biggest questions heading into the spring semester for the Bisons was how they would respond after losing senior forward and preseason All-American Andras Kavás to an ACL

tear on Dec. 7, against Texas A&M University-Commerce. The team responded with a 6-2 record since Kavás went down and a current first-place tie with Ouachita Baptist University atop the GAC standings.

Senior guard Jacob Gibson said that when they lost Kavás, everyone knew they would need to step up.

"You can't replace a player of AK's (Kavás) skill and size," Gibson said. "But we're a deep team, we believe in each other and know that no one person makes the team. So when guys were asked to step in and play

bigger roles, they did it in an awesome way. It motivated us because we knew people would count us out with the loss of our leading scorer, but we made some adjustments and have shown we can still compete in the conference."

Gibson, the GAC player of the week for week nine of the season, has led the Bisons in scoring since Kavás' injury, averaging 14.1 points per game, but he is not without help offensively. Senior guard Blake McNair, junior guard Will Francis and junior forward Stefan Andelkovic all average more than 10 points per game

and are shooting over 40 percent from the 3-point line to help lead the Bisons' versatile attack.

"We have a saying we use a lot before each game and that's, 'everyone bring something,'" Gibson said. "So no matter your role, big or small, we want to be completely bought in and doing whatever the team needs to be successful and win a ball game."

The Bisons' next game is tomorrow, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. against Southwestern Oklahoma State University in the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse.

Lady Bisons excel late for bounce-back victory

Fourth quarter run carries Harding to win over Southern Arkansas University

By Caleb Rowan
Asst. Sports Editor

After committing 14 first-half turnovers, the Lady Bisons' basketball team found itself on the verge of a second straight conference loss on Monday, Jan. 25, trailing Southern Arkansas University (SAU) by 11 entering the fourth quarter.

"We couldn't catch balls; we couldn't hold on to the ball; we couldn't make shots; and we weren't even getting back on defense to get stops," junior guard Andi Haney said. "Those first three quarters were what I call the 'Bad News Bears.'"

Head coach Tim Kirby said in a postgame interview with Harding Sports Information that he challenged his team at halftime to be tough and respond to the adversity in the second half.

"Halftime was pretty tense; coach Kirby was mad and everybody was on edge," senior guard Kaylee Wiedower said. "Andi (Haney) and I just (told the team) we need to play together and just keep battling."

The Lady Bisons responded in a big way, scoring 32 points in the fourth quarter and ending the game on a 17-1 run to secure an 83-74 win over the Lady Muleriders. Wiedower led the team with a career-high 21 points, shooting 7-7 from the 3-point line.

"I didn't even know until after the game when my mom told me that I made all 7 (shots)," Wiedower said. "But I'm really proud of my teammates, because we have never been down (for) a whole game and come back like that."

Haney finished with 10 points and three assists for the Lady Bisons, but gave credit to her teammates for the way they fought their way back.

"We could have easily just laid down and let the 11-point lead become a 20-point lead," Haney said. "I'm really proud of the team; we really came together."

The win moved the Lady Bisons' Great American Conference record to 8-3, giving them sole possession of second place behind undefeated Arkansas Tech University.

The team hosted Northwestern Oklahoma State University on Thursday, Jan. 28, but results were not available at press time.

The Lady Bisons play Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in the

Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse tomorrow at 1 p.m. The two played in a highly competitive game earlier this year, so Haney said the team will need to be focused.

"(SWOSU) is a great ball team," Haney said. "A

big key will be our defense and stopping their drives because they have a lot of quick girls who can penetrate. The main thing for us is just playing as a team, because some people have written us off, but we all still believe."



BRITTNEY GARRINGER | THE BISON

Sophomore forward Mackenzie McNamara drives to the basket during the Lady Bisons' 66-62 loss to Henderson State on Jan. 23. McNamara had 7 points.



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Senior David Pencarinha races in the 110-meter hurdles during the Bisons' home meet last spring. The Bisons and Lady Bisons will compete in their indoor season until nationals in March and will then switch to outdoor for the remainder of the year.

Track begins 2016 spring season at Emory

By Erin Raimondi
Student Writer

The men's and women's track teams took second place at the Emory Crossplex Invitational in Birmingham, Alabama, on Jan. 24, in their first meet of the spring season.

Junior Josh Syrotchen won his first indoor weight throw event. He threw 57 feet and 1 inch, earning a NCAA Division II provisional mark. Junior Trey Adkison placed first in the men's pole-vault with a vault of 14 feet, 11 inches. Senior Logan Green also went

home with his first career victory this weekend in the men's 3,000-meter with a time of 8 minutes, 39 seconds.

"I am not disappointed at all about Sunday," senior Kevin Nancecenco said. "It is a great start to the season and I thought it was a well-fought team effort."

Both teams are loaded with experienced runners. The men's team has eight seniors, while the women's team has 10.

On the women's team, junior Amber Webb won the 3,000-meter with

a time of 10 minutes, 24.07 seconds, securing her first indoor career win. Senior Kelsey Taylor placed second in the mile run with a time of 5 minutes and 12.14 seconds. Both Lady Bisons distance medley relay (DMR) teams took first and second. Senior Tammy Kim took third in the 400-meter with a time of 1 minute, 1.7 seconds, while senior Braeghtyn McAleese took third in the weight throw event.

Kim said she is excited for this season and that she has a good feeling about future meets.

"I really think we can be conference champs," Kim said. "I think with our practices and the encouragement we have within our group, we can definitely do it."

The teams will compete in the Great American Conference (GAC) for the first time this season after previously competing in the Lone Star Conference, as the GAC added outdoor track and field for the spring of 2016.

The Bisons and Lady Bisons compete today, Jan. 29, at the Pittsburg State Invite in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Club sports prepare to kick off spring semester

By Hunter Beck
Web Editor

While renovations to the Ganus Athletic Center continue, club sports will soon begin with outdoor competitions. The semester's club season will open with soccer and softball in early February. According to Men's and Women's Intramural Director Jim Gowen, the two sports will be played simultaneously, with men's and women's clubs playing soccer and softball on Tuesdays, respectively, and vice versa on Thursdays. The concurrent scheduling is an attempt to ensure both competitions are finished, as

soccer was cancelled last year due to inclement weather. The swim meet is currently scheduled for Feb. 24, and the track and field meet is scheduled for April 5.

TNT, the men's large club A team leader, will look to build on the dominance it showed last semester, as its team won volleyball and basketball and finished second in flag football. TNT is also set to make a strong run in spring competitions, having finished first in softball, the swim meet and the track and field meet last year. In men's small club A team competition, newcomers Lambda Chi Theta will

look to impress, competing in all four spring sports for the first time. It finished last semester in first place on the strength of flag football and basketball championships. Sigma Nu Epsilon finished first in men's small club A team softball last year, with King's Men winning the swim meet and Omega Phi winning the track and field competition.

Chi Omega Pi currently leads women's large club A team competition. It finished first in flag football and basketball last semester. Chi Omega Pi's teams will have to perform considerably better in the spring sports

than last year if they hope to win the women's large club A team championship, as they failed to place in any of the three competitions last spring. Zeta Rho won softball last year, while Ko Jo Kai placed first in the swim meet, and Ju Go Ju finished first in the track and field meet. Iota Chi opens the semester leading women's small club A team competition after winning volleyball and basketball, and should approach the semester with confidence, having placed first in softball and the swim meet last year. Sigma Phi Mu finished first in last year's track and field meet.

LOCKER TALK

Our Athletes' Views on Pop Culture

questions

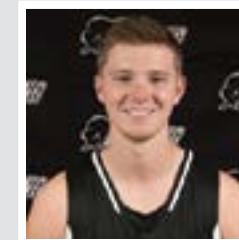
Piper Huey
Tennis

Zac Cambron
Baseball

Davis Richardson
Baseball

Andi Haney
Basketball

Jacob Gibson
Basketball



Panthers or Broncos?

Broncos.

Panthers.

I lived in Denver last summer, so I gotta go with the Broncos.

Broncos.

Panthers (hits dab).

If you could have an endless supply of one food, what would it be?

Chuy's chips and salsa.

Enchiladas.

Texas Barbecue or coffee. Probably coffee.

Chocolate filled with caramel.

Cookie cake.

Favorite superhero?

Batman.

Batman.

Batman or Superman all day.

Megamind.

Batman.

Your thoughts on hoverboards?

I feel like they are just a trend that won't be as popular a year from now. I still kind of want one though.

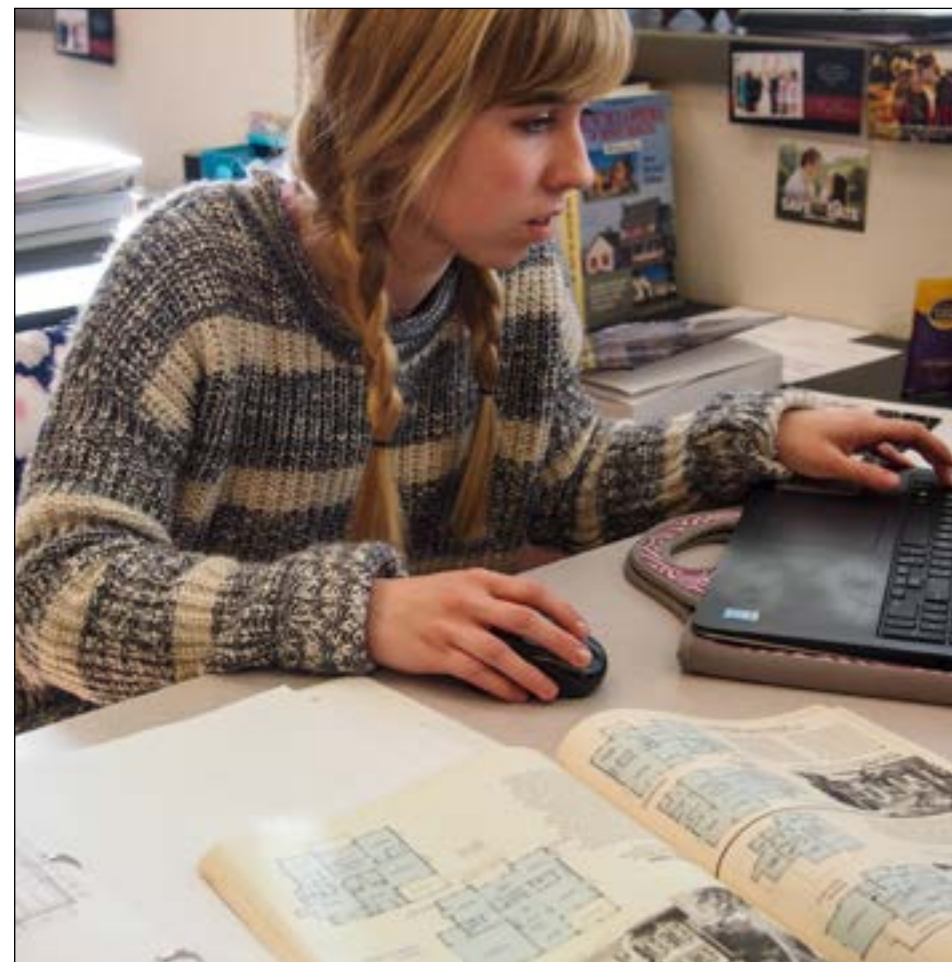
I think people need to stop being lazy and just walk.

They don't even hover.

Our generation is lazy - or I'm just jealous because I have bad balance.

Hard pass.

Renovated interior design space helps students



EMILY EASON | The Bison

Junior interior design student Becky O'Briant works in the interior design department space in the Olen Hendrix Building. The third floor of the building was renovated three years ago after the Swaid and Christie Swaid Center for Health Sciences was built.

By Presley Nixon
Student Writer
Savanna DiStefano
Features Editor

Three years ago, the third floor of the Olen Hendrix building received a facelift. Nursing textbooks and anatomy posters were replaced with a wood cutter and paint, flooring and fabric samples.

According to Amy Cox, assistant professor of art, the building was renovated after the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) suggested that the Department of Interior Design was in need of a new space. Before the recommendation, the department was spread out between the Stevens Art and Design Center, Ezell building and Lee building.

According to Cox, a noticeable theme in the new space is the idea of complete functionality, flexibility and adaptability. All chairs and tables can be easily moved, and almost no space is wasted on storage. Instead, students have their own portable filing cabinets they can take across the building.

"I spend so much of my time in this building," junior interior design student Becky O'Briant said. "Because of how open and efficient the space is, I never feel suffocated, or like the space is closing in on me. If I felt that way with the amount of time I have to spend in here, it would be impossible to get anything done."

According to Cox, there are three studios upstairs, as well as a gallery. At the

beginning of each semester, the students work together to arrange the studios in order to add a personal touch.

According to Cox, the renovations made were mostly cosmetic, and the cabinets and drawers from the nursing department were left. She said the pieces left behind were functional and saved money in the long run.

Cox said professors used the redesign as a collaborative learning experience by allowing students to help decorate the neutral walls with temporary accessories and pops of color.

Pictures from art department trips taken by students and faculty are hung on the walls. Cox said the pictures help "to tell the department's story" and are useful when giving tours to prospective students.

According to Cox, the workspace includes a conference room where students can have meetings. She said the room has taught professionalism and can be used for video-chatting via webcam and Smart TV.

Students were also challenged to create a student lounge last year, Cox said. They conducted interviews, voted on ideas and took a class trip to an Ikea in Dallas, Texas, where they bought furnishings for the new space. In the lounge, students have access to mini-fridges and Keurigs.

"Students often come (to the lounge) when they need to rest, escape the studio, make phone calls or even just have a snack break," Cox said.

Russian club teaches language

By Claire Patton
Student Writer

Last semester, junior Ashley Blackstock and then senior Daniel Casella formed the Russian club, a group that meets every Tuesday and Thursday to learn the Russian language.

Casella said he had learned some Ukrainian through mission trips, while Blackstock said she had picked up some Russian from a trip three years ago. When both expressed interest in learning more of the Russian language and forming a club last September, Casella sent out a chapel announcement inviting others to join them.

The idea generated interest from other students that same day, and the club has been meeting twice a week at 4 p.m. ever since.

According to Blackstock, many of the learning tactics used during the hour-long

meetings are pulled from foreign language classes she and Casella have taken before.

"We started out learning the alphabet together, then we tried new games together and learned basic words," Blackstock said.

One of last semester's regular attendees freshman Aaron Burlsworth, said he has already learned a lot of the Russian language through the organization.

"We got to the point where I could kind of read it, but it was still sketchy," Burlsworth said. "But that's after only a semester of (attending the meetings)."

The club is already making changes according to Blackstock. Casella graduated in December, and Blackstock is only able to be partially involved this semester due to time commitments. The two asked senior Katy Glazener

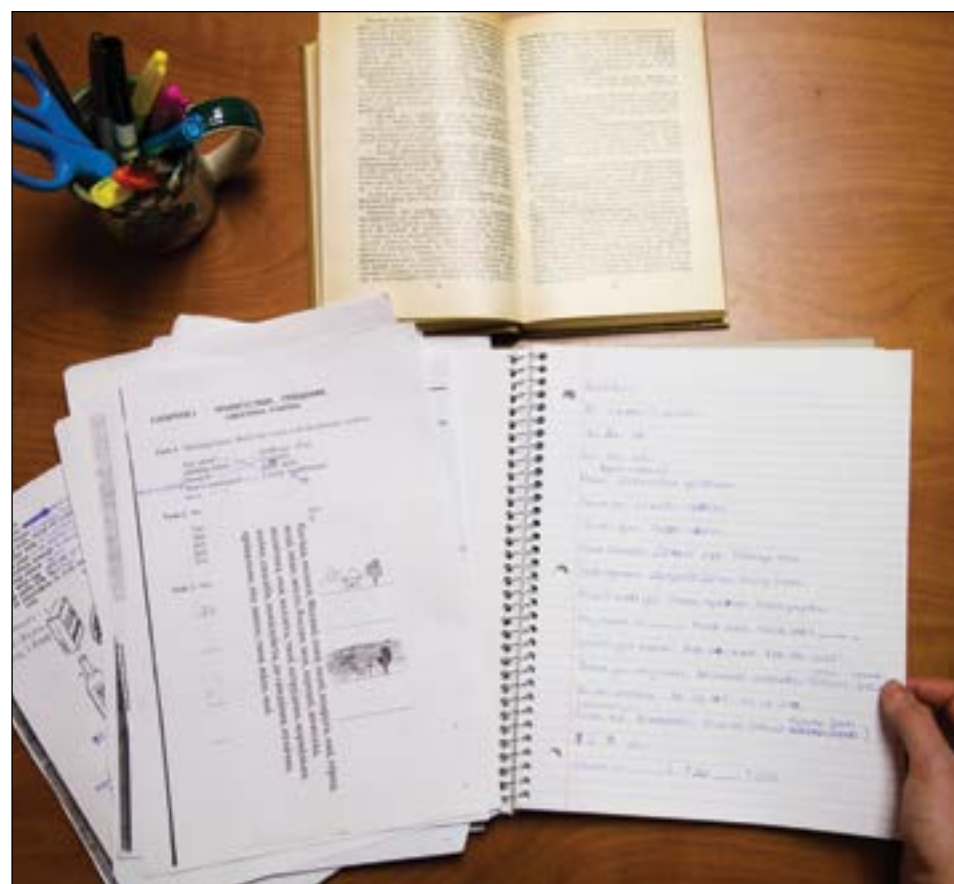
to take their places and teach the other members.

Glazener said she has dabbled in Russian over the years, as she grew up in a home that housed Russian orphans. She also used the language during a Global Outreach internship in Moscow, Russia, the summer after her freshman year and during a government internship last semester.

"Being (at Harding) for so long, there is always some type of interest with Russian, but we're not able to have the language classes all the time," Glazener said.

Members of the club range from those wanting to learn more for international business to those who want to learn for the sake of mission work or traveling abroad.

More information can be found on the Facebook group page HU Russian Speaking Club.



AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

Lesson notes and a book written in Russian are used to learn the Russian language. The Russian Club was formed last semester by junior Ashley Blackstock and alumnus Daniel Casella.

Instructor prepares students for future

By Madie McGuire
Student Writer

Instructor of theatre Ben Jones was first introduced to Harding when he attended as a student majoring in theatre and English with a teaching licensure. After graduation, Jones and his wife taught conversational English in Italy for two years and lived in Missouri and Tennessee, where Jones taught theater for a public high school.

Jones was hired for an assistant technical director position in Harding's theatre department in 2008. His main focuses in this role were design and technical work as well as supervision of the student building crew.

Jones said he began to miss the classroom around the time that Dr. Morris Ellis, the

previous technical director, retired. Jones applied for the technical director position and was hired as a faculty member in 2013. This promotion added the teaching aspect he was missing, Jones said.

"What I love about working at the college level is that I get to start with students who already have a passion for theater," Jones said. "My job is to prepare them for an opportunity to continue that passion for the rest of their lives."

Sophomore Katherine Stinnett said she is currently enrolled in Jones' lab class and has worked with him in several shows during her time at Harding.

"Mr. Jones always supplies useful knowledge to our field and doesn't shy away from

talking to us about the real-life issues that we might encounter in our future with theater," Stinnett said.

Mr. Jones always supplies useful knowledge to our field and doesn't shy away from talking to us about the real-life issues that we might encounter in our future with theater.

- Katherine Stinnett
Sophomore

Stinnett was also a part of the 2016 group that went to New York City with the theatre department over winter break. Jones said he has been taking students on

the trip since 2011 to gain insight into the theater world by viewing several plays during the week.

"Each year I bring back the question of how do all these different shows tell so many different stories," Jones said. "I think exploring these options makes me better as a storyteller."

Seth Fish, the current assistant technical director, also attended the recent trip to New York City. Fish said he and Jones watched each play with their minds open to how they could transfer aspects of what they were seeing to the Benson stage.

"We share a very similar work ethic," Fish said. "I always enjoy working with (Jones)."



EMILY EASON | The Bison

Instructor of theatre Ben Jones sits in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center on the set of the upcoming play, "The Glass Menagerie." Jones graduated Harding and has been teaching at Harding since 2008.

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‘Making a Murderer’ sends viewers on a hunt for the truth

By **Garrett White**
Student Writer

Netflix’s 2015 10-episode mini-series “Making a Murderer” follows the real-life case of Steven Avery, a Wisconsin man accused of murdering 25-year-old Teresa Halbach on Oct. 31, 2005.

The first episode of the documentary follows the story of Avery in prison from 1985 to 2003 on account of attempted first-degree murder and first-degree sexual assault of Penny Beerntsen. Avery maintained innocence and, in 2003, was set free from prison after 18 years when DNA testing proved his innocence and exposed the real assailant.

I was curious to see how this documentary would spread the Beerntsen case over 10 episodes, but I was hooked when the last 30 seconds of the first episode showed police going to Avery’s house to arrest him for the murder of Halbach in 2005.

Halbach was last seen alive at Avery’s house taking pictures of a van he was sell-

ing. Avery told police that she came, took pictures and left, and that was all that he saw of her.

I didn’t believe that Avery could have done it. I automatically decided that he was innocent of Halbach’s murder because he first served jail time for a crime he didn’t commit; however, the police found incriminating evidence and took Avery into custody.

The rest of the documentary follows his trial. Avery’s defense argued that he was innocent, and the evidence they brought forth to prove it is shocking. Two Manitowoc police officers keep popping up where they shouldn’t. The police’s actions surrounding the case grew suspicions, and Avery’s defense exposed how easy it could have been for the police have framed Avery.

Avery had filed a lawsuit against Manitowoc County for \$36 million after he was released from prison in 2003 and before his arrest in 2005. Avery said the Manitowoc County police

were upset that he accused them of being corrupt and eventually framed him for Halbach’s murder.

Throughout the documentary, viewers watch as Avery and his family are affected by the trial. What I found amazing about this series was the amount of original footage and audio the production team had accumulated. It’s impressive that they had the wits to video everything, because it turned out to be an extremely controversial case.

The show is hard to watch, but engaging as well. It seems like a movie, with several plot twists and story developments, but the fact that it is real life is what is most gripping. There are so many ins and outs to this story and the viewers are left questioning what exactly happened.

This documentary is a supreme example of a good show and has led me to believe that Avery is actually innocent of Halbach’s murder and was imprisoned again for something he didn’t do.



Graphic by Rachel Gibson

“Making a Murderer” follows the life of Steven Avery, a man accused of a murder that he may or may not have committed. The original series is available to view on Netflix.

Last day for ‘Leaves and Trees’

By **Jantzen Teague**
Student Writer

The Department of Art & Design is hosting a display titled “Leaves and Trees” in the Stevens Art Gallery through Jan. 29 to showcase nature-inspired artwork created by the department’s faculty.

Featuring paintings, drawings, photographs and a variety of styles from six current faculty members and three alumni, “Leaves and Trees” takes its viewers on a walk through nature. The exhibit coincided with a recent National Geographic article that discussed the relationship between health and nature.

“Most of us know that we feel good when we go outside — a walk in the woods, sitting by a bubbling brook,” gallery coordinator and professor of art Dr. John Keller said. “But it is actually established through research that you’re going to be a healthier, happier person if you spend time in nature.”

According to National Geographic’s research, spending time in nature can reduce blood pressure, heart rate and cortisol levels. Keller said the exhibit had already been planned when he ran across the National Geographic article and that the connection was simply a happy coincidence.

“We’re used to talking about

the health factor in foods, vitamins and exercise — those are the biggies,” Keller said. “But how often do we think seriously about the health benefits of just getting out where you’re immersed in nature?”

Assistant professor of art Beverly Austin expressed similar thoughts about the health benefits, giving credit to God for the beauty of nature and its side effects.

“Think about this,” Austin said. “God made a beautiful sunset, but if you didn’t have the capacity to appreciate the beauty, then it would just be red, yellow and orange in the sky and you’d just go on about your life.”

According to Austin, one should thank God each time something beautiful is seen. She said that each person is equipped to pursue some creative endeavor and that she hopes God is interested in how we choose to use our talents.

“Art can be a sermon...,” Austin said. “It can have subject matter that causes people to think about themselves, about their life, about their future, why they’re here.”

Keller promoted the crux of the subject matter as well. According to Keller, most artists would not think of the

“Leaves and Trees” exhibit as a “content-driven show.”

“Well, my argument would be that nature and presenting nature — maybe in ways that the viewer hasn’t seen it — is very strong content,” Keller said. “It’s about the beauty of nature: God’s creations.”

Professor of art Dr. Faye Doran, like Keller and Austin, contributed at least 10 pieces of artwork to the exhibit. In collaboration with her husband, retired biology professor and botanist Don Doran, Dr. Faye Doran often paints what she or her husband has photographed. Dr. Faye Doran said the connection between health and nature allows our spirits to rest.

“I think then our whole body feels better if we have those periods of rest,” Dr. Faye Doran said.

With more than 50 pieces covering the two galleries on the first floor of the Stevens Art building, “Leaves and Trees” paints the picture of the beauty of nature and its health benefits.

“I always thought if you lived among the trees, you ended up with a lot of allergies,” Austin said. “Or if you live among the pine trees, you got a lot of ticks.”



Brittany Garringer | The Bison

The Bison Express will help with car jumps, unlocking doors and fixing flat tires. The Bison Express is available from 7 p.m. until curfew seven days a week.

Get from A to B in style with new campus service

By **Brittany Simers**
Student Writer

The Department of Public Safety is offering a new transportation service, the Bison Express, to students on campus.

The program offers vehicle services such as jump-starts, unlocking doors and fixing flat tires. The Bison Express looks similar to public safety vehicles and functions as a transportation service, providing rides for students from one place on campus to the next. The program also serves students needing transportation to a medical facility or pharmacy.

“The Bison Express is a new twist on what we’ve already done,” Assistant Director of Public Safety Kevin Davis said. “It’s a reallocation of our student officer resources so that patrol guys, especially armed staff, can concentrate more on the patrol side at night.”

According to Davis, the use of student resource officers on the Bison Express is anticipated to boost department efficiency and reduce the wait time for students needing a ride on campus.

Davis said patrol officers will be able to concentrate more

time toward preventing crime and preserving campus safety.

“One of the things the Bison Express will allow our patrol guys to do is to concentrate more on the parking lots on campus to prevent vehicle break-ins,” Davis said. “It will also allow us to do walk-throughs of the buildings and dorms more frequently, because we will have the manpower to concentrate on that side of things as opposed to doing service calls.”

Students needing a ride will also likely see a faster response from the department.

“What’s nice about the Bison Express program is that’s what it’s solely there for,” Office Manager of Public Safety Kayla Brown said. “If students have an appointment where they have to be somewhere at a specific time, they don’t have to worry about if we’re on a call — we can get to them quicker.”

A feature of the Bison Express that differs from the traditional department transportation services is that the program uses a car. The department used golf carts to transport students in the past.

“Students will hopefully see this as a nice alternative to the

golf cart, especially in the winter months,” Davis said.

Sophomores Ashley Taylor and Lakin Coffman think the use of a car will allow the program to appeal to more students.

“I think it’s better they use a car instead of a golf cart for safety reasons and for the cold,” Coffman said. “You’re not going to freeze.”

Taylor agreed that cold temperatures will be an influencing factor to use the Bison Express and said the use of a car will lessen the need for students to ask to borrow each other’s vehicles as well.

“Your friends are busy,” Taylor said. “You don’t want to be a burden to them.”

According to Davis, the ultimate goal of the Bison Express is to serve students in the best way possible.

“I hope it’s going to be a crime deterrent and prevention tool as well, in addition to providing the same or even better level of service we’ve always given,” Davis said.

The Bison Express operates seven days a week, from 7 p.m. until curfew. For more information or to contact the Bison Express, call 501-279-5000.



AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

Senior Landry Shipman and junior Miyka Whiting view several paintings submitted by faculty. The “Leaves and Trees” art show is hosted by the Department of Art & Design in the Stevens Art Gallery today.

Give a gift to those who are less fortunate through Faithbox

By **Savanna DiStefano**
Student Writer

There is nothing more exciting than opening an email saying you have received a package unexpectedly, except, maybe, knowing the box sent to you also fed three hungry children and helped build a well in an underdeveloped country.

Faithbox is a Christian subscription service that sends boxes packed with devotional books, cards and products from companies who give to the less fortunate. According to founder Willie Morris in a Faithbox online video,

the company was created to help Christians strengthen their faith monthly and understand how they can impact the world.

According to Faithbox.com, Faithbox revolves around three ideas: growth, discovery and giving. Each box includes an “Everyday Faith” devotional book, something to give away and a variety of eco-friendly, fair trade, one-for-one products. Faithbox partners with RiceBowls.org, which provides three meals to hungry children with each box sold.

I received my first Faithbox in

December from a family member. I did not expect to receive a package, and I was pleasantly surprised to discover what was inside. The box included socks, an Anchored in Hope handmade ornament, Project 7 Mints and two gift cards, one to keep and one to give away, to WorldHelp, a Christian humanitarian organization, to purchase gifts for people in developing countries.

I later learned a three-month subscription had been purchased for me, which made me more excited for my next two boxes to

arrive. The second box I received included a hard-cover agenda with scriptures and journaling sections, tasty organic tea packets and inspirational cards to send to others.

The devotional books, made with recycled material, are perfect for busy days. They are only about six inches tall and easy to carry around. The daily pages each have a journaling section to write down thoughts and reflections.

My favorite part of opening the package is the anticipation of what will be inside. I have discovered new companies and how the world is

being impacted by small, but influential, organizations. Faithbox is a great gift for birthdays, Christmas or a simple thinking-of-you gift.

A person can send a Faithbox either to themselves or to someone they know. A 3-month plan costs \$19 per box plus shipping (\$72 total) while a 1-year plan costs \$17 per month (\$264 total) Individual boxes can be purchased starting at \$25. A devotional book subscription can be purchased without a Faithbox beginning at \$8.

For more information, visit www.faithbox.com.