

10-28-2016

The Bison, October 28, 2016

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Recommended Citation

The Bison, October 28, 2016. (2016). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison/1887>

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October 28, 2016 Vol. 92, No. 7

Photo by AMANDA FLOYD | Graphic by SAWYER HITE

‘Let me give you the low-down ...’

I’m CRAZY for YOU

JOSHUA JOHNSON
editor-in-chief

“Do you believe in love at first sight?”

This question was asked by Britton Lynn, professor of theatre and set designer for the Homecoming musical, in chapel on Oct. 26. In the musical preview following Lynn’s devotion, young starling Bobby Child, played by Thomas Williams, is smitten at first sight with Polly Baker, played by Renee Maynard, and proceeds to drop down on one knee less than five minutes after they meet — a “Harding move” if ever there was one, according to Chancellor Emeritus Cliff Ganus.

“I’ve been here for 77 years,” Ganus said. “Believe me, I’ve seen so many kids fall in love. ‘Three swings and a ring,’ have you heard that expression?”

Much like Bobby Child, Ganus said he knows what it is like to be in love at first sight — but Ganus’ wife, much like Polly Baker, was not so quick to feel the same way at first.

“When I first moved in to Harding my freshman year, my mum and dad drove me right onto campus in a white Cadillac,” Ganus said. “I was even wearing a white suit and a white hat. We stopped and asked three girls for

directions to the Administration Building. One of them was Louise Nicholas — my future wife. Bet she never thought she would marry the gook in a white Cadillac. She even told me later that she thought I was the most stuck-up boy who ever lived.”

Ganus said he was introduced to Nicholas that very night over dinner.

“I sat across the table from her, and someone introduced me to this girl, Louise, from Strawberry, Arkansas,” Ganus said. “I started to laugh, and almost said, ‘Strawberry?’ I didn’t, fortunately.”

The following Sunday, he was pressured by a friend to invite Nicholas to go to church with him.

“I walked over to Pattie Cobb, and I started up the steps, but I got cold feet,” Ganus said. “I didn’t know how to ask a girl to go to church with me.”

They did end up attending church together, and on the walk back to campus that afternoon, Ganus said he had already decided that this was the girl for him. And despite his lousy first impression, Louise Nicholas from Strawberry, Arkansas — just like Polly Baker from Deadrock, Nevada — eventually discovered a sweet, caring, kind-hearted young man beneath the pretentious white suit.

“I already had my wife, and school didn’t even start until

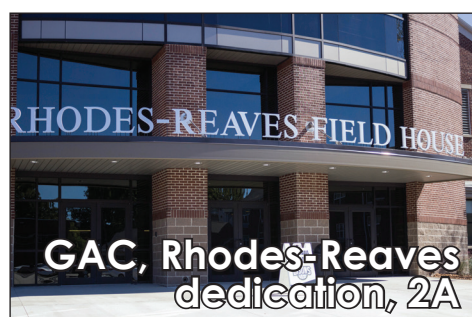
the next day,” Ganus said. “She’s the only girl I ever dated in those four years, and I married her the day I graduated. That’s right, I graduated at 11:30 a.m., and I married her at 1 p.m. in the same auditorium. It was easy — we just took down the graduation backdrop and put up a trellis with flowers.”

Ganus said he is not at all surprised that so many people meet and fall in love at Harding. It is, simply put, an atmosphere where people go crazy for each other.

“It’s just going to happen,” Ganus said. “When you reach 18, 19, 20 years old, you have to start asking yourself, ‘Which one is for me?’ And what better place to ask that question than here at Harding?”

According to Robin Miller, chair of the department of theatre and director of the Homecoming musical, “Crazy For You” has been on the bucket list for a long time, because it is quintessentially a Harding Homecoming production. The show not only introduces the idea of love at first sight, but also depicts — in all the antiquated glory of a Gershwin musical comedy — the antics of being “head over heels,” according to Lynn.

“This production has romance, showgirls, cowboys, miners, gunfights — it has everything,” Lynn said. “I mean, what’s not to like?”



In this issue



Huckeba’s legacy, 1B





Dedication ceremonies to be held Homecoming weekend

CLAIRE PATTON
head web editor

Dedication ceremonies for the Ganus Activities Complex (GAC), Waller Recreation Center and the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse will be held Saturday, Oct. 29.

Vice President for Advancement Bryan Burks explained that the programs will signify the completion of both projects and act as a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"It allows us to recognize and thank the donors for all of their support," Burks said. "We try to do this when people come to campus and can be a part of the activities."

Jennifer Hannigan, publication writer and copy editor, also described the dedication program as a culmination of thanking everyone who worked on the projects and gave in some way.

"Some people have given a big chunk to the projects," Hannigan said. "I don't know if people realize what all went into it from a financial standpoint, or regarding construction ... and the man hours that it took. It's sort

of the intersection of all these pieces and to thank those people for either the time spent in the creation of it or the donations and the generosity of their gift."

The key donors for each project, the Reaves and Waller families, are all Harding alumni. Roy Reaves and Suzanne Waller both served on the Board of Trustees, and Reaves was elected chairman of the Board in 2014.

"We have wonderful donors," Burks said. "Many are alumni, but some are friends of Harding. People love giving back (to Harding)."

Vice President of Alumni and Parent Relations Liz Howell, who describes her part in the ceremonies as the behind-the-scenes coordinator, said she expects large numbers at each program.

"Because it's Homecoming weekend and it's kind of a fluid crowd, we're prepared for a couple hundred people at each ceremony," Howell said. "We're expecting a lot of alumni and the family members of the (Waller and Reaves) families."

According to the program, the new additions to the GAC include a new second-floor level

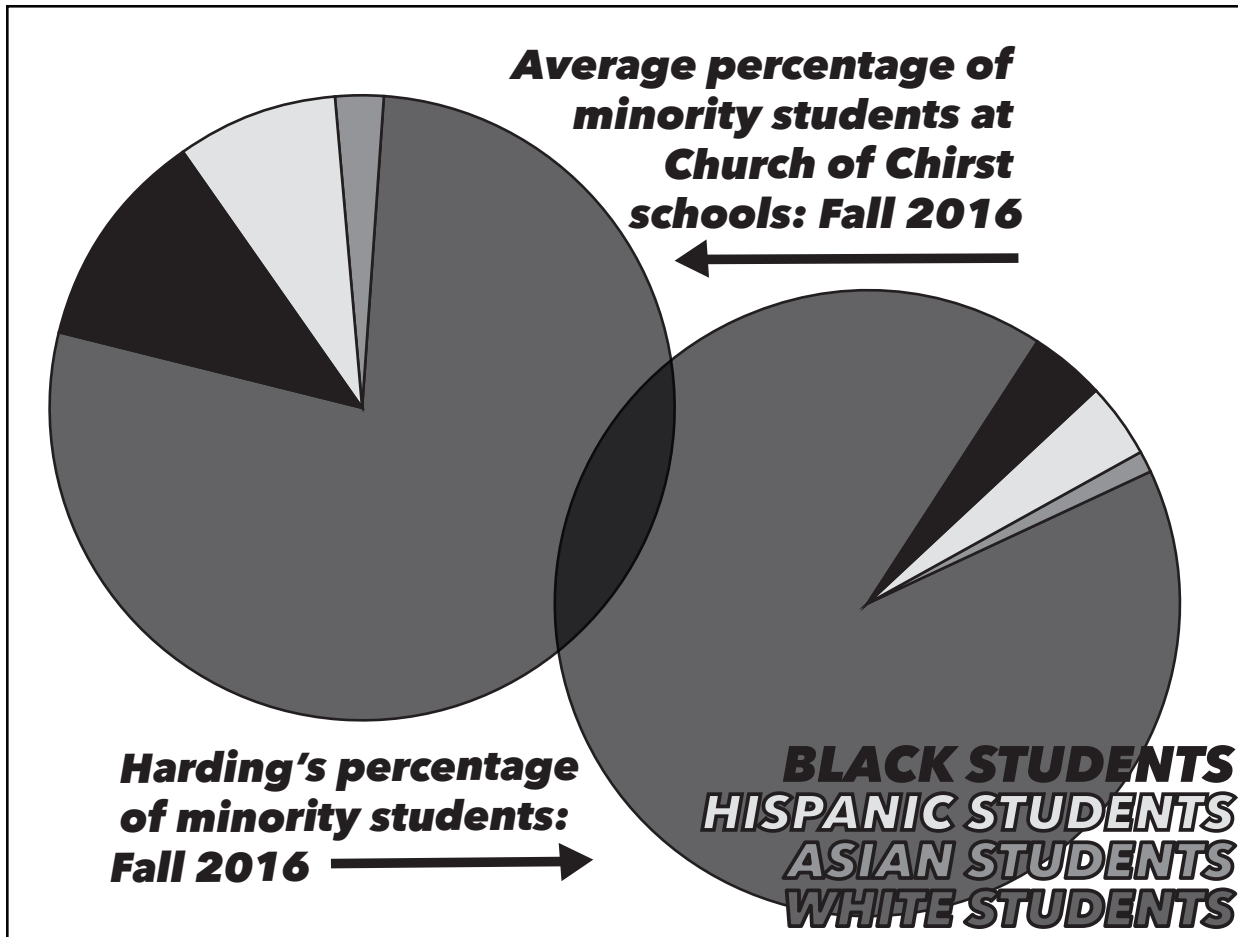


RYANN HEIM | The Bison

to the gym, a two-story exercise space with new exercise equipment, refurbished racquetball courts, a suspended track, a cycling room, a billiards room and more. The Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse renovation included an additional 2,000 square feet at the entrance, a new practice court, new basketball dressing rooms,

expanded weight rooms and volleyball locker rooms, among other improvements.

The Rhodes-Reaves dedication will take place in the front of the Fieldhouse at 11 a.m. and the Activities Complex and Waller Recreation Center's will take place at its entrance at 1 p.m.



Harding makes plans in hopes of increasing campus diversity

First installment in a series on racial diversity at Harding

JORDAN DOYLE
business manager

President Bruce McLarty is required to submit a strategic plan to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in January 2017 on how to increase campus diversity, according to a 2015 HLC letter.

After the latest round of accreditation, Provost Marty Spears said HLC officials addressed Harding's racial makeup.

"Each institution is able to define its mission and its goals in terms of diversity," Spears said. "(But the HLC) has encouraged us to seek to be more diverse, which is already in our mission statement. It's something we talk about a lot and something we try to accomplish."

Data compiled in 2015 from the National Center for Education Statistics reported that Harding's percentage of undergraduate minority students was lower than the average for other universities associated with the Church of Christ. The average percentage of black undergraduate students in Church of Christ schools was 11.4 percent; for Latin

American undergraduate students, 8.4 percent; and for Asian undergraduate students, 2.5 percent.

The averages were gathered from 10 Church of Christ colleges—Pepperdine University in Malibu, California; Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock, Texas; Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee; Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee; Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas; Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama; Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma; Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Michigan and Ohio Valley University in Vienna, West Virginia.

Harding's percentages fell below those schools' averages. The percentage of black undergraduate students at Harding was 4 percent; for Latin American students, 4 percent; and for Asian students, 1 percent.

Senior Josh Nickerson, vice president of the Black Student Association (BSA), said he believes Harding should increase its efforts to make the student body more racially diverse.

He said minority students have to face certain obstacles on campus due to Harding's current numbers.

"I feel like sometimes we are constantly defending our culture and what we've been through for years as a collective group," Nickerson said. "Sometimes it's hard for minority students to explain their story to others without fear of being attacked or ridiculed ... the Harding bubble does not guard minority students against the racial injustice and discrimination we see and face every day. Minority issues and problems do not simply disappear when we come to Harding."

While Harding falls below the Church of Christ school average for percentages of minority undergraduate students, it rises above the average completion rates.

The percentage of black students at Church of Christ universities that graduate within six years of starting their degree program is 25 percent. The average percentage of Latin American students who graduate within the typically expected time is 46.7 percent, and the average percentage of Asian students is 37 percent.

At Harding, 30 percent of black students, 45 percent of Latin American students and 50 percent of Asian students graduate within six years of starting undergraduate course work.

Lee Edwards, assistant professor in the department of Bible and ministry, began his doctorate in heritage studies

in August. He is currently researching various diversity trends for possible dissertation topics. He said he believes even though Harding's graduation numbers are above the Church of Christ average, Harding could still be doing more.

"I am sure there are many ways to view our numbers as being typical or average," Edwards said. "But my concern is that when we do that, we are making excuses. I don't want to look back on this moment in 25 years and have to admit that we were guilty of sugarcoating... If the goal is increased diversity, we must find creative ways to attract diverse students and faculty."

According to Spears, only 5 percent of the full-time faculty at Harding are minorities. Of that five percent, 2.1 percent are two or more ethnicities, 1.2 are black and the other 1.7 are distributed among other ethnic categories.

Nickerson said the lack of diversity within the faculty is a problem that needs to be addressed more.

"I think more students need to experience being taught in an academic setting by someone who looks like them," Nickerson said. "Sometimes I want to experience a class that's taught by a professor who shares some of the same stories and experiences as me. We should give minority students here that luxury."

This is part one of a three-part series. The next issue of the Bison will review possible reasons for Harding's low minority numbers in faculty and student body.

Medical marijuana on upcoming ballot

ELI ANDREWS
student writer

U.S. citizens have the opportunity to cast their votes on some very important issues next month, and one of them is the legalization of medical marijuana in states such as Arkansas. The use of the drug, both medical and recreational use, are voted on at a state level.

Searcy Assistant Police Chief Steve Taylor said any action the city takes will only be determined once voters have decided whether or not medical marijuana will be legalized, but anticipates a problem with abuse of the drug if it is.

"We certainly have our share of prescription drug abuse, so I could feasibly see people misusing the drug just like any other substance," Taylor said. "However, we really don't know much at this point. With possible changes to legislation, as well as several other factors, time will tell."

Harding University Dean of Students Zach Neal agreed, saying that they can only speculate at this point, and Harding cannot make any decisions until they have something in front of them.

"We are mindful of the current medical proposals, but there are factors related to state and federal law that need to be determined in legislation to help the university decide the best practice," Neal said. "What's determined there will then allow the university to analyze what decision needs to be made."

The topic raises questions as to its potency and benefits, as well as its misuse. Harding University Director of Public Safety Craig Russell said he remains skeptical of legalization, and speculates that the negatives outweigh the positives.

"Medical benefits aside, we have had drug problems in the past, and I could see this being an issue again with legalization," Russell said. "The amount of a certain substance increases crime on campus, so if you make these substances more easily and readily available, you make crime more likely to happen. If you look at states where it's legal, there are an increased number of DUI's and emergency room visits. The problems that led to marijuana becoming illegal are not going to go away if it's made legal."

Sophomore public relations major Kaleb Turner has a unique perspective on legalization. His twin brother Keaton Turner was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 10. Kaleb Turner said this gave him a unique perspective on marijuana as a medical treatment as well as simply growing up with a family member with a disability.

"It took us a couple years to adjust to it, but it really brought our family closer together," Kaleb Turner said. "I had to grow up a lot quicker, because if it was ever just my brother and I, I had to know what to do. It's benefited my life greatly, but it's been kind of hard."

Kaleb Turner says his parents originally found the proposal of medical marijuana online, after searching many other treatments and countless prescription medications that Keaton Turner had to take, which Kaleb Turner described as "a discouraging process both to the body and to morale." Kaleb Turner is very supportive of medical marijuana use, and believes people need to learn more about the medical process before making a decision.

There are many chemical components to a cannabis, or marijuana, plant, but the two most common are compounds called Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD). THC gives the user the "stoner-esque" symptoms, such as increased heart rate and increased appetite. The CBD component is more medically beneficial, and a 2016 study by The New England Journal of Medicine states that "among 137 [epilepsy] patients who had received at least 12 weeks of treatment, the median reduction in the number of seizures was 54 percent." Breeders can now grow cannabis plants with higher concentrations of THC or CBD. This means certain strains of marijuana can potentially be grown that have more medical benefits than side effects, but it also means the opposite: plants with more potent mental and physical effects might enter the scene as well.

Legalizing medical marijuana is among many issues included on the ballot. Early voting began in Arkansas on Oct. 24 and will continue until Nov. 8.

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Christian patriotism, revisited

casey stringer



guest
writer

We're all tired of this election. You know it, I know it. The candidates are subpar, the rhetoric is becoming more ridiculous by the day and the debates look like the child of a bad reality show and a WWE match. I don't know if I can survive another hour of the political statuses my dad's friends constantly share on Facebook. It's all too much. However, there is one aspect of this season that has been beneficial to me, believe it or not, and it's that I've been forced to reexamine how my Christianity and national identity interact.

You might be making some assumptions at this point, so let me clear a few things up. I am not here to bash those who hold dear both their faith and their country. Really, I can understand where these folks are coming from. I'm a southern man, born and bred. I was raised in the third most Republican county in the entire nation, and though I now identify as a left-leaning moderate, I must confess that I am a recovering conservative. My gorgeous white pickup truck had a bumper sticker that read "Proud Capitalist" throughout my high school career. For years, I held fast to a faith that prioritized both God and the U.S.A., often times to an equal degree. Luckily, I learned sooner rather than later that such a faith is improper.

The tricky thing is, though, I never realized that this belief system, sometimes referred to as the "God and Country" gospel, was something I accepted. Frankly, this seems to be true for many who hold to such a doctrine. No one wants to admit that they put their God and their guns on the same playing field. Nevertheless, it's who I was, and it might be who you are. Friends, if this is the gospel to which you subscribe, it's time for re-evaluation.

The fact is that in large part, the goals and values of the United States are simply not those of the kingdom of heaven. The American Dream, the idea that anyone can make anything out of themselves by their own power if they try hard enough, is contrary to our identity as Christ-followers. God tells us our only real power is found in communion with him, not in ourselves. To hold anything else in such high esteem is unfitting. Our strength is found in the Lord, not in how we navigate the maps of social mobility.

Or how about this one: Americans value rights about as highly as anything else. We know what they are, and by gosh we use them. Of course, there is a time and place for this. For example, we know Paul exercised his rights as a Roman citizen to gain an audience with Caesar before his execution. However, when we use our rights to justify entitlement, we ignore the basic principle of surrendering ourselves. In the kingdom, we are taught not to value rights, but rather sacrifice. Jesus was the example in how to give one's self for the greater good. Under his precedent, we die to our rights. In their place we gain gifts, but there is an important difference. A

right is something you demand, while a gift is received from a place of humility. As Americans, it's easy to confuse those two things, but it's crucial to learn the difference.

I am not condemning the values we share as Americans. Civics are still important. But these beliefs, strong as they may be, cannot survive next to the Lord if they are in opposition. You see, there really isn't a true "God and Country" gospel. It's a false belief. It's an idol. There is only one gospel, and it is the life and teachings of Christ, not of the Constitution. If you hold both of these on the same level, one will inevitably win out. In light of this, let me encourage you to seek once more the values of the kingdom. Where the U.S. tells us work and achievement will bring us success, God says your only power is through him. Where society says your value comes through who you are and what you do for a living, the Lord says your value is inherent as his child and his creation. Where your country says to have faith in it, God says to have faith in him. May we rediscover the joy of sacrificing the lower values of this world and accepting the much, much greater way of living found only in fellowship with God.

CASEY STRINGER is a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at estring@harding.edu.



it's
complicated

What are you afraid of?

I wanted to write something Halloween themed for this column but had a hard time solidifying a topic. One idea was about how people should just enjoy the holiday despite its "pagan" origins, because even Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter have "pagan" references. I thought about describing why some types of costumes are insensitive, like Native American headdresses or the latex suicide wounds Walmart was selling on their online store until they were removed. Another idea I had was talking about how a pair of animal ears and lingerie aren't a real costume, not trying to police what women wear, but commenting on the hypersexualization of a holiday based on death. Gross.

Instead, I'm going to talk about fear, something as ubiquitous to Halloween as sticky pumpkin seeds or a white bed sheet with two holes cut out for eyes.

Fear is an unpleasant emotion that develops in response to a perceived danger of the present or future that can produce both physical and behavioral effects ... at least that's what the expert psychologists say. Halloween is the only holiday where we willingly subject ourselves to horror films and out-of-the-ordinary situations just for the sake of being afraid. I used to consider Halloween my favorite holiday, mainly because I like free candy and the sound of crunching leaves under my feet, but nobody told me that when you get older you have to buy your own candy and that Arkansas' trees don't shed their leaves fully until November. I'll never understand intentionally frightening yourself in celebration of a holiday, because, quite frankly, the experts were right in saying that fear is unpleasant.

That being said, I've been afraid of a lot of things in my short lifetime. As a kid, I was afraid of talking to anyone outside my family. I used to be afraid to march in the end-of-the-school-year parade in elementary school. In middle school, I was afraid of making new friends after moving. In high school, I was afraid of dating and graduating. As a senior in college, I'm still afraid of dating and graduating. To be honest, I'm still afraid of a lot of things. And it's not even the things themselves that I'm afraid of, but the potential for failure. I was afraid that people wouldn't like me, that I'd get my heart broken again, that I wouldn't amount to anything.

The only good advice I've heard lately dealing with overcoming fear came from my favorite TV show, "Game of Thrones": "The man who fears losing has already lost. Fear cuts deeper than swords." This is the nerdy, less cliché version of "the only thing to fear is fear itself."

If I wanted to make friends but sat quietly at my desk and didn't talk to anyone, I wouldn't have made any friends. If I want to date someone but I don't ask them out or tell them that I'm interested, I'm never going to date them. If there's an open position at my dream company but I don't apply, I'm definitely not going to get the job. Fear hinders you from accomplishing your goals, and that can be more harmful than trying and failing. You can't predict the future, unless you've read "The Walking Dead" comic books before the TV show airs like my roommate has. If you at least try, there's still a chance that you'll succeed, make that friend, date that person or get that job, but if you don't try, you'll automatically fail. Isn't that what we feared in the first place?

I take my previous statement back; subjecting ourselves to fear isn't as exclusive to Halloween as I once thought.

I now ask the rhetorical question: what are you afraid of? Take a second to think about it. What are you really afraid of? Now go do it. It's better to have tried and failed than to have failed automatically by never trying. Call this my own version of "it's better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all." Halloween is the holiday for appropriation, after all.

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Boys only: no girls allowed

grant stewart



asst. copy
editor

Ever since I was a kid, I've always heard that guys and girls seem to act differently, especially in crowds that are exclusively dominated by one gender. One of my childhood friends even had a sign on his treehouse that read, "Boys Only: No Girls Allowed," that was used to ward off cooties. From Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" to its modern correspondent "She's the Man," it's easy to see that this has been assimilated into the minds of our culture probably since Adam met Eve. While there are certainly differences between guys and girls, I am not entirely convinced that they are polar opposites, as we might like to believe, especially not after I acquired a role in both circles while at Harding.

To many people, it may seem as though guys and girls clubs are like two different countries. During my first semester at Harding in fall 2013, I joined Sigma Nu Epsilon (SNE) as a member of its first new member class. Since I joined, I've played a lot of sports, laughed at stupid jokes and learned more about the scoring system in fantasy football than I'm proud to admit. But guys are deeper than fart jokes and football. Ever since I joined, I have been surrounded by a group of brothers that I can lean on and talk to

about anything that's going on in our lives from girl problems to lapses in our spiritual walks. Sure, we as guys like to come off as cool, confident and collected, but at the end of the day, we believe in unity and encouragement.

SNE has meant a lot to me, but I'll never forget one of the biggest blessings of my Harding career. In spring 2015, I was relaxing on a Monday evening when I got a distress call from a friend about his girlfriend breaking up with him. I went to find him and help in any way I could, but that instead led to a fuchsia and black jersey being thrown over my head. Since Iota Chi embraced me as a beau that night, I have been exposed to a different club experience.

There are still a ton of girls that are into sports and stupid jokes, but there is definitely a different environment. Iota Chi's meetings are often more organized and serious whereas SNE's meetings are loud and occasionally a wonderful representation of a trainwreck. I had to learn that a cookie log was in fact a large, half-baked stick of cookie dough rather than a rare species of tree to be felled with a hatchet. In fact, there are much fewer conversations about hatchets in Iota Chi than in SNE. I've been constantly reminded that the colors are fuchsia and black, not pink and black, as my mind is pretty set with a basic color wheel.

While there are certainly differences in some small aspects, I don't believe there is a solid line that states one side of the room is about sports and the other side is about shoes. In fact, I believe this

stereotyping is harmful to the very foundation clubs are built on. I feel comfortable acting out in my typically outrageous sense of humor around both parties equally, and I know I will be on the receiving end of many jokes from them in the same way. And I'm just as comfortable sharing struggles with both groups. While I know girls are stereotypically known for being better at expressing emotions than guys, I don't believe that it's true. I have seen strong emotions from people in both jerseys, and it's helped me become exceedingly vulnerable with many of my brothers and sisters.

Guys and girls have conflicting viewpoints on many subjects, but the cool thing about clubs comes out with both guys' and girls' clubs when they give members a network of people to lean on and trust and find belonging. And that extends far beyond the club system. I owe so much to my friends, male and female, who are and aren't in either of my clubs. Do they have different perspectives to offer? Of course. But do I share an equal amount of love and respect with all of them? Absolutely. While there are many stereotypes out there, I believe it is important to look past that and find we aren't so different after all when we look at what is important.

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Joshua Johnson



same song,
second verse

Coming home

I'm not a big fan of crowds. I mention this because it is Homecoming weekend, and we all know what that means: (1) there will be a line from the bookstore to Chick-fil-A, and (2) it will take even longer to find a parking spot than it does now.

I was fortunate enough to gain experience dealing with crowds this past summer. It's actually fairly simple, because in New York City, there is a thing known as Times Square Aggression®.

Let me explain.

You see, when eight million people try to live harmoniously on one forsaken island, space gets pretty tight. Do you remember the old story of Archimedes taking a bath? He supposedly coined the colloquialism "Eureka," upon discovering that volume can be measured by the amount of water displaced from a given area, such as a bathtub.

New York City is a bathtub, and this past summer, I was just one molecule of water trying not to be displaced from Manhattan to Poughkeepsie, or much worse, New Jersey.

My apartment was on the intersection of West 43rd and 9th — an area known as "Hell's Kitchen" to the island natives. The locale is aptly named. It is a restaurant-heavy district less than two blocks from Times Square, so you get the idea. My job on the Upper West Side required me to catch the express 123 train every morning at West 42nd and 7th.

This sounds like a simple task, I understand. But don't forget about Archimedes' bathtub theory — when you have a location filled to the brim with bodies, and then more bodies try to jostle their way in, something has to be displaced.

Dealing with this conundrum of physics every morning can be draining. Eventually, the scientific elements give way to a more desperate solution: hence, Times Square Aggression®.

It's a simple need-based evolution — humans need to get somewhere, so they do what they must in order to achieve that end. Sooner or later, all New Yorkers discover that, without utilizing physical force, they will never reach their goal. Much like I discovered that, if you wait for the white "safe crossing" symbol, you'll spend the whole day walking 10 blocks. I had to find the courage to cross the street despite the blaring red "don't walk" sign, just like I had to muster the low-key aggression necessary to push, hustle and bounce my way through crowds in order to win a spot on the uptown subway.

"I don't think I would like New York," my friend told me, upon hearing about this lifestyle for the first time. True, it is not for everyone. But let me tell you, upon my return to Searcy, navigating the post-chapel chicken biscuit line was a walk in the park.

It is Homecoming weekend, and the PR platform this year is #comehomeHU16. A simple theme, but effective, because so often we forget that "homecoming" literally means "coming home." Despite the crowds, it is a weekend of restoration and a time of family, friends, fellowship and fun (this is not an ad for a church potluck, I promise). I believe that Homecoming is the most special weekend of the year, as alums return to the place they called home for their most formative years.

As for me, I can't wait to return someday as an alumnus. Yes, I'll always have to deal with the Homecoming crowds. But I can live with that, as long as I tone down the TSA®. If you are a native city dweller, well, I hope you remember that there are enough chicken biscuits for everyone. Save the stampeding for the 5K.

Enjoy your Homecoming weekend. And to the alums, let me be the first to say: welcome home.

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



Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

Adulthood: at which table will we sit?

adam baker



guest
writer

In a few weeks most of us will be returning to our homes to celebrate Thanksgiving. Some of us (particularly freshmen) may be very excited to return and find that we have been promoted to a higher level of existence known as "The Grown-Up Table." If you have been at college for at least 10 weeks and found your inner philosopher, you might ask yourself what puts you at that table. I want to preface here and say that this will not be philosophical; I only mean to offer some thoughts on what may have changed in becoming an adult. What might have enabled us to call ourselves adults? What might allow other people to assume we are adults?

Last week I helped some married friends move to a condo and was offered the prestigious job of driving the U-Haul with their furniture. What my friends did not know at the time was that this had been a dream of mine for 15 years. When I was 7, I saw my

parents pack up our house and throw the boxes into the back of a moving truck as we moved to our new home. Though I hated the move, I loved the adventure; it was like we were on the Oregon Trail, taking our covered wagon to the Frontier where the opportunities were endless. There was something about taking off and taking charge of the future that was very 'adult,' and I wanted to be just like that.

Though both my parents and my friends were acting on behalf of their family, they were independent in that they did not seek validation from other people to make those decisions. To my parents' credit, the move was a success; it put my family in a better place that worked to our advantage for both schools and jobs. Their eagerness to make decisions that lead to a better life for our family benefited us long term.

However, independence is a two-sided U-Haul truck. To receive full credit when things are a success, logically you must also be credited for the possible failures as well. Accepting this fact is critical to owning your independence. If you were independent in making your choices, then no one else can be blamed when things go wrong. So to be an "adult" we must be independent and accept all consequences, and I will argue that you likely are. You may not be a very good adult sometimes; you have likely acted selfishly or

have made immature statements, but you have willfully acted on your own for better or for worse.

While at Harding, whether this is your first semester or your last, you have made several choices: what major should you choose? Should you go out for clubs? Should you eat pizza for the fourth time this week? How much should you study for that test? Some have been good decisions and some have been less than good. If you accept that independence, the good and the bad, then you have something to be confident in. That independence and drive to make your own decisions is the kind of thing that can make you puff your chest out and be proud. Even if you fail that test, you need to be proud of the fact that you alone made your choices to get there. Work hard and you will reap your rewards, because you're an adult, dang it. So strut right into the dining room and grab a seat with the adults. Grab the keys to your U-Haul and move some furniture. Just remember to adjust your mirrors, because that thing is big.

ADAM BAKER is a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at abaker11@harding.edu.

Interested in writing a guest column?
Contact Hannah J. Moore at hmoore@harding.edu.

Just the Clax

It may come as no surprise to you that I measure many of the moments in my life based on whether a joke I told did or did not bomb. For a wannabe comedian, there is nothing quite like the sound of a great punchline. This explains why your 11-year-old brother can still feel good about himself after hundreds of gaffes, botched puns and corny lines, just as long as he manages to get off one great wisecrack per day. A first-rate zinger erases many failures.

I still relish the memory of that one night in college. Several guys were sitting around in our dorm watching the movie "In the Line of Fire." You know, the one where Clint Eastwood is a veteran Secret Service agent on the trail of a maniac who plans to kill the president. John Malkovich plays the maniac. Before the climactic scene, the killer is putting on a disguise in order to crash the political fundraiser where he will make his play for infamy. Among the assorted wigs and eyeglasses on his makeup table, Malkovich has a box full of prosthetic noses, which he carefully sorts through in order to find exactly the right one.

"Ha," I smirked. "He's picking his nose."

The line brought down the house. Admittedly, it was an easy house. All five of us were a little loopy after a failed attempt earlier that evening to go to the Old Country Buffet and eat them out of business. Apparently, an overdose of fried chicken and mashed potatoes lowers your threshold for humor significantly. Still, I killed it with that line. One guy even stopped watching the movie to call his girlfriend and tell her the joke. I was particularly pleased with that, since his girlfriend's roommate was

Man of a thousand faces



michael
claxton

cute, and I assumed that reports of my wit would soon reach her.

Unfortunately, because she had not eaten any mashed potatoes that evening, she ended up marrying someone else. But that joke had an even greater resonance for me. It must have come so quickly to mind because the movie scene took me back to that Christmas in 1980. The year I finally got a disguise kit.

I had grown up watching those movies where Peter Sellers was the bumbling French police inspector Jacques Clouseau. Always on the trail of a diamond thief named the Pink Panther, Clouseau wore a host of disguises to conceal his identity while in hot pursuit. He became a peg-legged pirate, a bearded French artist, and a mafia gangster. My favorite was when he dressed as Quasimodo, with an inflatable hunchback that kept getting bigger and bigger until Sellers floated right out the window.

In 1979, the Pressman Toy Company even marketed an Inspector Clouseau Pink Panther Disguise Kit. But that's not the one I got for Christmas. Instead, Santa found me a discount brand disguise kit, which came in a cardboard suitcase with a handle, perfect for carrying into a bank and posing as a businessman. Had anyone questioned what an 8-year-old with a three-piece suit and a moustache was doing at the bank, I would

simply point to the suitcase to establish my street cred as a grown-up.

Inside that cardboard box was everything a kid needed to transform himself into, well... Groucho Marx. There were glasses with a rubber nose and fuzzy moustache. The kit also included a plastic cigar, clown noses, a brown beard, eyebrows, rubber ears, some buck teeth, an eye patch and even a pair of wax lips.

You can imagine the adventures an elementary-school kid could have incognito. I became a detective or a robber. I could be a president or a hobo. One minute, I was Captain Bluebeard, forcing someone to walk the plank as I squinted to see out of one eye. The next, I was James Bond, sipping lemonade and chewing on a plastic cigar. Chevy Chase in "Fletch" had nothing on me. Armed with my disguise kit, I was unstoppable.

But there was just one problem. My mother always knew it was me. I would sneak out the back door, tiptoe around the house, and ring the front doorbell with an impenetrable new face on, and she would say, "Oh, hey Michael." Of course, that's what happens with a generic brand disguise kit. Even the wax lips started to chap after a few weeks.

That reminds me: Halloween is right around the corner. Time to dust off the old cardboard suitcase and see if I can masquerade as an 8-year-old boy in need of free Milk Duds. Does anyone have a clean-shaven plastic upper lip I can borrow?

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

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 Joshua Johnson, the editor-in-chief, at jjohnson4@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.

caleb rowan

Hurler
on the
Ditch



Is NFL on the decline?

For those like me who don't have a fantasy football team (I needed a year off, ok?), it may be hard to believe that the NFL is already into Week 8. It seems like just yesterday we were gearing up for the September Super Bowl rematch between the Panthers and the Manning-less Broncos and preparing to enjoy at least a few weeks without Tom Brady making every defense look bad.

What's even harder to believe, however, is the massive drop in the league's TV ratings since last season. According to Sports Illustrated, Monday Night Football ratings are down 24 percent and Sunday Night Football is down 19 percent from a year ago. These trends have raised some questions about the future of a sport that has dominated TV viewership for decades, especially in light of the recent publicity of concussion-linked brain trauma among former NFL players.

College football has cracked down on violent hits above the shoulders with its "targeting" rule, disallowing a player to lead with the crown of his helmet, whether done intentionally or not. The NFL has similarly noted the seriousness of helmet-to-helmet collisions as the instant replay system has made preventing the banned form of hitting easier. The rules, while implemented for the safety of athletes, have come with a backlash among traditional football fans who claim the increase in penalties and reviews is slowing down the game. There's not much that will enrage a middle-aged man in a recliner more than an overly long review — my dad's shattered remote can attest to that. Slowly but surely, it seems viewers are running out of patience when it comes to football's modern state.

Despite all of this, the pending presidential election shouldn't be overlooked as a catalyst for the drop in ratings. With two of this year's three presidential debates having taken place during NFL broadcasts, it's no surprise there weren't as many football viewers because, as much as we want to look away from Donald Trump, we can't. Add in the fact that the two teams in the World Series have gone a combined 174 years since either won a championship, and you've diverted a lot of attention from the NFL.

So what does the league do with these numbers? It seems to be making clear that the athletes' safety is more important than TV viewership, and rightly so. But how far would ratings have to drop for the NFL to begin to worry? After all, it did generate over \$7 billion in TV revenue last season. The 2016 Super Bowl also attracted the eyes of 112 million, so until steeper ratings declines take place, the sport will safely control the tube. In the meantime, football fans will just have to learn to live with longer games and fewer violent hits.

CALEB ROWAN is the head sports editor for the *Bison*. He may be contacted at crowan@harding.edu.



A TRADITION OF HONORING GOD

AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

Head coach Ronnie Huckleba talks to a few of his players during practice on Oct. 25. Huckleba will step down at the end of the 2016 season after 10 years as the Bisons' head coach. He will be replaced by defensive coordinator Paul Simmons.

Huckleba leaving legacy in final season with Bisons football program

CALEB ROWAN
sports editor

In an era of high-tempo offenses and inflated egos in the sport of football, head coach Ronnie Huckleba has gone against the grain both on and off the field. His unconventional style of leadership, exemplified by an unwavering commitment to faith and the triple-option, has brought about unprecedented success — namely an 8-0 record in this, his final season at the helm of the Bisons' program.

Huckleba, a native of Claxton, Georgia, was an offensive lineman at Harding from 1973-1976, winning a conference championship in his senior season under head coach John Prock. After coaching at the high school level for several years, Huckleba returned to his alma mater in 1986 as an assistant to Prock.

"I was fortunate enough to get the chance to come back and coach with (Prock) in his last two years and that was really special to me," Huckleba said. "It's pretty special when your coaches are no longer your coaches, but they become your friends, and that's kind of the way it worked out."

During his years as an assistant coach, Huckleba said that being involved with Harding was a blessing to himself and to his wife Peggy, especially as they raised their children, Hope, Jeb and Jordan.

"I can remember very vividly when we used to have an offseason station in the gymnastic room," Huckleba said. "In between, as the guys would rotate from station to station, there was about a five-minute time period, and I would let my boys jump on the trampoline. They couldn't wait to come over and visit me in the afternoons during practice, and it was just a blessing for us to live in Searcy, work at Harding and have our kids go to Harding Academy."

Having served 13 seasons as the Bisons' defensive coordinator, Huckleba took over as the head coach in October of 2007, replacing his former

college roommate, Randy Tribble. According to Athletic Director Greg Harnden, the decision to hire Huckleba was a relatively easy one based on his body of work with the university and his talent for connecting with college athletes.

"I learned early on of his abilities and talents, so I knew he had great leadership skills," Harnden said. "He had been a defensive coordinator, he had been an offensive coordinator; I mean he had done the whole deal. When coach Tribble left, it was really a no-brainer for me — I went to Dr. (David) Burks and said this was who I wanted to hire, and that's all there was to it."

Taking over midseason, Huckleba inherited an air-raid passing attack that broke over 30 Harding records in 2007. However, a 2-9 mark in his second season left Huckleba questioning his team's style of offense.

"As we progressed, I was seeing us do all these things offensively, but it wasn't helping us win games," Huckleba said. "I didn't like how it was affecting our team; I didn't like how when we needed to make a yard running the football, we couldn't do it."

In the spring of 2010, Huckleba made the decision to implement the triple-option offense back into the Bisons, program, citing a bowl game between the University of Missouri and the Naval Academy as his inspiration.

"Missouri probably had nine (future) NFL guys on that team — they were loaded," Huckleba said. "Navy ran up and down the field on them — beat their brains in — and I said, 'That's Harding. That's what we need to do. We need to return to our roots, we can build up our defense and keep them off the field by running the ball and eating up the clock.' It's been a really good thing for us, and I think it's something that fits at Harding."

In the seven years since the offensive switch, the Bisons are a combined 52-21, including three straight nine-win seasons from 2012-2014. However, Huckleba said he believes the program's success

has sprung not from a new offensive strategy, but from a commitment to God.

"At Harding, the framework of our relationships is all built around our faith and service," Huckleba said. "That's why when I became the head coach, the first thing I did was write on the board, 'Honor God,' and said from this day forward we're going to do everything we can to make this the priority. I think that's helped us a lot with our on-the-field success — I think it's been the catalyst for it."

Harnden also acknowledged the faith-based culture Huckleba has created and said that his ability to relay Harding's message to the athletes has made him one of the best coaches in the university's history.

"It's about building authentic men. If you focus on that maybe more than the football things, then you've got a chance to be successful."

**- Ronnie Huckleba,
Head Coach**

"He's developed this brotherhood where the chemistry, the bonding, the work ethic and the mission of the school just come together," Harnden said. "It's not just football, there's a higher purpose, so I think his ability to get that across to the players, the parents and the community is just exceptional. He's come in and taken a good program and made it an excellent program, so as far as winning games, I think he's going to go down as probably our most successful head football coach."

Having mentored athletes such as NFL-signees Ty Powell and Donatella Luckett during his tenure, Huckleba said that developing talented players to be great athletes — and great men — is what makes his job so enjoyable.

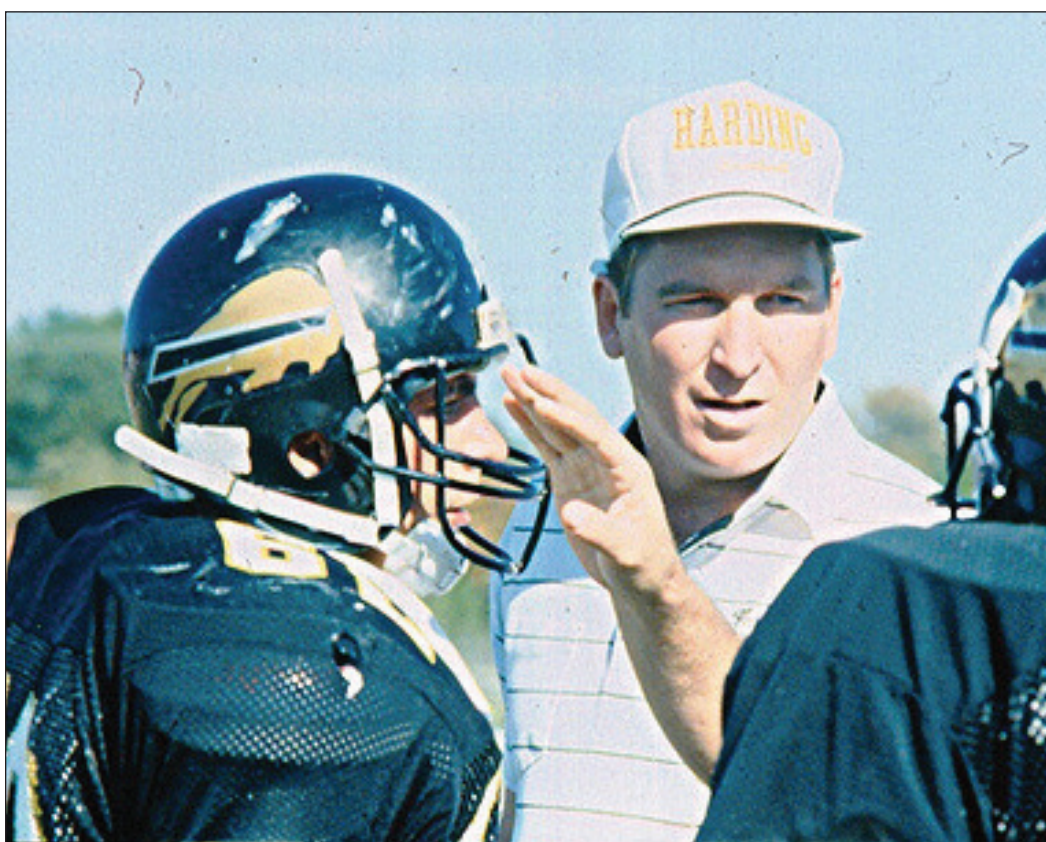
"The most rewarding part of it to me is watching them grow up," Huckleba said. "It's about building authentic men. If you focus on that maybe more than the football things, then you've got a chance to be successful."

With three regular season games left in Huckleba's final year as head coach, the Bisons are 8-0 and ranked No. 5 in the nation, the program's highest ever ranking. Senior safety Corey Bassett said that since he and the other 21 seniors will exit the program with Huckleba, the group is fighting to finish the season in line with the ideals their coach has instilled in them.

"It's our senior year and it's his senior year, so we're all going out together," Bassett said. "His legacy for me is just persistence, no matter what the scenario is or what battle you're facing, no matter if you're up or you're down, just persist, and he's pushed that since I've been here."

When the Bisons' 2016 campaign ends, so too will an illustrious football career for Huckleba. While he said he is excited about his new position in the Advancement Office, Huckleba said he will still keep his ties to the football program, now solely as a supporter.

"I'm a huge fan of this coaching staff and the program is in awesome hands," Huckleba said. "You don't invest 36 years in something without it being really special to you, so now I'm going to be Bison fan number one."



courtesy of BRACKETT LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Then-defensive coordinator Huckleba coaches two Bison players in 1988. Huckleba was an assistant at Harding for 21 years before being named head coach in 2007.

Zalenski among the best on and off the field

LIBBIE TURNER
pr/asst. marketing

Cordell Zalenski, a senior accounting major and defensive end for the Bisons, is a semifinalist for the 2016 William V. Campbell Trophy. The national award is presented to a football player who stands out as both team member and student. Previous recipients include both Eli and Peyton Manning.

This year only 17 out of the 156 student-athlete semifinalists are in NCAA Division II, and Zalenski represents the Bisons as one of the 17.

Zalenski said he knew very little about the award when he received the nomination. Since then he's realized what an honor it is to be recognized as a semi-finalist. Zalenski grew up in Land, Oklahoma, a small town in the southeast corner of the state. However, he attended high school in Durant, Oklahoma, which meant he and his siblings had an hour-long commute to make twice daily. This in itself brought a level of discipline into Zalenski's life early on.

"He is a very happy guy, and overall fun to be around. I can't think of a guy who deserves the award more."

- Daylan Skidmore, Senior Linebacker

Zalenski said throughout his childhood his mother, Connie, encouraged him and his siblings to strive for excellence, starting with academics.

"She was all about school first, and everything else second," Zalenski said. "That's what led me here, and that's the same with our coaches here. They tell us that we're 'student-athletes,' and that word 'student' comes first."

Daylan Skidmore, a senior finance and accounting major and linebacker for the Bisons, met Zalenski their freshman year of college. Skidmore said Zalenski's positive attitude has made him stand out from day one, and that it encourages his teammates to keep things in perspective as well.

"It's awesome having Cordell as a teammate," Skidmore said. "He is one of our many studs on the defensive line and they make my life really easy as a linebacker."

Skidmore said Zalenski's positive mentality and work



EVAN SWEARINGEN | The Bison

Senior defensive lineman Cordell Zalenski was named a semifinalist for the Walter V. Campbell Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the best football scholar-athlete in the country. Finalists for the trophy will be named Nov. 1.

ethic is consistent throughout each thing he does, and that it pays off, especially on the field.

"He is a very happy guy and is just overall really fun to be around," Skidmore said. "I can't think of a guy who deserves this award more. I know he has pushed me and everyone we are friends with to try and be better people, too. He truly cares for us as friends and always tries to

bring those around him up as he tries to progress."

The 12-14 finalists for the William V. Campbell trophy will be announced by the National Football Foundation on Nov. 1, and each of the finalists will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship. The winner will be selected on Dec. 6 at the 59th NFF Annual Awards Dinner in New York City.

Cross-country teams both finish 2nd at GAC meet

LINDSEY LEDFORD
student writer

On Saturday, Oct. 22, the men's and women's cross-country teams traveled to Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) and competed in the Great American Conference GAC Championship.

The Lady Bisons finished second out of the 11 teams represented in the conference, with five runners that placed in the top 24. The men's team also placed second of the six teams represented in the conference, with seven runners placing in the top 19.

The women placed 20 points behind East Central University (ECU), and the men placed 21 points behind ECU. They placed first in both events.

Senior Caitlyn McMinn competed in a 5k, which she ran in 19:37. McMinn

placed 23rd, bringing in 17 points.

"I gave 100 percent," McMinn said. "I was not very happy with my time or our performance as a team, but my 100 percent effort is all my coach and team ask for."

According to McMinn, the women would have been more successful if they had utilized each other more during the race.

"In the stress of an important race we forgot about each other," McMinn said. "We got into the situation and just panicked. We forgot to pack run, which has been a goal this entire season."

According to McMinn, ECU's competitors were focused, but their performance was flawed.

"Their focus allowed them to attack the course aggressively," McMinn said. "They did not encourage each other during the race like we do. We have more of a team

mindset during the race rather than just in practice."

Senior Amber Webb placed third for the Lady Bisons and 18th overall, bringing in 12 points with a time of 19:23.

"To be honest, the conference race did not accurately represent the runners and the team I know we are," Webb said. "The outcome was not what we had hoped for, nor what we pictured while enduring all the hard work. Saturday's race did not portray our potential, however, I'm extremely proud of our team and how far we have come."

According to Webb, the competitive spirit of the women's team will motivate them to do better in regionals.

"We are all so competitive," Webb said. "Finishing second at conference is not how we wanted to finish the season. It only encourages us to refocus and work harder

for regionals. We want to show everyone our true potential and that Harding's runners work hard."

Sophomore Camden Barrett, placed second for Harding, ninth overall, bringing in eight points with a time of 25:34, for the men's cross-country team.

"Our team raced competitively," Barrett said. "Even after winning races we reflect on what to do better next time. We can be happy with our performances, but not satisfied. After losing to East Central for our third consecutive year, it was hard to swallow. I do believe Harding is and was the better team out there. East Central just got the better of us on that day."

The men's and women's cross-country team will compete again on Nov. 5 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in the NCAA Central Region Championship.

LOCKER TALK

Our Athletes' Views on Pop Culture

questions

Gojko Djokovic
Basketball



A 1963 Aston Martin DB4, even though I probably wouldn't fit in it.

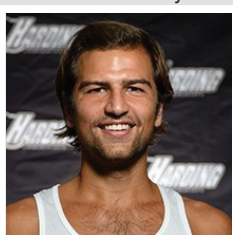
Bald eagle.

It'd be nice to fly.

Cubs or Indians?

Cubs.

Daniel Evans
Cross Country



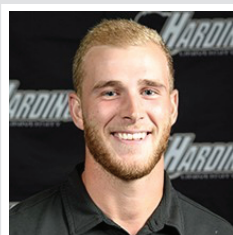
Four friends and an RV.

Probably a walrus or an oak tree.

Basketball powers.

TEXANS!

Alan Anderson
Golf



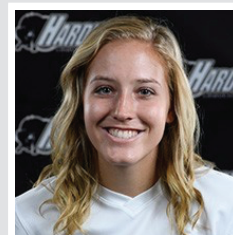
Lamborghini.

Bald Eagle (because, you can't get shot and you can fly over the world.)

Flying (fast transportation.)

Cubs.

Carley Stevens
Soccer



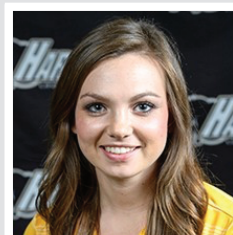
1964 1/2 light blue Mustang.

Monkey.

Fly.

Cubs, because Rachel (Bacon) would kill me if I said Indians.

CharlesAnn Freeman
Golf



Red Corvette.

A puppy.

Flight.

Cubs.



Courtesy of Steve Johnson

LEFT: President Bruce McLarty speaks at a workshop for the National Evangelism with Sojourners of the Church of Christ at the Central Florida Bible Camp workshop in February. **RIGHT:** Member of Sojourners split firewood at Central Florida Bible Camp during the annual workshop.

Traveling with retirees and purposeful RVs

National Evangelism with Sojourners of the Church of Christ serve across U.S. in motor homes

SAVANNA DISTEFANO
features editor

In 1978, the National Evangelism with Sojourners of the Church of Christ began with a two-couple meeting of Paul and Peggie Scott and Marvin and Linda Hall. Today, the Sojourners is a Church of Christ based RV ministry consisting of approximately 1,100 mostly retired Christians.

The Sojourners was sparked by the desire of the Scotts to strengthen small and struggling churches. They spent years performing domestic mission work before helping create the Sojourners.

The ministry is sponsored by the Bursleson Church of Christ in Bursleson, Texas, and based at Camp Bee in Marshall, Texas. The Sojourners host five workshops every year in different regions in the U.S.

"We have a fantastic time putting together teams of people who love the Lord, and they are excited about their retirement years," Rick Northen, a Sojourner co-leader, said. "What we do beats the heck out of sitting in a rocking chair."

Northen has been involved with the Sojourners for approximately six years. He described the ministry as "travel with a purpose."

"There are a lot of us who feel that even in our home congregations, as we get older, we have less and less of a role, and we are willing to keep working," Northen said. "(Sojourning) definitely gives us a purpose ... We don't just get in our RVs and see this beautiful land around us... we have this purpose that is bigger than ourselves."

Dale Duncan, a Sojourners co-leader, and his wife Ann joined the Sojourners in

1999 after visiting their booth during an event in Oklahoma.

"The reason that (Sojourners) brings us all together is that we are a group of people that want to go out and teach about the word and save those souls that haven't had the opportunity, and that is what we do," Dale Duncan said. "It's really been rewarding to meet people from different areas."

Every year, the Sojourners receive approximately 125 requests for aid from across the U.S., and sojourns lasts approximately two weeks. The majority of requests come from small congregations, youth camps and children's homes.

"There are so many people here in the U.S. that need our help," Duncan said. "We are very important to these people."

Steve Johnson and his wife Janet joined the Sojourners approximately one year ago. They sold their property and purchased an RV, where they live full-time. According to Johnson, sojourning was the main reason for purchasing and living in an RV.

"Sojourners is the perfect fit for that because you get to travel and you can serve," Johnson said. "You get the fellowship of being with other Christians."

Johnson retired from the air force and said he enjoys the lack of competitiveness within the Sojourners group compared to his career.

"You spend so many of your years working as an adult, and there's a lot of pressure involved in achieving or making rank," Johnson said. "(The people in the Sojourners) have already had their careers. They are not competing, they are not trying to make rank, they are not trying to outdo anybody they are just trying to serve God, and just

being around them is very encouraging as far as that goes because it's just like-minded people that want to have fun and serve God and help others."

Sophomore Rebecca Johnson's grandparents, Dudley and Sue McLarty, parents of President Bruce McLarty, are active members of the Sojourners. Rebecca Johnson said her grandparents have developed relationships with fellow volunteers who sign up for projects together.

"I love that my grandparents have found such a cool way to spend their time in retirement," Rebecca Johnson said. "It is like church camp for the over 70 club, and I am really impressed with their willingness

and desire to serve throughout their life."

According to Rebecca Johnson, the Sojourners provides an outlet for her grandparents to exercise their desire to serve. According to Northen, the ministry is filled with people who have similar passions for outreach.

"You don't exactly have to cross an ocean to be a missionary," Northen said. "We love what we do, we have a lot of fun when we are doing it."

The Sojourners visit Harding every year to participate in the Bible Lectureship, and they complete sojourns at York College and Ohio Valley University. For more information about the Sojourners visit sojourning.org.

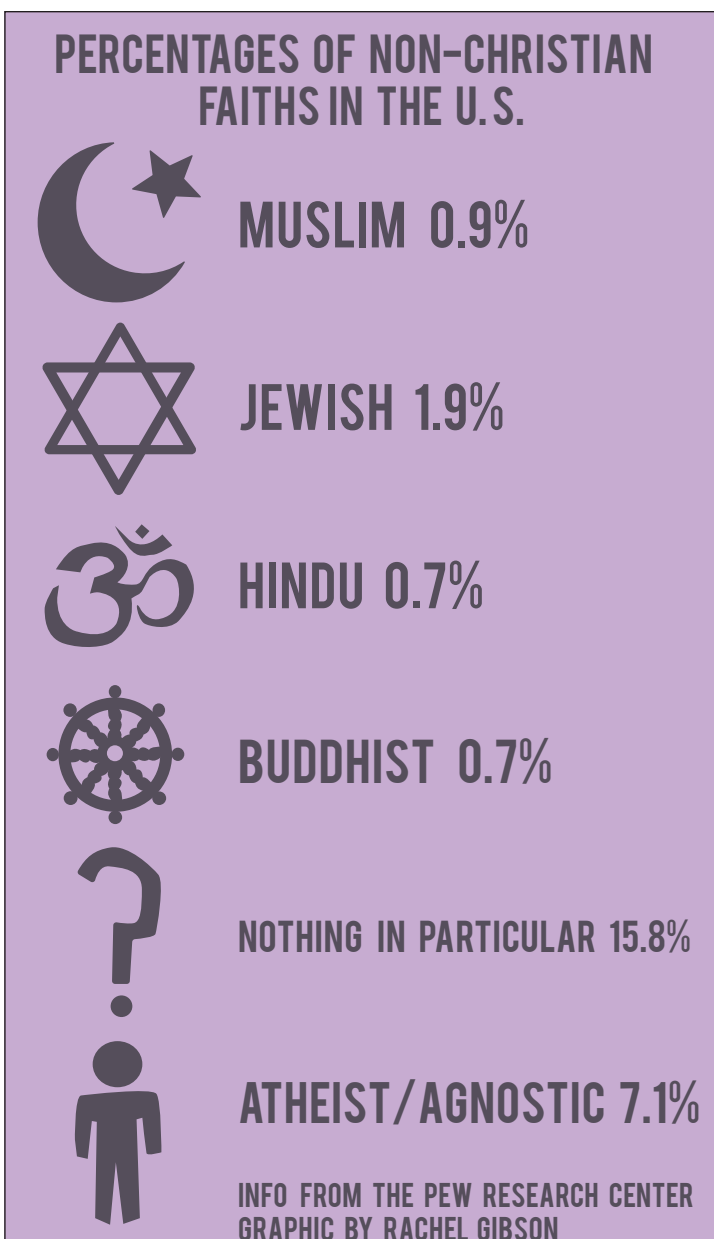


Courtesy of Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson, Sue Hughs, Jay Rounsaville and Carol Rounsaville install new flooring at Central Florida Bible Camp in February with the National Evangelism with Sojourners of the Church of Christ. Sojourner members travel in RVs and serve across the U.S.

Learning to approach non-Christian neighbors

The second installment of the 'Significant Others' series based on the book by Dr. Monte Cox



SAVANNA DISTEFANO
features editor

According to the Pew Research Center, 28.7 percent of Americans associate with non-Christian faiths or do not affiliate with any religion. Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry, said his upcoming book, "Significant Others," addresses how to interact with Americans of varying faiths.

"For years I have had the feeling that the parents of my students (of living world religions class) were needing adherence of non-Christian religions in America more and more but didn't have a clue about how to engage them in conversation about their faith," Cox said. "We should be respectful, we should be informed, and we should seek to be persuasive."

Throughout the year, Cox is presenting sections from his book during chapel. The banner used on stage during his chapel talks includes photographs of four non-Christian Americans whose smiles convey a message of friendliness, according to Cox.

"These are others, but we care about them," Cox said. "They are significant to God, and they need to be significant to us ... These are human beings, creatures made in the image of God, regardless of what they believe, they are worthy of our respect."

According to Cox, the first step to conversing with a person of a different faith is approaching the person with intentions of a relationship. Cox said he has several friends of varying religions whom he met during his time teaching the living world religions class and traveling.

"Christians need to approach people no matter who they are with a goal of friendship," Cox said. "God may use me, on the other side of that open door, to be a messenger to them."

Cox said Christians should participate in discussions regarding faith and have a desire to share the gospel with others while being respectful, informed,

and persuasive without being forceful or manipulative.

"Tolerance has taught us not only to not ask any questions about what people believe, but that faith is a private discussion," Cox said. "Those of us in Christ should engage and not disengage."

A 2015 Pew Research Study projected that by 2050, global Hindu and Jewish populations will increase, Christians will shrink from more than three-quarters to two-thirds, and Islam will surpass Judaism in the U.S. "Significant Others" is intended to be a tool to prepare Christians for the changing religious dynamic in America.

"This book is for Christians in America who are interacting with Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and other non-Christians in North America more than it is about equipping them to go to India," Cox said. "The goal is to equip people to go next door and invite their new neighbor over for dinner and not be scared."

President Bruce McLarty said he sees a growing need for Christians to learn how to speak with people of different faiths.

"Our world just keeps getting smaller and smaller," McLarty said. "I know my grandchildren will go to school with Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs, so there is a need to know how, as a Christian, to understand and to speak to these people."

Cox said people of non-Christian faiths in America may be more open-minded about Christianity than people of their same faiths in religion-dominated cultures, and that the uneasy feeling from being around non-Christians may be a message from the Holy Spirit to start a conversation.

"Some of these religions are just so different than we are used to that we don't know where to start," Cox said. "God almighty may have put you as a Christian messenger in the path of this person who is seeking him, and they might not know they are seeking him yet, but they will find out over time they get to know him, if in fact the aroma you give off is the aroma of Christ."

Fitbits: health monitors or fashion statements?

THELMA MARTINEZ
student writer

As you walk through campus or talk with friends, you might notice a Fitbit decorating the wrists of many. The device was created by a company of the same name, Fitbit Inc., founded in 2007 by Eric Friedman and James Park. The Fitbit wristband is able to measure data such as the number of steps you walk, heart rate, quality of sleep and other health-related statistics. While it is true the device is useful to keep you “fit,” other people may just use it as a fashionable item.

For junior computer science major Josue Silvestre, he received his Fitbit as a gift.

“I had a wide idea about what the Fitbit was before it was given to me,” Silvestre said. “At the time the person gave it to me, I was going to the gym as part of my daily routine, so I found it useful.”

Silvestre, who wears the Fitbit every day, is aware that he mostly uses it as a watch, but he still checks his activity statistics at the end of the day to make sure he achieves some of the goals the Fitbit provides.

According to the Fitbit website, the starting fitness goals are 10,000 steps a day, five miles a day and 30 minutes of daily exercise, which is at least 150

minutes of moderate exercise per week, the amount recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The goals can also be changed by going to the Fitbit app.

“It is not like you are going to be more fit just by wearing it,” Silvestre said. “But one way or another, it helps you to keep control and realize when you did something or when you just lie down all day.”

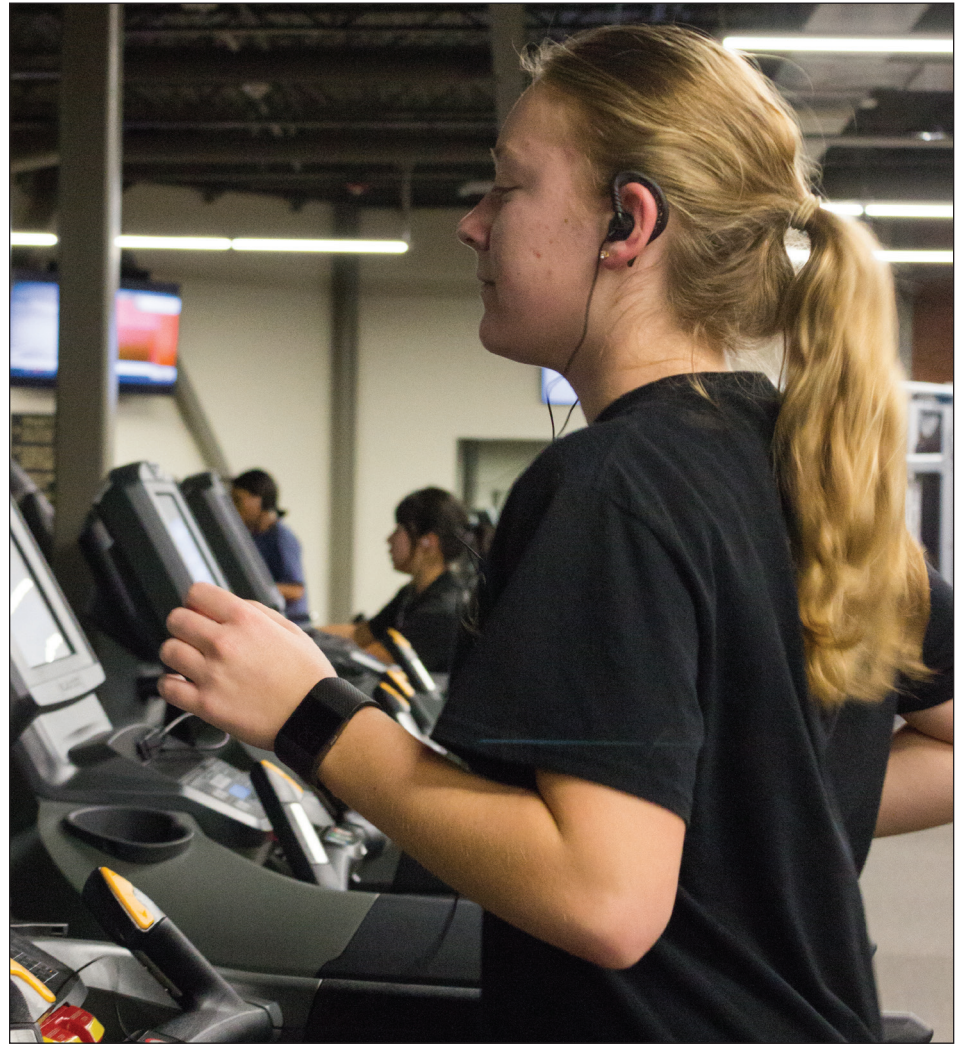
For sophomore psychology major Kailey Thornton, her Fitbit was also a gift. Even though she does not practice sports in her daily routine, she said she wears the Fitbit all the time.

“It has a sleep tracker, which is something that doesn’t necessarily help me,” Thornton said. “But I find it interesting and it encourages me to try to get more sleep. The goal is eight hours of sleep that I don’t really get, but it encourages me to try to get them all.”

Thornton checks the data at the end of the day, making sure to look at how many steps she has walked.

“I really use it,” Thornton said. “I definitely have seen changes and progress since I got it. I have better endurance while running and I’ve lost 15 pounds.”

According to the Fitbit website, more than one million units of Fitbit Blaze (\$199.95) and Fitbit Alta (\$129.95) were shipped in the first month of retail availability.



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Battle on the blacktop to raise donations for charity

AMA hosts fundraising basketball tournament to aid Swipe4Searcy

JACOB ARDREY
student writer

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the American Marketing Association (AMA) at Harding will host a fundraising event called “Battle of the Blacktop” that will benefit Swipe4Searcy, a student-led organization, according to senior Jonah Turner, one of the organizers of the event.

A 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held at the intramural basketball courts to create fellowship and help spread awareness about Swipe4Searcy, according to Turner. Anyone in the community can sign up and the cost will be \$50 per team, which is less than \$17 per person. The entry fee includes a T-shirt and a meal provided by Firehouse Subs. Turner said Swipe4Searcy is receiving the proceeds to help gain monetary funds as well as swipes, so that they can further their mission of giving food to the less fortunate.

“We’re trying to bridge the gap between Harding and Searcy, to burst the bubble, so-to-speak,” Turner said. “We want to do things at Harding, but also make it on a Searcy-scale since this is where we live.”

Senior Taylor Snyder, co-president of AMA, said they were

adamant about the fundraiser helping a local cause instead of a bigger organization in order to create a visible change in the community.

“A \$1,000 donation could seriously change their entire organization,” Snyder said. “Right now, they are relying so much on swipes, so this event could potentially help them branch out and be able to serve the community better.”

Lori Sloan, assistant marketing professor at Harding and sponsor of AMA, said she has enjoyed seeing her students help their community outside of Harding.

“I love working with students outside the classroom and seeing them implement their marketing concepts,” Sloan said. “This event is supporting a great organization and is a

fantastic way to wrap up Club Week.”

The entrance fee of \$50 per team does not have to initially be paid to be able to play, and T-shirts are available for \$10 for those who do not want to play in the tournament, according to Snyder. Sign-ups are open through Club Week so everyone can participate.

“We put the tournament on the Saturday after Club Week ends so that the people who are super jazzed about being in their clubs can do something together,” Snyder said. “Even if you are not in a club or not athletically inclined, it is honestly an event to have fun, hang out with your friends, and support a good cause.”

To sign up, visit www.battleoftheblacktop.wixsite.com/fundraiser.



Graphic by RACHEL GIBSON

<p><i>Whilma's</i> filipino RESTAURANT</p> <p>Dine In or Take Out! Call Ahead for Faster Service</p> <p>701 E Race Street 501-268-1288</p> <p>Try our famous Curry, Lumpia or Pancit!</p>	<p>Eat Filipino 6 days a week!</p>
	<p>Sunday: 11 am - 2 pm</p>
	<p>Tuesday-Saturday: 11 am - 8 pm</p>

Relay For Life raises more than \$14,000 for cancer research



RELAY FOR LIFE



Photos by EVAN SWEARINGEN



HOME COMING

1C | Friday, October 28, 2016



Photo by EVAN SWEARINGEN | Graphic by RACHEL GIBSON

Senior quarterback Park Parish fights his way through the defensive line in a game against Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Oct. 15. The Bisons are 8-0 and are currently ranked fifth in the nation. The team plays Southwestern Oklahoma State University tomorrow at First Security Stadium.

Bisons roll toward first conference title in 27 years

TAYLOR HODGES
asst. sports editor

Off to a program best 8-0 start, the Harding Bisons take on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Bulldogs tomorrow at First Security Stadium for their Homecoming matchup. Since they hold the tiebreaker over every team in the conference, they now control their own destiny to their first Great American Conference (GAC) championship. Ranked fifth nationally, the Bisons are in position to host their first ever playoff game.

"It would really mean a lot to the school to go undefeated and host a playoff game," said Dr. Clifton Ganus Sr., chancellor emeritus and long-time Harding football fan. "The publicity you get from winning football games is amazing. Winning is important. It isn't everything, but it is important."

So far this season, the Harding football team has lead the conference in six of the eight major statistics: scoring offense (43.8 points per game), scoring defense (10.2 points per game), total defense, rushing offense, rushing defense and passing defense.

"We have had good beginnings in the past," Ganus said. "We have won as many as four, five and six in a row to start a season. But then we start to stub our own toes. We start to fumble the ball and commit too

many penalties. But this year, if you look at the record, we are the best team in NCAA Division II in turnovers, because we aren't fumbling the ball like we did last year. We are doing a much better job at holding onto the ball and making fewer mistakes."

The Bisons are 6-5 all time against SWOSU dating back to 1994 when the Bisons defeated the Bulldogs 39-27. SWOSU is coming to Searcy riding on a four-game winning streak after starting the season 0-4.

A year ago, the Bisons played the Bulldogs in Weatherford, Oklahoma, and lost 21-13. Harding fumbled the ball three times, one of which SWOSU recovered and converted to a touchdown. Harding also had six penalties that resulted in 63 total yards lost. SWOSU outrushed Harding with 190 yards on the ground. This was the first time Harding has been outrushed in over four years.

"Last year we went up there and they just pushed us around. Even when we knew they were going to run the ball, we weren't able to stop them," senior linebacker Benjamin Shields said. "We know that we have a better defensive line, and we feel like we have something to prove on Saturday. So we're going to come out and really try to shut down their run game early."

If Harding wins tomorrow, they will be 9-0 with two games remaining. A win on Nov. 5, at Northwestern Oklahoma State

University (NWOSU) would clinch the Bisons' first GAC title.

"This is the best season I have ever been a part of in my entire playing career," Shields said. "We're just clicking on all sides of the ball right now. We're just really coming together, exactly how we want to."

Ganus has had multiple conversations with head coach Ronnie Huckleba over the success of his last season.

"Maybe the real reason we are doing so well is because I told coach Huckleba that I'm getting up there in years, and I sure would love to see an undefeated season," Ganus said. "So here we are. Maybe he took the word."

This will also be the Homecoming game for the Bisons. The overall record for Harding on Homecoming is 37-17-2, but the Bisons have never played SWOSU in a Homecoming game.

"It's always a very exciting time to see everybody come back," Ganus said. "I came to Harding in 1939. That was 77 years ago. And back then, we didn't have Homecoming like we do now. Harding was so different then. It was so small ... To me, it's a wonderful, exciting time because I knew so many of those students who were away, and I always enjoy having them back and getting to visit with them."

With extra eyes on this game and a head

coach in his last season, Shields said that the team is a little more motivated for this year's Homecoming game.

Maybe the real reason we are doing so well is because I told coach Huckleba that I'm getting up there in years, and I sure would love to see an undefeated season. So here we are. Maybe he took the word.

**- Chancellor Emeritus
Cliff Ganus**

"This year is the 40th anniversary of the championship team that coach Huckleba played for," Shields said. "He has been talking to us a lot about how they are all coming back this weekend and how proud they are of us. And we just really want to play for all of those guys who never had the chance to play for a conference championship. We're not just playing for ourselves. We're playing for everybody who has had the chance to play for Harding."

The game is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 at First Security Stadium. Tailgating will take place before the game, and the crowning of the Homecoming queen will take place at halftime.

Homecoming Queen Finalists



**AMY
DAVIS**

**CLUB:
JU GO JU**



**MARY
CARR**

**CLUB:
PI THETA PHI**



**KAYLEN
MARTIN**

**CLUB:
SIGMA PHIMU**

1. What has been your favorite memory at Harding so far?

One time my good friend Pat Rice and I rode a camel in the Tractor Supply parking lot, but she is quite a bit older than I am, so someone thought I was on a camel ride with my grandma. We laughed the whole time around the parking lot and I was loving life.

I really loved helping with Relay for Life two years ago! PTP's theme was Carnival...we had corn dogs, people braiding corn rows, and corn hole. It was so fun to spend the night raising money for a great cause while also being with my friends on the front lawn.

The night I got queened by Chi Sigma Alpha /getting to be the tree in our Dr. Seuss Spring Sing show!

2. Describe your perfect date.

My crush would make me a casserole which we would eat by candlelight. We would then probably watch a Disney movie and then (if I werelucky), he would serenade me while playing mandolin.

Anything outdoors!

Picture this: A romantic candle lit dinner at Chili's (Searcy location). The appetizer is free and one of us has a coupon for a free dessert. You look at me and say those seven magic words: "I'm full. Do you want the rest?"

3. Favorite Bruce saying/moment?

Probably the time he told me that I was his favorite student he has ever had come through Harding and not to ever tell anyone he told me that.

I love when he reads A Cup of Christmas Tea in chapel!

The #OptionalFinals debacle of 2K13

Photos by AMANDA FLOYD | Graphic by RACHEL GIBSON



HOMECOMING

2C | Friday, October 28, 2016

Three choreographers instruct Homecoming performers

DELILAH POPE
editorial assistant

“Since kindergarten I have been dreaming of choreographing something for the Benson stage. Last year I met one of my goals when I was performing on the Benson stage, and now I am choreographing something that goes on that stage. The biggest stage in Arkansas I get to put my work on,” sophomore Olivia Ballinger said of the making of this year’s Homecoming musical, “Crazy For You.”

Ballinger, a Searcy native, attended Harding Academy from kindergarten through the 12th grade, and has been involved in theater and performance since her seventh grade year. She is now working as a jazz choreographer for this year’s Homecoming musical. According to Ballinger, her time spent at Harding University’s Honor Choir summer program contributed to her love of performance and allowed her to develop her skills as a dancer.

“I have never had a dance class in my entire life,” Ballinger said. “They do a Broadway medley that’s seven minutes long and that is where I really learned how to Broadway-style dance.”

Ballinger coordinated both the staging and choreography for her social club, Chi Omega Pi, during last year’s Spring Sing show, as well as performed in the ensemble for last year’s Homecoming musical, “Singin’ in the Rain.”

“I feel like I’m not that experienced, but when I start talking about it, I feel like I’ve had a lot of experience,” Ballinger said.

She said she is especially excited to bring her skills to this year’s show.

“It’s a not well-known musical, so that’s been a challenge, but kind of an exciting challenge, because no one has expectations for it,” Ballinger said.

According to Ballinger, the production’s obscurity is not the only thing that makes this year’s musical unique.

“Another new thing is that there is a lot of tap in this musical,” Ballinger said. “So much so that we have three choreographers.”

Ballinger works alongside junior Sarah Dixon and Harding alumna Kelsey Sumrall to bring this year’s production to life. Sumrall, like Ballinger, primarily focuses her skills on choreographing jazz routines, while Dixon focuses on tap.

According to Dixon, working as the show’s only tap choreographer has been a rewarding experience, both for herself and the rest of the cast.

“Tap is so different from any style of dance because it’s like percussion with your feet, and so I just kind of pushed them out there, and I said ‘I don’t really want to modify this because this is Gershwin and I think it’s a great show and it has great music and the original has some great choreography in it,’” Dixon said. “And so I didn’t want to water it down, I wanted it to be really good, and I wanted us to show what we can do, because I think we have a lot of talented people.”

Although “Crazy for You” is Dixon’s first experience working with the Harding Department of Theatre, she is no stranger to stagework. Dixon said that she took dance lessons from the time she was three years old until her senior year of high school, and spent three of her high school years teaching dance.

“I always knew that I wanted to do something the-

ater-related at Harding, but I just didn’t exactly know what, because I’m not involved in a club and I didn’t really feel that interested in Spring Sing,” Dixon said.

Instead, Dixon spoke with the show’s producer, Cindee Stockstill, in the spring, and asked about her hectic schedule and whether or not it would be wise to audition. In turn, Stockstill asked if Dixon would want to instruct tap choreography as well.

“So I picked up two different jobs there,” Dixon said. “But I’m glad, it’s been a good experience thus far.”

Sumrall has been participating in the theater since the 7th grade. She graduated from Harding in December 2015, and has an extensive history of involvement with the university’s theatre department, including a performance as the Fairy Godmother in Harding’s 2014 Homecoming musical “Shrek,” and serving as a Spring Sing hostess in 2015.

“I came to Harding just expecting to be involved in the shows, and ended up becoming a theatre education major my sophomore year,” Sumrall said. “I did every Spring Sing and every Homecoming musical while I was here, and a few other plays, and then the drama teacher at Harding Academy ended up moving, and so I got her job.”

For Sumrall, the most exciting thing about her role in this year’s musical has been the opportunity to contribute to the show in a way that is different from her involvement in past years.

“My creativity is being showcased,” Sumrall said, “I’ve been in (theatre) for so long and so it’s been neat for me to get to add to the vision for the show, and for things that I came up with to be part of it.”

‘Crazy For You’ leads reflect character similarities

SARAH DIXON
head copy editor

In the small town of Deadrock, Nevada, a naïve aspiring performer from New York City named Bobby meets and falls head over heels for Polly, a headstrong country girl with a big heart. The two find themselves on a difficult journey to love, all the while singing Gershwin tunes in this year’s Homecoming musical, “Crazy for You.”

Senior Thomas Williams will be playing Bobby Child opposite senior Renee Maynard as Polly Baker. According to both performers, they cannot wait to bring this fun and dynamic show to the Benson stage.

When “Crazy for You” was first announced last year as the 2016 Homecoming musical, Williams said he was initially surprised due to the great amount of dance in the show.

“I’ve always felt like we’ve done better with character-type shows,” Williams said. “But I feel like we’ve risen to the occasion, absolutely, and this is a big step for Harding.”

Williams and Maynard auditioned last semester for

the lead roles and worked throughout the summer to fine-tune their skills in preparation for rehearsals this fall. Since the character of Bobby is a tap dancer, Williams said he took lessons over the summer to improve his tap abilities.

“Learning to tap was something that I’ve always wanted to do, but I’ve never been able to justify it,” Williams said. “But with this show it was like, ‘No, you are going to learn to tap.’”

Maynard said she is excited about the dancing as well as the recognizable songs in the show.

“I’d seen some clips of the show, and I knew Polly was a big dance role, and she gets to sing ‘Someone to Watch over Me,’” Maynard said. “That’s been a dream come true to perform, because it’s such a great song.”

According to Williams, this is his 13th show with Harding theatre. Maynard and Williams have both been Spring Sing hosts in past years, but this is their first time as leads in a Homecoming musical.

“I’ve been in chorus with Thomas for four years, and he’s just the most energetic

person I know,” Maynard said. “He’s so much fun to dance with and act with, and I can tell how much I’ve grown as an actor just by getting to be in scenes with him.”

As for her character, Maynard said she and Polly differ in how they deal with situations, but overall they are alike.

“We’re both romantics, but we’re not going to settle for anybody,” Maynard said.

According to Williams, he and his character Bobby are very similar.

“To me, Bobby is a lovable doofus; like he’s not cool. He’s not cool at all,” Williams said. “But you like him because he’s so earnest, and he’s having a good time. And I feel like that’s kind of me. I’m not cool in the traditional sense, but I have a good time and I try to make people happy.”

With a cast of over 40, a large number of freshmen, and more dance numbers than any musical in Harding history, Williams said he was extremely pleased with how well the show has come together in the last two months.

“This is the smoothest



EVAN SWEARINGEN | The Bison

Seniors Thomas Williams and Renee Maynard pose as Bobby Child and Polly Baker at rehearsal for “Crazy For You” on Oct. 24.

and most unified I’ve ever seen a cast in a musical,” Williams said. “This year, everyone who’s in the show, I feel like we’re all friends. It’s very special to be a part of a cast like that.”

According to Robin Miller, chair of the department of theatre and director of

“Crazy for You,” Williams and Maynard are two very skilled performers who will do a great job of leading the show on Homecoming weekend.

“They know their way around a stage; they have great voices, but the ‘it’ factor was that both of them had

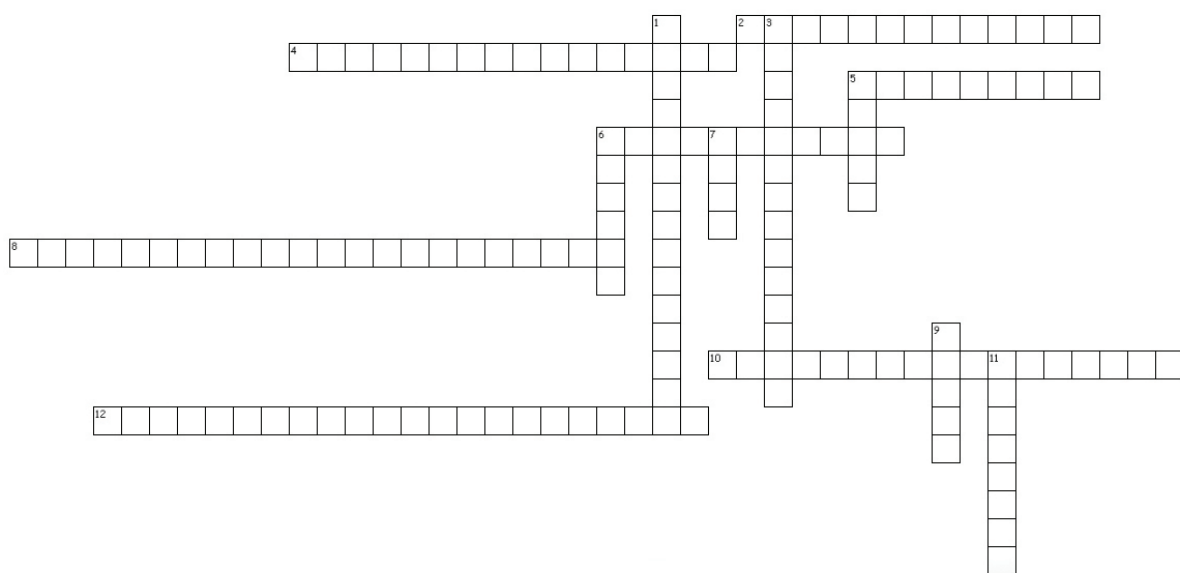
an energy and a persona that beautifully matched the two characters,” Miller said. “They have a personal quality that they can tap into to really bring these two characters to life, and it was very clear that they going to be able to do this successfully.”

Across

- Students can eat chicken and pandas here
- Place of weekday morning worship
- The celestial stag who serves coffee
- Dr. Burks’ favorite word
- Harding’s newest renovation
- A fragrant pathway to Starbucks
- Colloquially known as “the caf”

Down

- A coffee shop that helps global works
- Harding’s thunderous marching band
- Ride in these thrice to ensure marriage
- Source of caffeinated energy
- Prize obtained by riding in swings three times
- Harding’s official bovine mascot
- Harding’s unofficial rodent mascot



For more Homecoming coverage and the crossword solution, check out thelink.harding.edu.



Photos courtesy of Susan Hodges

LEFT: Dr. Joseph E. Pryor rides a tricycle during a faculty race at a track meet. CENTER: Dr. Joe and Bessie Mae Pryor hold hands during a women's social club Regina banquet. RIGHT: A photo taken of Dr. Joe for his 20th Century Christian Educator Award in 1970.

Remembering Dr. Joe Pryor

SAVANNA DISTEFANO
features editor

He was known for his perpetual bowties and friendly smile. He is remembered for his personable character and charismatic warmth. Dr. Joseph E. Pryor, late Harding alumnus, professor, administrator and adviser for extracurricular activities, left his fingerprints across the modern-day university.

He was known as Dr. Joe, and he served as professor of science, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the vice president for academic affairs. He was a sponsor for the Arkansas chapter of Alpha Chi and men's social club TNT for approximately 30 years.

"People loved him," Susan Hodges, daughter of Dr. Joe, said. "He would stop and talk to you and you felt like the only person in the world, the only thing that mattered. He had nowhere else to go and nowhere else to be but what was important to you in that moment."

At the age of 15, Dr. Joe enrolled at Harding and graduated in 1937 as an honor graduate with bachelor's in math and in chemistry. While a student, Dr. Joe served as the editor-in-chief for *The Bison* from 1935-36 and for the *Petit Jean* yearbook in 1936-37. He was part of the basketball team, Alpha Chi Honor Society, and the first member inducted into the TNT men's social club after Harding moved to Searcy from Morrilton.

Dr. Joe earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from Louisiana State University and returned to Harding as professor and the chairman of the department of physical science in 1944.

After returning to Harding, Dr. Joe became a faculty adviser for the *Petit Jean* yearbook for 43 years. The *Petit Jean* was awarded its first all-American rating from the Associated Collegiate Press and continued to earn awards years after.

Dr. Joe began dating his advisee, *Petit Jean* editor and alumna Bessie Mae Ledbetter in 1946. He proposed to her that spring at a TNT outing.

In a home video, Bessie Mae retold the engagement unveiling party. She said Florence Cathcart, then the dean of women, was excited to spread the news.

"Miss Cathcart couldn't wait," Bessie Mae said in the video. "She ran to the telephone and called back to the dorm and told everybody, and



it was announced over the intercom."

Dr. Joe and Bessie Mae married in Godden Hall, where the Administration building currently stands, on Aug. 16, 1946. They adopted all three of their children and treated the Harding student body as their own.

The Pryor family lived in a two-story white house — nicknamed "Grand Central Station" — where the McIneer Bible and World Missions Center currently stands. Hodges said she remembers constantly having guests. Bessie Mae was a sponsor for women's social club Regina, and the members held weekly Monday night meetings in the Pryors' home. The couple also hosted Alpha Chi, TNT and *Petit Jean* member frequently. On Sundays, the family would host lunch and dinner.

"I have great memories of him vacuuming to help Mom because we were having company for lunch, and he would polish our shoes before church," Hodges said. "Dad was very loving ... He was very helpful and caring — he was a great servant."

In the late 1980s, the campus science center was named the Joseph E. Pryor Science Center. The building was expanded and rededicated as the Pryor England Center for Science and Engineering in 2004.

"It was not that he just gave his time to Harding, he gave all he had," Hodges said. "He slept only four hours a night since graduate school ... He believed with his whole being in Christian education."

Along with Dr. Clifton Ganus, Dr. Joe believed in the importance of collegiate athletics. The men approached the administration and helped bring varsity football to Harding in 1959.

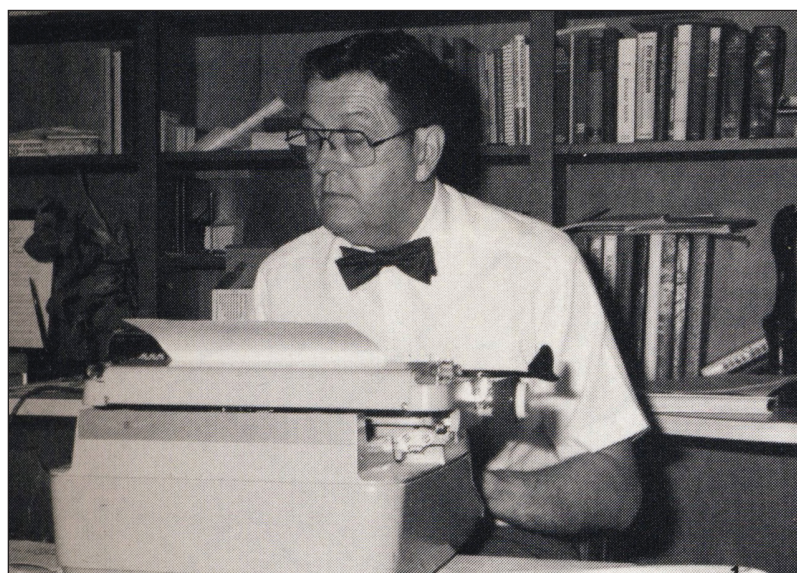
"Wherever you wanted to put him, whatever you wanted him to do, he would do a good job of it," Ganus said. "He was as kind and gentle as he could be, but he was a brute when it came to playing football or basketball or anything like that. He was very strong. I liked him — loved him."

In 1990, Dr. Joe was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. He was the timekeeper at football games and the scorekeeper for every basketball game.

Dr. Joe received several awards during his time at Harding, including the 20th Century Christian Educator, the distinguished Yearbook Advisors Award by the National Council of College Publications Advisers, distinguished alumnus of Harding College Award and the Outstanding Educator of America Award.

Hodges said she remembers her father as busy but said she admired him for his achievements and the number of activities he was involved in.

"He was always tired, but never complained about it," Hodges said. "He was selfless, he was a humble, devoted Christian with the highest standard of morals one can imagine, and he was a servant above all else."



Dr. Joe uses his typewriter while working at home. According to Dr. Joe's daughter, Susan Hodges, he preferred to type instead of handwritten documents.

Dr. Joe died on Oct. 27, 2006, preceding Bessie Mae's death on April 8, 2016. Ganus said he visited Dr. Joe often and preached at his funeral.

"You couldn't ask for anybody who was more solid spiritually, academically, athletically socially; he was just outstanding in all of those areas," Ganus said. "He reminded me of an iron fist in a velvet glove: strong and yet sweet temperament, kind, gentle, and I guess you would describe it as something strong, yet clothed in dignity and sweetness."

The Harding History House will host the "Dr. Joe and Bessie Mae Pryor" exhibit Friday, Oct. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special reception will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with the Pryors' daughters in attendance.

The exhibit will include family photos, plaques and personable belongings to tell the story of the Pryors' lives. Debbie Howard, curator of the History House, said the story of the Pryors could fill every room in the History House.

"They weren't seeking accolades, they weren't seeking notoriety, and I'm sure they never thought about being honored in an exhibit," Howard said. "From doing this exhibit and other one's I've done, these are just ordinary people who were doing extraordinary things, and that's what makes us remember them."



Dr. Joe and Chancellor Clifton Ganus laugh during a meal together. Dr. Joe and Ganus worked together for more than 40 years.



Harding University through the decades

GARRETT HOWARD
lifestyle editor

“It’s great to be at Harding,” one might see on a button pinned to a visiting high school student’s backpack. Maybe the phrase is plastered on a sticker decorating an old Honors Symposium folder, or perhaps on the back of someone’s Harding bookstore-purchased T-shirt.

It can be easy to catch the enthusiasm people exude about Harding, enthusiasm that usually ramps up to a tangible buzz of excitement from incoming students and nostalgic alumni during Homecoming weekend.

But was it always great to be at Harding?

Ed Higginbotham thinks so. Higginbotham, a distinguished Harding alumnus, graduated in 1960, and said that his time at Harding was the most wonderful experience of his life up to that point.

“With the academic, social, spiritual and cultural aspects, I believe that you will not find a better institution of higher learning anywhere in the world,” Higginbotham said.

Although Higginbotham spent the typical four years at Harding, students can come for half the time and still acquire an enjoyable experience, according to Milton Sewell. Sewell, also a distinguished alumnus, transferred to Harding from Freed-Hardeman University in 1962 and graduated in 1964, and said his two years in Searcy were well spent.

“Many friends, excellent teachers and challenging classes all made for two very good years,” Sewell said. “I fondly remember chapel, taking buddies to my home in Alabama and telling great stories with friends.”

Sheila Sullivan, another distinguished alumna who graduated in 1982, spent only three semesters at Harding, but said more would have been welcome.

“I only wish I could have been there longer,” Sullivan said. “Only in reflection can I truly appreciate the lengths to which the faculty went to accommodate my unique curricular needs.”

Sewell said he remembers many social activities that remain prevalent at Harding today, including getting to know a lot of people and attending different devotionals

around campus. However, there are several rules that did not transfer over to the 21st century.

In the 1960s, men were allowed to smoke in their dorm rooms, while women were not allowed to smoke at all, according to Higginbotham. Men had no curfew while women had a 10 p.m. curfew, and students were only allowed two excused chapel skips.

The cafeteria was located in the basement of Pattie Cobb dorm and only served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Sundays. According to Higginbotham, there were two lines in the cafeteria: the “saints” and the “sinners.” The “saints” line was designated as such because the microphone was located at the end of that line, and men who were in that line had to be willing to periodically lead the cafeteria in prayer for the meals.

Advances in technology also separate the generations at Harding, according to Sullivan.

“Some of my fondest memories are of being tucked away in the Brackett library with that unique aroma of aging textbooks,” Sullivan said. “It smelled like wisdom to

me, and it still does.”

Despite the differences between the past and present, the underlying themes of academic excellence and increased faith remain unchanged, according to Sewell.

“Some of my fondest memories are of being tucked away in the Brackett library with that unique aroma of aging textbooks. It smelled like wisdom to me, and it still does.”

- Sheila Sullivan, 1982 alumna

“My faith became stronger after listening to Dr. Benson in Sunday morning Bible classes at College Church,” Sewell said. “Harding helped me get over homesickness and pursue excellence in everything I did.”

Redefining legacy, people behind the plaques

GRANT STEWART
asst. copy editor

Ever since the dedication of the First Ladies Garden and Legacy Park in 2015, students have had many landmarks to peruse on their daily walks. However, the wide array of flowers, benches, fountains and buildings can distract students from a crucial part of those walks: the commemorative plaques. Liz Howell, vice president for alumni and parent relations, was in charge of getting these projects off the ground, and claims the women these plaques honor were the purpose for the garden.

“Every plaque tells a story, and most of the plaques are about people who have overcome great difficulties and how God has provided,” Howell said. “It’s very inspiring. There are single mothers who have sacrificed for their children

to go here. There are mother-in-laws who have been honored for their roles in the lives of their daughter-in-laws.”

Howell said the intent of the initial project was to honor former first lady Leah Burks and the other first ladies, but she came to realize that there were so many important women that have contributed to Harding.

“The biggest (factor in the project) is the recognition of women and how much women have sacrificed for people to have the opportunity for a Christian education,” Howell said. “(The First Ladies Garden) was about the first ladies of Harding, but as the project developed, we soon realized that every family has a first lady: a mother, grandmother, or matriarch who has sacrificed for students to come here. Since that started, we have had a tremendous response.”

One of these plaques was dedicated to Edith Reaves-Barnes, who was honored by her nephew Roy Reaves, chair

of Harding’s Board of Trustees. Reaves said he decided to make this contribution to his aunt because he believes she is the epitome of courage and perseverance.

“She’s one of the most courageous women I know of and she always had a burning desire for knowledge and a desire to pursue that at a great risk,” Reaves said. “That has been a huge inspiration for me and many others.”

Reaves said Reaves-Barnes was the valedictorian of her high school class as well as the first woman in the family to go to college.

“Her parents did not want their children to go to college,” Reaves said. “They felt like colleges were evil. In fact, my father had a full scholarship to go to college, but they were so insistent that he didn’t go. Edith was younger than my father — about eight years. At this point, she decided just to go against her parents will. She rode a bus to Searcy, Arkansas, for seven hours to a town and campus she had never seen. She had only a suitcase of clothes and she wasn’t even enrolled yet.”

According to Reaves, she worked two or three jobs on campus and it took her about seven years to get her first degree, but she kept on until she achieved her goal. She went on to earn multiple degrees.

“She stands for what’s right,” Reaves said. “She keeps on keeping on. She’s 89 years old, and still has that same courage and perseverance as a young girl... I would like for her to know what an inspiration she has been to not just my family — but everyone.”

Another plaque came from 2013 Harding graduate Paula Jones, who honored Pryor dorm mom Katrina Timms. Jones said Timms is now her close friend, but their relationship began over Timms’ three years as Jones’s dorm mom.

“I think for me I just appreciate how much she cared,” Jones said. “She would always go above and beyond for everyone... If I wanted to get coffee, she would walk to Starbucks with me and ask me about my day. To this day, she will drive to Bentonville to see me and to speak with me about what is going on. And I think she would do that with everyone.”

In addition to the First Ladies Garden and Legacy Park, there are new plaques being put up in the recently added Secret Garden, the Two Magnolias, and the Serendipity Garden. Howell encouraged students to walk around and read the stories of these great women and to come talk to her in order to get further connected with these women.



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Plaques on the wall in the First Ladies Garden honor some of the significant women in Harding’s history. Liz Howell, vice president for alumni and parent relations, said the project recognizes women and the sacrifice women have made for people to help ensure the opportunity for Christian education.

Harding authors participate in book signing

Books written by faculty, staff, alumni will be featured in University Bookstore event

GRAYSON PIERSHALE
beat reporter

This Saturday, Oct. 29, several staff members, professors and alumni will be stationed in front of the University Bookstore to discuss, sell and sign books they have authored. The event is being organized by the director of the Brackett Library Jean Waldrop and librarian Hannah Wood of the Brackett Library. It will begin at 10:45 a.m. and conclude around noon.

Ross Cochran, professor of Bible and Ministry, will be promoting his book “Not Off Limits: Questions We Wish We Could Ask at Church,” published in 2014.

Cochran said he hopes that his book will help Christians come to better appreciate multiple sides of contentious issues and cultivate a stronger sense of unity.

“We don’t disagree very well,” Cochran said. “Knowing how to be civil with people we disagree with is a huge gap that we need to bridge. We’ve got to reclaim that in every dimension of both our public life and our private life. Otherwise, the friction we feel

in our culture right now is just going to keep growing.”

Issues that Cochran examines throughout the eight chapters of “Not Off Limits” include women’s roles in leadership in the churches, the proper response of Christians to members of the LGBT community, how Christians of one faith tradition ought to consider Christians of another faith tradition and many more.

All proceeds from “Not Off Limits” will be donated to the Kibo Group, a religious-affiliated nonprofit organization that partners with East Africans in pursuing solutions for poverty and injustice.

Ken Bissell, senior advancement officer in the Advancement Office, will be at the event as well to promote his book, “Many Sons to Glory: The John Prock Story,” published in 2014. The book is a biography about John Prock, who served as the head football coach during the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

Bissell knew Prock personally for many years and said he admired both Prock’s character and his impact on Harding’s community, particularly the athletes who

played under him during the time he was their coach.

“This is a man who had a tremendous impact and influence on his players as he coached them,” Bissell said. “It’s inspiring. There’s a lot of great stories from the athletes who played for him. The book is a history of Harding athletics, as well as a very interesting story about a man who had an impact on Harding for about 28 years.”

Some of the proceeds from “Many Sons to Glory” will be donated to both Women for Harding and The Harding Fund, organizations which support scholarships for students.

Also participating in the book signing is Roxanne Beck, a Harding alumna who graduated in 1976. Beck will be promoting her children’s book, “Caterpillarland,” which she self-published in 2015 and has been added to the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library in Little Rock.

Beck says she drew inspiration for the book from ideas she gathered out of a dream involving caterpillars that were trapped underground.

“It really came from the idea of being afraid of change and to think for yourself,” Beck said. “When you’re a child, you’re often taught to think along certain lines. The story is symbolic of any oppressive society that tries to keep people from being who they really are or developing into their full potential.”

Beck said she hopes to have “Caterpillarland” adapted to an animated film in the future.

Other authors scheduled to participate in the book signing include associate professor of English Larry Hunt and alumni Annalisa Daugherty, Laura Tyree and David Stewart.

Coordinators and participants strongly encourage students, faculty and staff who are interested in either the content of the books or the authors’ writing process to come to the event and speak with the authors.

“Writing takes time and effort, but it’s a lot of fun,” Bissell said. “My encouragement to students is to come to the book signing, meet these authors, and talk to them about the experience they went through and be inspired by them.”