

3-3-2022

The Bison, March 3, 2022

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison>

Recommended Citation

The Bison, March 3, 2022. (2022). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison/2013>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Bison by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

NEWS	2A
OPINIONS	3&4A
SPORTS	1B
COMMUNITY	2B
FEATURES	3B
LIFESTYLE	4B

University responds to BSA chapel panel

EVERETT KIRKMAN
editor-in-chief

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Black Student Association (BSA) hosted a panel after the devotional period of chapel, and sought to have a conversation about allyship. This program was the fourth in a five-part series of chapel programs and devotionals planned by the BSA during Black History Month. During and in the hours following the panel discussion, YikYak posts were made in strong dissent toward many of the statements made by panelists, and the existence of the panel altogether.

YikYak is a social media channel that originally launched in 2013 and relaunched in 2021 that allows people to anonymously create and view discussion threads within a five mile radius of their location. Following the BSA's Feb. 7 chapel program — in which Walter Kayesse, a College of Pharmacy student, discussed the topic of medical malpractice that Black people have historically and systemically faced — junior Halle Miller, public relations officer for the BSA, noticed some hateful responses on YikYak, and responded with an opinion piece titled "Say it to my face," printed in the Feb. 11 issue of the Bison.

"Who is smiling in my face but doesn't really honor me — either as an image-bearer or as a Black person — who are these people?" senior Phallen Reed, president of the BSA said in an interview. "I think there has been a little bit of increased paranoia, or just, unease and unrest, even. That kind of reminder, so to speak, that this is where people place us. This is where we fall in society at large, in society at Harding, in the South — whichever way you want to put it. So, in us saying 'say it to my face,' it's just — let us know who you are so we know how to operate around you."

The panel on Feb. 23 included four students: senior Roland Wallace, senior Zach Smith, junior Trinity Peviler, and senior Lily Beth Ayers. The panel was moderated by BSA sponsor and associate professor of Bible Tim Westbrook.

The various YikYak comments that followed were gathered by 2021 alumna and former BSA president Raissa Ames.

Ames compiled more than 30 screenshots of "current students showcasing the truly awful, bigotted, and racist things being communicated through the app," in a PDF, and attached it in an email she sent to members of the former African American Task Force Committee (AATFC). Ames said she was not aware if the committee still stood or if the members she knew from last school year were still involved.

"However," Ames said in the email, "I once remember that this was a space I felt safe to voice concerns and that is my purpose for reaching out to you all today."

In fall 2020, in the wake of Black Lives Matter protests nationwide, and in an effort to create processes for recognizing African American achievement on campus, former President Bruce McLarty formed the AATFC. Dr. Greg Harris, assistant professor of kinesiology and women's soccer coach,

was appointed head of the committee. The committee was made up of current and former faculty, staff, board members, and students. Harris said the purpose of the committee was to "intentionally honor and create ongoing processes for acknowledging the support, service, leadership, and inspiration provided by African American men and women."

With that mission in mind, by the end of the 2020-21 school year, Harris said the committee had accomplished three goals: "getting approval by the board of trustees to rename the administration building to the Howard Wright and Elijah Anthony Administration Building; the

said. "But, I know for me personally, I appreciate the noise that Raissa has been making, because that brought to light things and avenues that I didn't even know were possibilities."

Dean of students Zach Neal sent an email statement to all undergraduate students on Thursday, Feb. 24, acknowledging the YikYak conversations that had begun the previous day. In the email, Neal said the statement was made via email, rather than in person, due to the inclement weather that had closed campus.

"At Harding we have a deep appreciation for racial diversity," Neal said. "We are supportive of open and

by virtue of being an image bearer of God," Burks said. "I know this community. I know the students and faculty and staff who are a part of it. and I know that's how we want to live and how we want to treat everyone."

Reed said that if Harding does have these ideals and values, then that should be reflected in difficult conversations about racism and prejudice, even if many students and faculty members do not understand firsthand. Reed said she does not think that the University tried to start having conversations about racism and injustice until Botham Jean's death in September 2018. Even now, she said that more work is needed to bring enough attention to the injustice that Black students at Harding continue to face.

"Monuments are great, building changes are great," Reed said. "But if the way that people operate day to day on this campus [doesn't] change, nothing is going to change. You're not going to have people that want to continue coming here, you're not going to have people that want to work here, or are even going to be able to work here at some point, and Harding is going to die out."

Harris said that while a lot of hurt was healed by the goals achieved and the statements made at each of the dedication ceremonies, he wished the task force committee still existed and could help the Harding community continue to grow through what it is continuing to experience.

"Throughout our meetings with the task force," Harris said, "Our thoughts and feelings evolved to the point of thinking that we may be called to another purpose of being a group that can help Harding grow and heal through supporting and educating all of our students, faculty and staff at Harding in various ways."

Executive Vice President David Collins said in an email statement to the Bison that, "We at Harding will continue to call each member of our community to a uniting, Christ-like love for one another, and we will maintain the highest of expectations regarding each one's behavior."

Collins said he was saddened to learn about the inappropriate comments being made anonymously, and that hateful comments have no place at Harding. He said he appreciated the statements by Neal and Burks, and was thankful for the continuing work of Tiffany Byers, director of multicultural student services.

"We are committed to providing opportunities for our students to hear and understand the perspectives and experiences of each other when done so in a respectful, productive manner," Collins said. "I am encouraged that, even out of this situation, many conversations and meetings are already happening."

Reed and Miller both said that today's BSA meeting is open to the entire student body, as well as faculty, staff and administration. Both Reed and Miller said that they want it to be a forum for discussion and education. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the student center.



Photo provided by HU16

BSA sponsor and associate professor of Bible Tim Westbrook moderates a panel of students: (from left to right) senior Roland Wallace, senior Lily Beth Ayers, junior Trinity Peviler and senior Zach Smith, during a program in chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 23, in Benson Auditorium. The panel, hosted by the BSA, sought to address allyship.

creation of the Botham Jean memorial; and the honoring of some of the firsts by African American students at Harding University."

Harris said that after meeting the three goals, he was made aware that the committee would be dissolved in spring 2021.

In her email, Ames made three recommendations, and asked the committee members to urge immediate action from University administration: (1) tracking IP addresses of YikYak users, and bringing individuals that violated the mission statement and handbook in front of the disciplinary board of the school; (2) banning YikYak from Harding servers; (3) releasing a school-wide statement speaking against the hate comments made on the app, and affirming that that type of speech does not align with the mission of the University.

"If you are not yet convinced," Ames said in her email, "I advise that you think about how these posts reflect the hearts and minds of the student body of the institution I am sure you all hold dearly. The students that made these posts are not just students, they are club members/leaders, organization members/leaders, and most importantly leadership amongst church congregations. In what world would we want the people behind these posts in any of these positions?"

Reed said that while she thinks Ames has had a different experience than she has, she appreciates the bold strides that she has made towards change, and she admires that Ames still cares about change at a school she has already graduated from.

"As a whole, no Harding student has had the exact same experience," Reed

healthy conversations regarding race in our society and within our campus community. Unfortunately, some of the conversations that have taken place on anonymous social media platforms are neither open nor healthy. I am very sorry that members of our student body are now struggling because of the careless or hateful words of someone else."

Neal said that, in affirmation of the student handbook, "any racist language or behavior is strictly prohibited and will be met with disciplinary action when individuals are identified."

Neal said he asks that students use social media for encouragement, and that he was prayerful that this could be an opportunity for members of the campus community to reflect on their own thoughts, words and actions. Neal offered to meet with anyone personally if they had concerns.

On Monday, Feb. 28, President David Burks made an announcement at the close of chapel, affirming Neal's email. Burks said the University was founded on spiritual convictions that remain at the core of its identity.

"The character, example and concerns of Jesus Christ are the bedrock standards that shape who we are," Burks said. "I believe — we believe — all people are created in the image of God and therefore we are all of equal value to him, Genesis 1:27."

Burks said that because God shows no partiality, neither does the University, and accepts, respects, and loves students of all races and nationalities.

"We stand opposed to racism in any form, and we expect everyone who is a part of Harding to be treated with a dignity and value that everyone deserves

Professors react to the Russian invasion of Ukraine

SARA MCCLARAN
features editor

The Russian Federation launched a full military invasion of its neighboring country Ukraine on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union, but became its own sovereign country after its dissolution in 1991. Ukraine was recognized as a country by Russia on Aug. 28 of that year. Instructor of Bible and ministry Gary Jackson, who was living in Russia when Vladimir Putin was first elected as Russia's president in 2000, said Putin never accepted that reality.

"Putin was very clear from the very beginning that he thought that was a serious mistake," Jackson said. "He's been kind of, like, making moves ever since he became president to kind of restore this idea of Russian influence."

Jackson said part of the reason Russia made a military move now was the lack of response when Russia occupied part of Georgia in 2008 and annexed Crimea in 2014.

"There were little hand-slapping sanctions, but nothing happened, really nothing, and whether he's misread the will of Western Europe or not is yet to be seen," Jackson said. "He certainly probably wasn't expecting that they were going to put on this unified front like they're doing right now, and he was also not expecting, I believe, that the Ukrainian people were going to fight."

Director of the criminal justice program Samuel Jeffrey said Putin has been trying to gain back territory for the last 20 years by influencing the government of Ukraine and by prompting small revolutions. The events now, Jeffrey said, are more an outflow of what has been happening over the past few years than something new.

"What's happening is the largest land war in Europe since the end of World War II," Jeffrey said. "In a larger sense, what's happening is a change of the global paradigm."

Before, the paradigm was one of global terrorism, Jeffrey said, but that ended when U.S. President Joe Biden pulled troops out of Afghanistan.

"What [Putin]'s done has shifted it back

to a paradigm in which state-on-state war ... is much more likely than it was prior," Jeffrey said.

Part of Putin's reasoning and Russia's propaganda, Jackson said, is that Ukraine is anti-Russian and anti-slavic. Putin has also tried to label Ukrainian society as neo-Nazi, as in his address on Feb. 21 where he states that Ukrainian society "was faced with the rise of far-right nationalism, which rapidly developed into aggressive Russophobia and neo-Nazism." Despite this, Jackson said not everyone is believing it — especially those who have a connection to Ukraine or who have high profile personalities and are more aware of what is going on in the world.

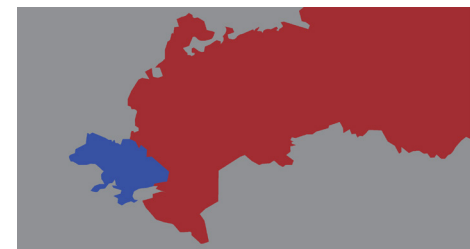
"I would say probably still the majority [in Russia] would support him, but there's a growing, pretty vocal minority," Jackson said.

Associate professor of communication Ginger Blackstone said much of the protesting stemmed from a lack of control. While China locked down the internet for its citizens when it was first gaining popularity, Russia did not, and that has impacted the effect of their propaganda.

"Russians are able to look at alternate news sites and see a completely different story told from a different perspective," Blackstone said. "They're not able to really control the thought or the message and run their own population."

Jeffrey said Putin as an autocrat won't be bothered by the protests until they reach a critical mass, but the fact that there are protests is important.

"It's noteworthy that any protests are happening," Jeffrey said. "Protests can land you in prison for 20 years in Russia."



Graphic by COOPER TURMAN

A map depicts the physical borders of Ukraine (blue) and Russia (red).

International Programs prepares HUA as Australia reopens border

BEN LANE
news editor

International Programs (IP) announced Harding University Australasia (HUA) will resume in fall 2022 after Australia reopened its border Feb. 21.

The HUA study abroad program, typically held during the fall semester, has not taken place since Australia closed its border March 2020; students have not participated in the program since fall 2019.

"This is hopeful enough news that we are definitely having the program," Audra Pleasant, executive director of IP, said.

Australia's border is open to all fully vaccinated travelers and those with a medical exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine. Unvaccinated people are not allowed to enter the country unless they have an exemption. IP requires participating students to be fully vaccinated against the virus, and vaccines will be required as long as it's necessary to

provide students protection and entry to foreign countries and access to activities.

"[HUA is] historically a very popular program especially for people who love the outdoors and more adventurous sports," Pleasant said. "I understand completely the appeal of going to the Great Barrier Reef and scuba diving. It's hard to replace that specific thing, and so I'm really thankful for our students that have been waiting a long time to be able to have that experience."

Pleasant said quarantines significantly affect study abroad programs' itineraries and destinations. Currently, Australian regulations do not call for tourists — students will enter Australia using a tourist visa — to quarantine after arriving. HUA travels to countries other than Australia, and while IP has not decided which countries students will visit, any restrictions by the chosen countries will be evaluated at that time.

Dr. J.D. Yingling, professor of kinesiology and aquatics director, said he and his wife,

Kim Yingling, adjunct kinesiology professor, waited two years to be HUA faculty and have anticipated Australia reopening its borders since they closed.

"We're excited to get to go," Yingling said. Yingling teaches a global sports class at Harding and said he is excited to explore in person the Australian sports he teaches in class.

"I love [Australia's] culture of people getting out in the ocean surfing, kayaking, scuba diving and swimming," Yingling said.

Yingling said he is also interested in learning about Aborigines, who have faced similar issues to Native Americans.

Freshman Karlie Hall said she chose HUA because she's drawn to Australia and the adventurous opportunities HUA provides.

Hall committed to the program in April 2021 during her senior year of high school after attending Bison Bound and said her wait has been nerve racking because of HUA's uncertain future the past two years.

"When the borders opened, obviously it

was super exciting," Hall said. "I've never really gone to a whole lot of different countries, so I think it's gonna be really cool to experience different cultures so far from home."

As of March 1, 38 of 40 HUA slots have been filled. Pleasant said "many of the original students who were signed up for fall 2020 have either just not gone or gone somewhere else," and that a substantial portion of students transferred from HUA to Harding University England (HUE).

Fall 2022 Harding University in Florence (HUF) was canceled because of low enrollment, Pleasant said, and students enrolled in HUF merged with HUE, whose itinerary includes a broader European tour. Pleasant said HUF's fall cancellation is a "one-off" instance, and the program attracts more students than other international programs when accounting for summer, spring and fall semesters.



Photo provided by HALLIE BETH BECK

HUA student skydives Oct. 14, 2019, with the assistance of a guide in New Zealand. Skydiving is one of the main attractions for the program.



Photo provided by HALLIE BETH BECK

HUA students at dormant volcano Mount Eden Sept. 17, 2019, in Auckland, New Zealand. HUA travels to Australia, New Zealand and various countries throughout Asia.

ASI goes to Washington, D.C.

ERIC JOHNSON
opinions editor

Last weekend, the American Studies Institute (ASI) hosted a co-curricular trip to Washington, D.C. The group of 20 students from a variety of majors left Searcy Wednesday afternoon and returned to campus Sunday night. The purpose of the trip was to educate students on American history, government and economics, as well as to connect with Harding alumni living in the Washington, D.C., area. ASI executive director and associate professor of history John Richard Duke led the trip alongside associate professor of political science and public administration Lori Klein.

Duke was inspired to organize this trip after reading an article in The Bison archives from 1952 that announced an ASI trip to Washington that cost \$100. Seventy years later, Duke was able to extend the same offer to students. The Clifton L. Ganus Endowment for History and Political Science underwrote a majority of the trip.

"American Studies at Harding has a long tradition of trips that have helped students engage with American history, government and industry," Duke said. "Washington, D.C., provides a great setting to encounter each of these areas of study."

The first night of the trip was one of anxiety and uncertainty for some. The original plan was for the group to leave Thursday morning, but due to the inclement weather in Searcy Wednesday afternoon, the group decided to drive to Little Rock Wednesday. The second reason for anxiety and uncertainty was due to the news of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. This development troubling to the world, but it was particularly concerning for some in this group who were on their way to the nation's capital.

The group arrived in Washington Thursday morning and began their trip as scheduled. Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton was on the same flight to Washington. After first checking in to their hotel, the group went to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Later, the group went to the Rayburn Congressional Office Building and met with the Legislative Director, Ashley Selton, and Chief of Staff, Jonah Shumate, for Arkansas Re Rick Crawford. Both of these officials



Photo provided by ASI

ASI students visit the Department of Justice, Friday, Feb. 25. Students met with Harding graduates working in the counterterrorism section.

are Harding graduates.

Friday, students attended three meetings. First, the group went to the Department of Justice and met with government agents who work on counterterrorism. These agents were Harding graduates, as well. After lunch, the group attended a special meeting at the Boeing Co. East Coast headquarters. Students were particularly inspired by these two Friday meetings.

A Harding alumni reception dinner was held at the group's hotel. Around 30 Harding alumni living in the Washington area came to the reception and connected, shared stories and gave advice to the group of students.

"With the help of Harding alumni, the ASI D.C. trip serves our students in many important ways," Duke said.

Saturday was a free day for students. Students used their free time in a variety of ways, including visiting the Smithsonian

museums, touring Georgetown and visiting Alexandria. Throughout the trip, and especially on Saturday, students used the opportunity of being in Washington to learn more about American history. On Sunday morning, the group attended services at the Church of Christ in Falls Church, Virginia. Students visited with several Harding alumni there, including former ASI officer John Rowe. After eating lunch at the Old Ebbitt Grill near The White House, the group went to Reagan International Airport and flew to Little Rock.

Despite the trip's snowy start, students returned with an overwhelmingly positive impression of the weekend's events.

"The ASI trip to D.C. was an undoubtedly enriching experience," senior Grace Ann Green said. "Not only did we get to spend the weekend surrounded by the rich history enshrined in the nation's capital, but as a

history major, it was extremely encouraging to hear from people working in numerous different fields. It was a blessing to have the opportunity to meet and make connections with so many Harding alumni who were eager to help each and every one of us achieve our goals."

Senior Julio Montenegro also appreciated the experience of getting to learn about the American government by being in the nation's capital.

"From the perspective of an international student, I believe this is a relevant aspect of the U.S. experience," Montenegro said. "Being able to experience the most important aspects of the U.S. government first-hand granted me a different perspective on the importance of independent institutions and their role in the overall functioning of a government. The Washington, D.C., experience should be a bucket list item for any student in the U.S."

To the Harding community

Racism has always been a part of the Harding story. From the time that it began as a senior college in 1924 to the present day, ideas of racial intolerance and prejudice have always existed within our community. This legacy of racism is not just a part of the story of Harding; but also of Searcy, of Arkansas, of the American South, of the greater United States, of Western civilization, of the entire world. While racism may look different in different places, racial bigotry has plagued human history for as long as there have been racially diverse populations sharing a common space.

This evil has at times manifested itself systemically within Harding's institutional policies; at others, it has revealed itself in the culture and behaviors of the campus community. The comments made by members of this community on YikYak throughout the February chapel series designed to honor and recognize Black history have directed the attention of many to the current state of Harding's relationship with racism. When addressing these comments, it is beneficial to first properly contextualize them. These comments are not isolated incidents without precedence — they fit neatly into a long, well documented history of racism on this campus.

Despite what one might hope for, racism continues to be a problem for the community of mission here at Harding. No matter what one thinks about these chapel programs, there simply is no excuse for the language that was used on YikYak. The comments in reference explicitly targeted the race of the chapel panelists, made sweeping generalizations about race at large and overall reflected a type of ignorance and disrespect that is deeply problematic. It is also important to note that these social media posts were not the only evidence of racism that could be found on this campus on a day-to-day basis.

Just as these comments cause us to reflect on the tragic history and present conditions of racism at Harding, they also lead us to reflect on our communal commitment to eradicate such unchristlike behavior from our culture. There is a history to this struggle as well. Alongside the story of racism at Harding there is an inspiring story of individuals who have confronted and overcome monumental opposition to push back against racist forces at this school. Today we reap the benefits that these courageous actors fought to provide for us. In the wake of last week's comments, we acknowledge both of these legacies— of racism and opposition to racism at Harding—and seek to condemn the former and live into the latter.

If we wish to be the type of Christian community we say we want to be, we must move forward with an even stronger, more united commitment to the principles of Jesus on which this institution is founded. These are principles of sacrificial love, racial equality, universal respect and extraordinary grace. By focusing on the example of Jesus, we can learn how to overcome and eliminate ideas of racism from this campus. As we walk forward together from this moment, there are three calls to action that we as The Bison staff wish to share with the Harding community.

The first is the importance of recognizing and condemning racist behavior when it happens. It cannot afford to go unaddressed. This means having the courage and patience to have uncomfortable conversations. We commend the statements issued by Dean Zach Neal and President David Burks, as they have helped amplify this conversation and have not allowed these comments to pass unchecked.

The second call to action is to not only continue, but expand the platform of racial minority voices on campus. Ensuring that members of the Harding community hear from all racial groups on campus, in both private and public spaces, can only benefit our goal of ensuring that all people feel safe, welcome and equally respected at this university.

Lastly, we seek to engage with those on campus who made the infamous YikYak comments, and any others who would also hold such views. After condemning evil where it exists and engaging with the people targeted by evil acts, we must look to love the initial offender. We must see the individual behind the screen and work to soften hardened hearts. This type of dialogue reflects the challenge of Christian love and mission, yet this is a mission we have committed ourselves to. We seek not to merely finger-point, but to heal.

We believe all three of these steps are essential and integral actions that must be taken if we want to further stamp out all racial intolerance and prejudice from this campus. In moments like this, it is critical to pause, empathize, reflect, self-evaluate, learn and commit to do better. Such a commitment is the task of a true community of mission.

Sincerely,

Editorial Staff



**State of
the SA**

Abbey Masters
SA Secretary

Dealers of hope

Napoleon famously said, “A leader is a dealer in hope.” Napoleon Bonaparte is best known as the famous (some would say infamous) military commander in the French Revolution. While most of us recognize his name, the “hope” Napoleon dealt was incredibly short lived. Eventually, even his own people turned against him, and he was forced into exile where he died a very lonely and anticlimactic death.

Yet, there is something so profound about leaders being dealers of hope. Napoleon's words have lived in my mind as I have sought to make sense of the world around me this past week. How could an imperfect general who brought war into the world know anything about bringing hope?

I thought about it, and I realized the hope Napoleon provided was kind of like a bandaid. The French wanted liberty and justice, and he gave them temporary liberty and justice. But eventually the band-aid peeled off and there was still a deep wound underneath. The people were shocked, as we always are when human solutions don't heal our deepest pains.

Yet this year I have had the privilege of knowing some of the best “dealers of hope” I have ever met, and our paths just happened to cross because of my role on the Student Association (SA). Their names are Ethan Brazell, Hannah Hackworth, David Reed, Andrew Baker, Jill Davis and Dr. Burks, just to name a few. These people, among many others, deal a different kind of hope than Napoleon did. They deal in heavenly hope.

It is this heavenly hope that motivates SA president Ethan Brazell to wake up at 6 a.m. to pick up donuts for after chapel because he just wants the student body to feel encouraged. That same hope supplies SA vice president Hannah Hackworth with a joy that is unmatched, and pushes treasurer David Reed to pursue bold conversations advocating for both students and staff.

“While I may not be able to fix all the brokenness, my prayer is that each day this community may seek to be dealers of heavenly hope.”

— Abbey Masters,
SA secretary

Dealing out hope is something that I have seen the members of the SA strive to do all year, from parties in the Stu, to supporting refugees and community members in need. They constantly inspire me by the way they are driven to love the Harding community through action. It's almost like breathing to them.

Lately life has felt pretty heavy. I don't know about you, but my mind has been riddled with anxiety about recent events within this University, within this country and within the world. But when I look to these leaders around me, I am reminded to look to the Lord for strength. While I may not be able to fix all the brokenness, my prayer is that each day this community may seek to be dealers of heavenly hope.

Let me know if the SA can do anything to serve you. We would love to hear from you. Let's make Harding a place of heavenly hope.

ABBEY MASTERS is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at amasters@harding.edu.

FACULTY FINDS

“The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry” by John Mark Comer



Laurie Diles
Communication

Reading has always been one of my favorite things to do. Our family home had crowded bookshelves in most of the rooms, and when Allen and I married, we continued that tradition.

During my college years, I began making a list of books that people mentioned or recommended. I spent my first year out of college as a missionary apprentice, and before I left, my dad provided a chunk of my reading list books for my time away. I spent that year in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, reading those wonderful books, which consisted of nonfiction, as well as novels. My roommate there, a C.S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien aficionada, opened my eyes to fantasy and science fiction. So that first year out of college was a year of growth that included what I was learning from daily life in an exotic place to evenings buried in the rich reading available to me.

Since that time I have continued to keep a list of books that people mention and recommend. Recently, I read John Mark Comer's “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry” because Amy Cox, chair of the Department of Art and Design, mentioned it in conversation, and I have changed some of my regular routines.

The book follows a pattern of reasoning that appeals to me because it approaches its topic from a rhetorical perspective that I teach students: Describe a perceived problem (hurry as an enemy of spiritual life) and then provide a solution, in this case, “the rule of life” (a structure, a schedule, a set of practices). From there, Comer explores four spiritual disciplines, or practices, for “unhurrying” life: silence and solitude, Sabbath, simplicity and slowing.

Comer's discussion of Sabbath has influenced me most. In addition to returning to Old Testament passages about the Sabbath (“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”) and to teachings of Jesus about the Sabbath (“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath”), he provides examples of how to practice a Sabbath in 21st century United States.

Since reading this book, I have tried to take a day off each week. I find it difficult to practice each thing he suggests. For instance, my phone stays on, because it is a day that I connect with my parents, our sons, my brothers. But I try to stay away from email. One practice that Comer mentions is simply the anticipation of the Sabbath, the planning for it, what we'll eat

and do. So I have come to look forward to my day off. Part of my planning includes looking ahead to what I will do after my day off (for me, this means making a list), so that I don't have to think about those things while I am resting. I have a tough time slowing down my brain. I have also learned from this discipline that I am more content with the days and hours that I put in the other six days of the week. I embrace the opportunities of the week while at the same time anticipating the pleasure of my day of rest. For me, there is something to be said for sundown to sundown (or pick your time — 4 p.m. one day to 4 p.m. the next) that also seems to work. I can get a few things done in the evening after I have had my day of rest.

If you haven't read a book on spiritual disciplines, I highly recommend this one as a start.

LAURIE DILES is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at ldiles1@harding.edu.

staff

Everett Kirkman
editor-in-chief
Sara McClaran
features editor
Ben Lane
news editor
Tiane Davis
sports/digital editor

Sophie Rossitto
community editor
Eric Johnson
opinions editor
Maggie Samples
lifestyle editor
Caroline Birdwell
head copy editor

Gabriel Huff
asst. copy editor
Cianna Jay
editorial asst.
Madison Meyer
head photographer
Julianne Baker
asst. photographer

Balazs Balassa
asst. photographer
Theo Westbrook
video/social media
Hunter Woodall
pr/social media
Cooper Turman
graphic designer

Blue Billingsly
illustrator
Michael Claxton
narrative columnist
April Fatula
faculty adviser

Bennett Anderson
Ethan Conn

Laurie Diles
Konnor Reece

Abbey Masters
Jackson Saylor

Jake Mooney
Addi Province

Shealyn Wade

guest contributors



Konnor Reece
Guest Writer

Making your mark

Every day we complete assignments, write papers, give presentations and take exams. We polish our resumes, we bolster our scores and we add titles to our names all in an attempt to be successful. We want to work hard to land a great job, build a career and make ourselves stand out. Is it enough? Are the extra 0.05 points worth it? Does that extra tassel really make a difference? What do honors actually get you?

As college students, we live in the world of LinkedIn, Indeed and Glassdoor. We scour and scour for jobs we want or jobs we think we can get. We save all the entry level jobs that require less than five years of experience, or we hope that college counts for four. We apply to all the ones we are interested in, and we hear back from nearly none of them. The ones we do hear back from are almost certainly “We appreciate your application, but...” or something very close.

So, what is the deal? Why did that resume covered in academic experience not warrant a further look? The resume has to be backed by reference. That is why applications ask where you heard about the job. That is also why they ask if you know anyone who works for the company. If you do, you have an immediate reference. There is a trusted source to tell them if you are a good choice. There is an immediate bump in rank and a huge increase in the chance to get a second look.

How, then, do we earn a spot of our own accord? How do we make a lasting impression when we do not have an in? How do we let our experience speak for ourselves without needing someone to do it for us? Some might argue that the reference is speaking from the mark you left on them, but what happens when your reference is not connected? Your reference

“All I know is that being known instead of being impressive seems to be the differentiator”

— **Konnor Reece**,
guest writer

is just a name on a list.

Must we make that extra 0.05 and extra 0.08? Must we simply reach out and try to meet new people even if it's purely to increase our reach? Is there a cost we must pay to build relationships simply to increase our business worth? Is there a point at which the extra work no longer has the same effect if all we are doing is trying to get another leg up?

I know I am bringing up a lot of questions without a whole lot of answers. The truth is that I am trying to figure this out myself. I cannot tell you that you should stop trying to improve your resume and start networking. I cannot tell you that going one more mile further will help your resume stand out on its own. I wish I could.

All I know is that being known instead of being impressive seems to be the differentiator. Do I believe that this is the “right” system? No, I think it's lopsided toward company connections that merit. However, I do think that personal recommendations do hold a lot of weight. I simply think there is a tendency to default to the second without looking into the first.

In the end, does it really matter? Do we really need that one job we so desperately tried to land? Or, do we really just need to prove our worth wherever we end up and let the rest wish they had given us that second look?

KONNOR REECE is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at kreece@harding.edu.



Bennett Anderson
Guest Writer

The dust left by American troops retreating from Afghanistan has barely settled, yet we are already witnessing the onset of another war.

As someone from a generation which primarily saw the continuation of long conflicts rather than the outbreak of new ones, the crisis unfolding in Ukraine feels especially disconcerting. There is a global sense of urgency and uncertainty that should pique the attention of us all, even those like myself who are very unlikely to be affected by this conflict in any meaningful or material way. But being fortunate enough to be safe from the worst consequences of war does not mean that we should refrain from discussing it or abdicate our ability to address it politically.

In the past, it has been students like us who were the loudest voices in the anti-war movement, protesting American advancements in Vietnam in the '60s and '70s and Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 2000s. We have already seen young voices in Ukraine take similar actions against Russian influence, such as the Euromaidan protests of the 2010s. If there is anything history can project onto the harrowing events of the past week, it is that military escalation by the U.S. can only worsen the plight of the Ukrainian and Russian people and that youth-led opposition to war must remain vehement and lively in the face of Russian expansionism.

In our insistence against war, it is important not to understate the crimes committed by the Russian state. Russian President Vladimir Putin has defied morality, international law and historical truth by invading Ukraine. He claims that Ukraine is a product of the Soviet Union, and that Russia, as the primary successor of the USSR, has a right to retake the republic that it created. This contradicts the fact that Ukraine has had its own culture, language and history since before the Soviet Union was formed, not to mention Ukraine's inherent right to self-determination. We should not conflate opposition to war with neutrality.

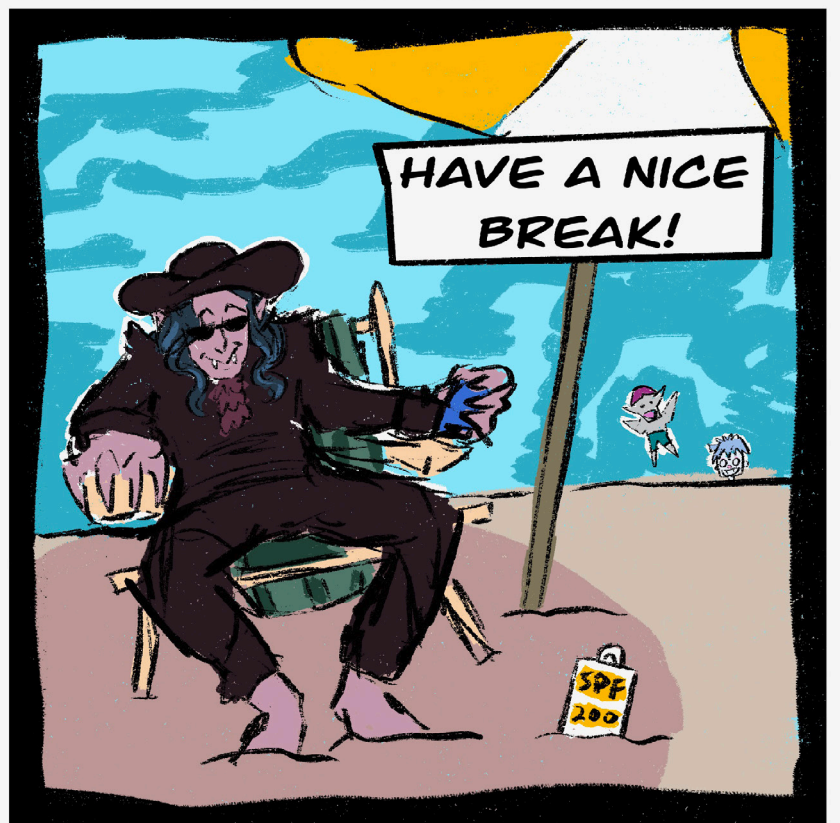
The average person's gut response to the invasion of Ukraine is to try to help in any way we can. This is a natural reaction to

the bombed buildings, displaced families and helpless refugees that we are already seeing on the news and social media. But the United States' dubious track record on foreign policy tells us that the last thing Ukrainian people need is American military interference. Public approval was high when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, but it has since swung the other direction, indicating regret at the U.S.'s nearly 20 year campaign which appears to have done nothing but prolong suffering. For the people of Afghanistan, American involvement took them one step forward and two steps back. This is to say nothing of the Vietnam War, a proxy conflict between the U.S. and the Soviets which massacred millions of civilians, destroyed the environment with chemicals such as Agent Orange, and left the Vietnamese people worse off than they were before American intervention.

Of course, the Russian-Ukrainian situation is not the same as Afghanistan or Vietnam. As of now, the United States has done little more than implement sanctions against Russia and provide Ukraine with aid. This is where American involvement should stop: thankfully, President Biden has indicted as much. But if the escalation continues and the U.S. is tempted to send its own troops into Ukraine, I hope American students can use the examples of history to reignite our anti-war tradition. This time around, let's not do something we'll regret in 20 years.

BENNETT ANDERSON is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at banderson2@harding.edu.

SHENANIGANS OF SPOOKY SUITE - BREAK TIME



BLUE

Just the Clax

No sport jacket required



Michael Claxton
Narrative Columnist

Now, no one has ever accused me of being an outdoor person. I'd never gone to camp in the United States and never in my adult life spent three weeks without a daily shave or a sports jacket. My idea of “roughing it” is black-and-white television. But there comes a time in life when a person needs a swift kick in the comfort zone, so I assembled a team, raised money, planned for almost eight months, and then headed off to the other side of the world.

Right off the bat, I learned a few things about international travel. Do not sit on the airplane between two infants who scream in stereo all the way from Atlanta to London. Do not carry 26 boxes of candy and craft supplies. Do not try to use an electric American razor on a European 220-volt outlet.

Once we got to Ukraine, we worked for two weeks at a camp in Kharkiv, teaching Bible lessons and forming relationships with children. That's where I learned that everything Dwight told me was true — the experiences really are amazing.

One evening before dinner, as we all stood outside the dining hall, we had an impromptu cultural exchange when the kids asked our team to sing the American national anthem. We did, and then a group of children responded with a blustery version of the Ukrainian anthem. One boy named Yan got caught up in the moment and shouted, “Ukraine and America — friends forever!” He then declared a peace treaty on the spot. When I later called to report this to the State Department, I learned that

we had actually made peace with Ukraine years ago.

Our team also got a taste of Ukrainian cuisine. Ever had fish for breakfast? How about oatmeal and meatballs in the same meal? Can you spell borscht? It was new but also wonderful. One of our favorite drinks was smoked plum juice, though I wasn't sure how Harding would feel about us smoking plums.

During the week we were introduced to “crazy football,” which pitted the camp staff against the soccer team. The kids had to play by the rules, but the adults could do anything we wanted — throw the ball, tackle the children, whatever. I learned that you have to be careful tackling small children.

Working with the kids, I was alternately amused and moved. One child probably used up half his English when he came up to me and said, “I like to move it, move it!” Another told me a joke in Ukrainian and laughed when I shared one in English that still worked when it was translated. Another told us that he had often gone without food for days. Still another clung to us every day because we showed her the love that she wasn't getting in a home with eight siblings living in one room. And yet another student took off his necklace and gave it to me. I had traveled 5,000 miles to discover that children are the same all over the world.”

Dwight Smith passed away in 2019. I will always be grateful to him for expanding my world. Back in 2005, it only took two weeks for the people of Ukraine to leave an imprint on my heart, and now their country is facing its darkest hour since World War II. My prayers are with all the beautiful people I met there so many years ago.”

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a narrative columnist for The Bison. He can be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.

Buff the Bison to retire after 12 years



Photo by MADISON MEYER

Buff the Bison stands with Harding's student section on Feb. 24 in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House. Buff was recognized at the men's basketball game against Arkansas Monticello for his 12 years of service as Harding University's mascot.

TIANE DAVIS
sports editor

Austin Dunning, commonly known as Buff the Bison, was recognized at the basketball senior ceremony Feb. 24 for his final season representing the school for 12 years as its beloved mascot.

Buff said he was glad that people were having a great time during his final seasons. He said it is time for him to graduate and retire, but that he is happy he finally made the decision to do it in a good year.

"I'm glad they've welcomed me for a long time," Buff said. "I can't wait to tell them thank you."

Robbie Dunning, Buff's mom and trained coach/handler, said he has been a mascot for 19 years. Before he was Buff, he not only was

Buzz the Hornet at his high school, but also Freddy Cougar at his community college and two other mascots on the side.

"He considers himself part of the team he represents, so if it's football season, he's part of the football team," Dunning said. "If it's volleyball, he's part of the volleyball team. He has always wanted to be part of a championship team."

Dunning said Buff had a feeling this would be the year the football team would win their championship. She said Buff wanted to go out on a high note with the team and decided it was the right time for him to move on.

Dunning said Buff has been part of nearly 25 different organizations at Harding, representing the school in various departments like admissions and — of course — athletics. She said Buff has also helped with several

nonprofits such as Special Olympics and Make-a-Wish.

"He works tirelessly with all different kinds of organizations and at all different types of events," Harding Sports Information Director Scott Goode said. "He's been a great ambassador for Harding University, and we're really gonna miss him."

Goode said Buff works harder than most people might expect from a mascot, especially during hotter months that could make football games close to 100 degrees. Buff's costume is 40 degrees higher than the environment he is performing in, Dunning said.

Goode said saying goodbye to Buff is sad because he knows it will no longer be him inside the costume, but that he is excited for him to move on to whatever is next.

"It'll just be different," Goode said. "It'll be strange that the person that I know as Buff

is not inside the Buff costume anymore. It's somebody new that will have big shoes to fill."

Harding had a mascot for a while before Austin Dunning became Buff, Goode said, but none of the people before him really stuck.

"He brought a whole new level of enthusiasm and passion to Harding athletic events from the first time that he got here," Goode said. "I've been so excited to see him do what he wanted to do and have a great career at Harding. I look forward to seeing what he does next. There's no telling what it's going to be."

Buff said his time as Harding's mascot flew by faster than he expected.

"To be here for 12 years, it doesn't seem like 12 years at all — it seems more like five," Buff said. "If I could do it all over again, I would in a heartbeat."

Harding hosts its first intramural pickleball tournament

JACKSON SAYLOR
guest writer

This year marked the first time that Harding held a pickleball tournament on campus, and it went off without a hitch. In recent years, pickleball has been among the fastest rising recreational sports, and Harding recreation held a tournament Feb. 18-19 to keep up with the trend.

While pickleball may still not be the most well known or popular sport out there, it is rapidly growing in popularity, and like any sport out there, people play it because they enjoy it.

"We were just doing it for fun," junior Abby Harris said.

Abby and her pickleball partner, junior Daniel Watrous, won the novice tournament. Watrous said he started playing before Abby, but played for the same reasons that she did.

"I started playing earlier last semester, and then me and Abby just started picking up and playing it randomly in the [Ganus Activities Complex] on Sunday nights or something like that," Watrous said.

For sophomore Garrett Glover, a little more time has been invested into pickleball. He and his partner, sophomore Kade Walker, won the competitive tournament.

"I started playing during the second semester of my freshman year, and I've



Left to right: Sophomores Kade Walker and Garrett Glover, as well as juniors Daniel Watrous and Abby Harris, pose in the Ganus Athletic Center on Feb. 19. Walker and Glover won the competitive tournament, while Watrous and Harris won the novice tournament.

really enjoyed playing," Glover said. "I also took a pickleball class last semester, and I learned a lot."

Part of the reason that Glover loves the game so much is that almost everyone can play it.

"It's a fun game that requires very little athleticism, which creates an even playing



Photos provided by DANAISHA WESTER

field," Glover said. "Anyone can play and become good at pickleball, which makes it a lot of fun."

There were two divisions for the pickleball tournament, and Harris and Watrous won the novice division, and Garrett and his partner, sophomore Kade Walker, won the competitive division.

"I believe that there were around 24 teams, which was good because everyone got to play more good games," Glover said. "There was a lot of good competition."

As for the novice division, their tournament was more focused on having a good time.

"I am not great at pickleball, so it was fun to win," Harris said. "We just kind of signed up the night before the tournament was supposed to happen, so it was just fun to play with other people."

With this being the first pickleball tournament that Harding has had, there is excitement about the tournament next year, even though a tournament next year has not been confirmed.

"I think it would be awesome to have another pickleball tournament at Harding," Glover said. "We're also looking forward to practicing more so that we can go to the competitive division the next time we have the pickleball tournament."

Harris said she is already anxious for the next pickleball tournament.

"We're also looking forward to practicing more so that we can go to the competitive division for the next time that we have the pickleball tournament," Harris said.

Harding track and field prepares for first outdoor meet

JAKE MOONEY
guest writer

Harding's track and field team is attending their first outdoor event of the season during spring break.

Their first outdoor meet was originally set to take place Saturday, Feb. 26, but the meet was canceled due to inclement weather. Now, their first meet is set to be held March 7 during spring break.

Though the first part of the season was indoors, senior pole vaulter Sarah Gautreaux said the team prefers the outdoor part of the season the most.

"We always practice outside," Gautreaux said. "So, that is our element that we are used to performing in, and our team has been working hard all year long, and we thrive in the outdoor season. Especially the home meets that our friends get to come to."

However, Gautreaux said one thing she prefers about being inside rather than outside is she doesn't have to worry about the wind when she is indoors.

Head track and field coach Don Hood also said he believes that the team enjoys being outside better than inside.

"I think we prefer the outdoor season; it's where our focus is," Hood said. "They enjoy the outdoors, the wind and the warmth."

Since the team enjoys the outside more and trains more in the outdoors, they think of the indoor portion of the season as being a pre-season to the outdoors season.

"I definitely see indoor as being a pre-season to outdoor," freshman distance runner Matt Ingalsbe said. "Especially as I am a distance runner and only run a single meet. That, and we don't have an indoor conference."

Because of the restraints from being indoors in the beginning parts of the season,

the events change.

"Indoor, the tracks are shorter, and turns are tighter, making the races and times generally slower than outdoor," Ingalsbe said. "Also, indoor running, especially the longer distance you run, will give you a dry throat and leave you coughing for hours afterward."

When going outdoors, it allows for different sports that cannot be performed inside.

"Field events add the javelin, discus and hammer for outdoors," Hood said. "Running events add the 4x1 relay, 400-meter hurdles, 100-meter, 110-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles, 1500-meter, 3000-meter steeplechase and the 10,000-meter run."

Gautreaux said one thing she is looking forward to in the second part of the season is her friends being able to attend her events since they will have more meets here at Harding.



Graphic by COOPER TURMAN

Center on the Square prepares for 'The Mousetrap' performance

MAGGIE SAMPLES
lifestyle editor

Center on the Square is prepared to perform "The Mousetrap" March 4-6, as the community theater recovers from COVID-19.

"The Mousetrap" is a long-running play that the Center on the Square has chosen to be one of the first plays they put on after the long break during the peak of the pandemic.

Kayleigh Weichbrodt, theater manager, said "The Mousetrap" is a historically important play, and this had an effect on their choice to perform it.

"The Mousetrap" is a really unique play because it's very important in modern theater history," Weichbrodt said. "It is the longest continuous running show in history. The only reason it has closed since it's first ever performance was due to [COVID-19], so it feels symbolic for us to perform the play after being closed for so long."

Weichbrodt said this performance is unique in the way that tickets are being sold. Seating is limited and tickets can be

bought at the door or reserved by calling the theater at 501-368-0111.

"This is a play I have acted in and directed, in total, six times I believe," Ryan Gibbons, the director of "The Mousetrap," said. "It is a classic whodunit. It ran continuously in London from 1952 until [COVID-19] stopped it in 2020. It also ran in Toronto for roughly 30 years. I was fortunate to see it both places live. There was a clause in the rights that no video adaptation could be made until it stopped running continuously, so this far there has been no film or TV version, so you have to see this show in a theater."

"The Mousetrap" is a murder mystery written by Agatha Christie. Every character has a secret to uncover, and they are all snowed in together after the murder. The characters know that the murderer is one of them, and fear grows with the plot.

Calandra Cook, playing Miss Casewell, said she enjoys the performance.

"Being on stage is always a treat," Cook said. "I enjoy being part of a collaboration that allows all of the participants to tap into their creativity. When the play balances

the mystery with cheeky humor, it is even more fun for the cast and the audience."

Cook said the production has been fast, with casting occurring six weeks before opening night. The cast has met twice a week to rehearse the play in those six weeks.

"It can feel stressful when things move quickly, but it also keeps us on our toes," Cook said. "The adrenaline helps for the memorization process, at least for me. Some of the other actors might dispute that notion."

Cook said local theaters have been struggling with lockdown at the peak of the pandemic, because it's difficult to act and follow social distancing and masking guidelines. Cook said it has been hard to fit audiences in the theater while following guidelines.

"As [COVID-19] cases wane and Center on the Square starts bringing shows back to the stage, I hope the community will come out to support them," Cook said. "If we are feeling comfortable enough to go to sporting events, concerts or movies, then let's add the theater to our list of places to go."



Photo by JULIANNE BAKER

Kayleigh Weichbrodt (front) and Marisa Lytle (back) rehearse "The Mousetrap" on Tuesday, March 1, at Center on the Square. The murder mystery production has been scheduled to open Friday, March 4.



The storefront windows of Whilma's Filipino Restaurant and El Mercado are shown. These businesses and Nooma Yoga Studio were featured three years ago on the "Small Business Revolution" television series.



Photos by BALAZS BALASSA

Three 'Small Business Revolution' winners expand services

GABRIEL HUFF
asst. copy editor

Six local Searcy businesses were chosen three years ago to be featured in season four of the "Small Business Revolution," sharing a \$500,000 prize that went toward a makeover. Since then, three of those businesses have closed while the other three continue to seek ways to grow.

The three businesses that closed were Savor + Sip, Organic Woodwork and Zion Climbing & Event Center. Zion was the last to close as its business decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic and its building was condemned, being declared a nuisance property by the city last year.

Nooma Yoga Studio, Whilma's Filipino Restaurant and El Mercado are the businesses that are still operating today. Casey Cox, owner of Nooma, a local heated yoga and fitness studio, said Nooma has progressed in the last few years, now having four studios. They are

all located in Searcy, Little Rock and Rogers, Arkansas. The fourth studio is online.

Nooma also has its own app and is available on platforms such as Hulu, Amazon Fire, Amazon Prime and Google Play. Nooma is launching a new website soon, as well, looking to improve the experience for online Nooma members. Nooma currently has around 75 leaders within its organization.

Cox said her future goals include obtaining more studios that are corporately owned along with franchises. She said she enjoys seeing her dream come true.

"For me, it's watching something that was my dream, something that I needed personally," Cox said. "And I really, really threw my own story in the things that I needed in life, both mentally and physically, that I dreamed of this idea. And being able to watch it every day, bless others and help others the way that it did me, it's hard to call it a job."

Whilma's Filipino Restaurant has also experienced growth in its business since 2019.

Manager Kristina Frogoso, the daughter of restaurant owner Whilma Frogoso, helps run the restaurant with her mother and her fiance Jared Abelson, who serves as the assistant manager. Frogoso said other family members help out occasionally as well.

The restaurant offers a traditional Filipino menu, hand made and cooked to order. Frogoso and Abelson said the "Small Business Revolution" remodeled their business physically and built their website, helping them obtain more customers and business.

They also purchased a new building that is two doors down from their current rented location on East Race Avenue. They are planning to move to the new location later this year. Their current location houses 18-20 inside diners. Abelson said the new location will increase the occupancy limit to around 49-50.

"I like serving the community of Searcy," Frogoso said. "I like when locals are happy about eating our food and dining in, and they just leave happy and want to come back.

They just really enjoy the experience. I also like working with my family. That's really important to me."

El Mercado owner Catrina Mendoza said the El Mercado grocery store has come a long way since its debut in 2017. She said the business is managed by her, her husband and brother-in-law. The grocery store specializes in imported food items mostly from Latin America.

Mendoza said she and her husband began in 2017 with selling mainly snacks and drinks with no experience in business but continued to grow. The "Small Business Revolution" later came and helped remodel their store and give them an online presence. Mendoza said the show played a big role in helping them begin a bakery as well. She said a Mexican baker from Little Rock was also willing to show them how to manage a bakery.

"For us, the Revolution was a turning point and just a big push forward for us," Mendoza said.

Food trucks bring variety of flavors to Searcy

SHEALYN WADE
guest writer

Do you appreciate good food, strong flavor and efficient service? Then keep reading to learn about the handful of local food trucks that will quench your foodie cravings.

Among the crowd favorites is El Vallarta Grill, which is located in the parking lot next to Mazzio's Pizza on East Race Avenue. The food truck is open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., offering authentic Mexican food made fresh when you order. Owner Saul Aretchie-Jimenas said owning a restaurant had always been a goal for him, and he revealed that dream to a mentor years ago.

"My teacher asked me what my biggest dream for my career was," Aretchie-Jimenas said. "I told him it was to open my own restaurant."

Aretchie-Jimenas said he could not afford the start-up costs of opening a regular restaurant but wouldn't give up on his dream, so he bought a food truck in 2019 and started his own mini restaurant.

Local customer Natalie Cortez praised Aretchie-Jimenas' food.

"These street tacos are so authentic, you just can't get tacos like these at any other

restaurant in town," Cortez said.

Continuing the list of Searcy food trucks, if you drive west on Beebe-Capps, you will see the newest addition to the Searcy food truck roster: Taqueria Morazan. It is in the same parking lot as Stu's Brew Coffee Hut, across from Harps on Country Club Road. The business is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and serves a full menu of fresh Mexican foods. La Rosita Mexican Grill is another Mexican food truck located behind Walmart on Race Avenue on Eastline Road on the east side of Highway 67. They update their hours on social media each week and offer top notch service and delicious tamales, according to a review on their Facebook page.

Staples in the Searcy food truck community are Savory Mobile Cafe, Joyful Baking Co., CJ's Cajun Station and Eddie's BBQ Shack.

Savory Mobile Cafe serves a variety of specialty items, with gluten-free and vegan options. They are located on Beebe-Capps close to Stanley Pharmacy with a lunch menu consisting of different types of chili, turkey melt sandwiches, chicken salad sandwich/salad and monkey bread. Their hours vary week to week, but they are typically open Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rotating locations between a few different towns, Joyful Baking Co. specializes in the art of French macarons. When they are in Searcy, they park off Race Avenue on Poplar Street, near JCPenney.

CJ's prepares fresh Cajun cuisine such as crawfish, andouille sausage, shrimp, gumbo and more. You'll see them off Race Avenue across from Colton's Steakhouse when they are in Searcy, as they also rotate between towns. Their hours vary week to week and day by day, so be sure to check their social media accounts @CJ's Cajun Station.

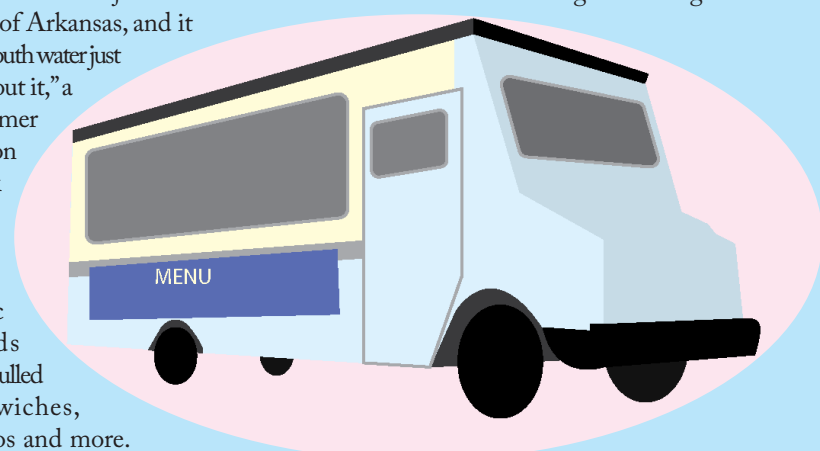
"This is the best Cajun food I have eaten in the state of Arkansas, and it makes my mouth water just thinking about it," a recent customer review said on its Facebook page.

Eddie's BBQ Shack serves classic BBQ foods such as ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, BBQ nachos and more.

You can find them in the parking lot off South Main Street toward Garner, Arkansas.

"We have swome very picky eaters in our family and they all raved about how good it was," a customer said on Facebook.

To know the whereabouts of each of these food trucks with their hours of operation, go to the Facebook group titled "Searcy Food Trucks." Follow along with their Facebook and Instagram accounts for their hours, specials and exact locations. Take the chance to try these food trucks and support Searcy local businesses as they prepare fresh, authentic foods right off the grill.



Graphic by COOPER TURMAN

Harding speech and hearing organization collects care package items for homeless

SOPHIE ROSSITTO
community editor

The Harding University Student Speech and Hearing Association (HUSSHA) is running a service project this semester to put together care packages to help those experiencing homelessness in the local community, service directors for the group said.

Members of HUSSHA can collect items for the care packages throughout the semester, senior service director Mary Claire Banks said. The group plans to donate the objects to a homeless shelter at the end of the school year.

Banks said she gave members of the organization shopping lists of items for the care packages. Participants can fill shopping bags with items such as toothbrushes, toothpastes and travel-sized shampoos. Banks said she also encouraged members to include uplifting notes or Bible verses in the bags.

“Obviously, community outreach is really

important, but the most important part is to show Christ in that, so that’s what we’re trying to do,” Banks said.

Banks said she and co-service director Lilly Dennison are going to organize the objects into ziplock bags and give them to the homeless shelter.

Dennison, a senior, said HUSSHA members plan to do other service projects this semester, such as participating in Bisons for Christ, a campus-wide day of community service in which students could help with various projects.

The group also hopes to partner with the Student Association and 100 Families to hold a food drive or other event to help families

who lost their homes in a Searcy apartment fire, Banks said. The fire occurred Feb. 10 at CJ’s Place apartment complex, according to an article from The Bison. However,

as of Feb. 23, Banks said HUSSHA had not officially organized this service project.

Junior Ellie Fox, HUSSHA vice president, said the group aims to do a project in April for Autism Awareness Month.

“The goal of this service opportunity is to educate the community about Autism and raise funds to donate to other organizations,” Fox said.

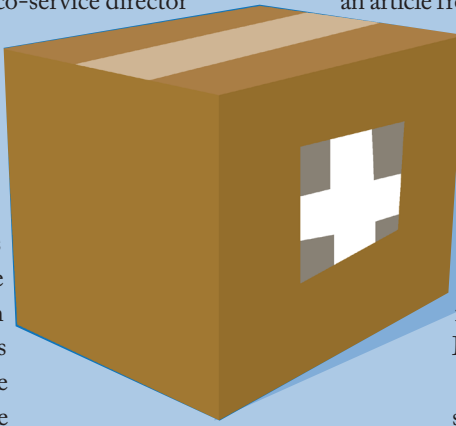
Dennison said members of HUSSHA and the Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department have also been working to support Lynley Eller, a sophomore Communication Sciences and Disorders major who was injured in a serious car accident last November. People have been sending Eller cards, encouraging videos and more, Dennison said.

Serving others is a major component of working in the Communication Sciences and Disorders field, Dennison said, so HUSSHA gives students opportunities to prepare for their future jobs by giving back to the community now.

“The service that we’re going to be giving in our career, that is something that is really important,” Dennison said. “So we’re just trying to foster that with this organization.”

Fox said she and HUSSHA president Carli Slayton would love for as many people as possible to help with the service projects. She said students who are interested in getting involved can contact the organization’s Instagram account @_hussha.



Graphic by **COOPER TURMAN**

Husband-and-wife writing team visit campus as part of book tour

CIANNA JAY
editorial asst.

Award-winning authors James and Tina Mozelle Braziel visited Harding on Tuesday, March 1, as part of “The Salt Love Tour,” a book tour for their recent publications. Tina read several poems from her book “Known by Salt,” and James read a story from his book, “This Ditch-Walking Love.”

The Braziels live in a glass cabin in rural Alabama, which they are in the process of building by hand. Both of the Braziels said this cabin, and the surrounding land, have been a source of writing inspiration. They also said they take inspiration from nature and the places they grew up.

Both authors began writing at an early age. James Braziel spoke on the impact his family had on him becoming a writer.

“My father saw every day as a creative act,” James Braziel said. “I had to figure out where I fit in. When I was 8, I wrote a story — me and my best friend Ray went to Venus in a rocket. My mother loved the story. That was all I needed to keep scribbling.”

Tina Braziel’s writing journey began in the eighth grade when she wrote a poem for an anthology of creative work her teacher was compiling.

“I wrote a poem for [the anthology] from the perspective of a tree,” Tina Braziel said. “The teacher then came to me and gently said, ‘Tina, we wanted you to write your own poem.’ It took me a minute to realize that she thought I had plagiarized. That was flattering

enough to convince me that I could write.”

The couple was invited to campus by assistant professor of English Paulette Bane, who teaches Tina Braziel’s chapbook “Rooted by Thirst” in her poetry classes. Bane was excited for these poetry students to meet Tina Braziel in person, as well as meet James Braziel and hear his work.

Bane said the award-winning writers the English Department brings to campus each semester expose students to contemporary literature that shows them different ways of seeing the world.

“You could say that it’s experiential learning without having to travel,” Bane said.

The Braziels expressed similar thoughts about the importance of reading and writing in general.

“Reading and writing can take us outside of ourselves and allow us to see what we haven’t seen before,” James said. “Sit down and write a story, a first-person account, of someone who is not you ... It will change how you see the world because you’ve seen a glimpse into someone else.”

Bane also expressed how having these visiting writers is beneficial for students practically.

“Students who are aspiring writers or who hope to work in the publishing industry can ask questions about craft and learn more about how to become a successful writer,” Bane said. “In the case of the Braziels, we are particularly lucky since they work in multiple genres — poetry, fiction and nonfiction — so



Photo by **JULIANNE BAKER**

Authors Tina and James Braziel read sections from their individual works on Tuesday, March 1 in McInteer 125. The duo are on “The Salt Love Tour,” a book tour for their recent publications.

students writing in any of these areas can benefit.”

The Braziels also touched on what they’ve learned through their careers as writers.

“The more I’ve written, the more there is to know and say,” James Braziel said. “There is no bottom to the well of any subject, especially

when it’s something that means everything to you. So I dive and dive and keep going.”

Tina Braziel offered her thoughts.

“The more I write the more I fall in love with the world,” Tina Braziel said. “Writing, for me, is a practice of savoring.”

Bison Pep Band plays for basketball games on campus

JACKSON SAYLOR
guest writer

The Harding University Basketball Pep Band is a well known feature of basketball games on Harding’s campus. Most of the members are also part of the Thundering Herd Marching Band, and instead of taking a break after football is over, they spend basketball season playing the same familiar show tunes at both men’s and women’s games.

“Personally it’s one of my favorite things to do on campus because I get to see so many of my friends out on the court doing what they love to do while I get to support them doing what I love to do,” senior instrumental education major Tommy Ghent said. “I know the band is incredibly thankful to have athletes that show their enthusiasm for what we do.”

Of course performing in a basketball gym is very different from performing in a football stadium, an auditorium or a concert hall, so it comes with challenges.

“One challenge for us is being in the Rhodes-Reaves,” senior instrumental education major and drum major Erin Fouss said. “We have to tell the drum line to turn down their sound because it carries way too well, but with the excitement of the game, the band provides an incredible experience.”

The obstacles don’t just come with the volume of the music.

“Specifically with a band like this, we have to be very conscientious of NCAA rules,” Ghent said. “That means that we may have to cut off right in the middle of a song so everyone has to be watching very closely and be prepared to stop the music at any moment.”

Though the obstacles are in fact, obstacles, being so close to the action really allows the band to give meaning to the phrase “home court advantage.”

“I believe we have a large impact on the atmosphere of the game,” director Eric Colgrove said. “We as performers are always as encouraged by the responses we get from our audience, and I believe the athletes feel that change when the crowd is cheering them on.”

Ghent echoes those sentiments, and has even gotten confirmation from the athletes.

“I know that our presence there makes a difference to the athletes because they tell us that, and they show us how important we are to them by intentionally building relationships with those of us in the band,” Ghent said.



Photo by **MADISON MEYER**

The Harding University Basketball Pep Band plays show tunes at the Lady Bison Basketball game against Northwestern Oklahoma on Jan. 20 in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House. Most of the band’s members are also part of the Thundering Herd Marching Band in the fall.



Photo by JULIANNE BAKER

Left to right, junior Allison Willis, senior Anaka Young and sophomore Victoria Karkau pose in the First Ladies Garden on Tuesday, March 1. They all jumped to women's social club Phi Kappa Delta this spring.

Phi Kappa Delta accepts spring jumps

ETHAN CONN
guest writer

Traditionally, Harding students that choose to be in a social club go through the club process in the fall. Interest mixers start shortly after school starts, finishing with Club Week in early November. However, some Harding social clubs broke the norms this spring and accepted jumps this semester.

A jump is someone already in one social club going to a different one. Most of the time, jumps do not occur until the fall so that the jumps can go through the club process with the rest of the new members. Notably, women's social clubs Phi Kappa Delta (PKD) and Delta Nu accept spring jumps.

Junior Victoria Karkau jumped from

women's social club Pi Theta Phi (PTP) to PKD. She explained the relatively simple process.

"It was actually super, super simple," Karkau said. "I have been thinking about jumping since last spring, and I wanted to give it time. I messaged the president of PKD and said I would be interested in jumping. All I had to do after that was print out this form that you can find on pipeline, have the president of PTP sign it, and have the president of PKD sign it. Then they turned that into the deans, and that was literally the whole process."

Jumping is a process that affects not only the one person involved but the whole club. PKD sophomore Kate Bedow described the process from their side.

"In our constitution, it is stated that we had to accept the jumps before club week, but it didn't define whether that was fall semester or spring semester," Bedow said. "As a club, we decided to vote as to whether or not we'd allow jumps for the spring semester. We knew who the jumps were going to be, so we decided that we would let them jump this semester so they could get in before the club process got changed."

Bedow said she was very happy with her club's decision to allow spring jumps.

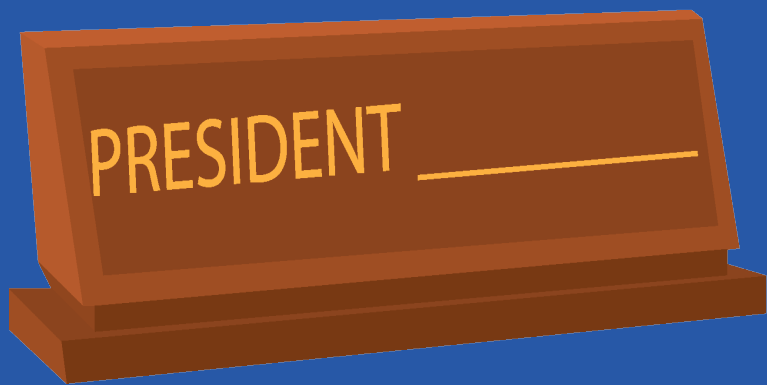
"I love that we changed it because it allows more girls to come into PKD," Bedow said. "We have more members and more sisters to love and be a part of our club."

Likewise, Karkau was pleased with her decision to make the jump.

"There are a lot of great girls in PKD," Karkau said. "Honestly, the sweetest people that I have ever met. They are super sweet, super spiritually based and they go out of their way to be kind to others. To me that is something really important, so to find other girls like that on campus it's just something I really wanted to be a part of."

Sophomore Sophie Gastro said when the time came for the club to decide whether they would accept spring jumps, it was an easy decision for everyone.

"We want everyone to feel welcome here, no matter what club that is in," Gastro said. "I'm glad these new girls saw the same qualities I saw in PKD and decided to make the jump. We are so happy to have them all and to grow closer together."



Graphic by COOPER TURMAN

Students enter 'Dr. Burks for a Day' drawing in support of 100 Families

EVERETT KIRKMAN
editor-in-chief

CAROLINE BIRDWELL
head copy editor

The Student Association (SA) announced Tuesday in chapel that students could enter a drawing that would benefit families displaced by the Melody Lane apartment fire. The winner, who was announced in chapel today, will switch places with University President David Burks for a day.

SA president Ethan Brazzell said the SA came up with the idea last fall. Burks did something like this in his previous tenure, according to SA sponsor Jill Davis, which is what made the idea come to fruition this year.

"We talked to Dr. Burks about bringing it back, and he was in full support of it," Brazzell said. "And also, we were trying to figure out a way we could support the families that lost everything in the Melody Lane fires. And it kind of occurred to everyone on the SA that we could combine both of these."

SA secretary Abbey Masters said the drawing is more than just a fun opportunity for Harding students.

"I am really excited for it ... it's a neat way to raise money for these families in Searcy," Masters said. "I hope that it brings a sense of camaraderie, if you will, to the student body. It's both fun and a great cause to give to."

To enter the drawing to be Burks for a

Day, students had to CashApp \$3 to 100 Families, screenshot the payment screen with their name in the memo and send it to the SA Instagram. The drawing concluded on Wednesday, but students could enter as many times as they wanted.

The student who won the drawing will get to give the announcements in chapel while Burks will sit in the student's chapel seat. Then, Burks will attend one of the student's classes while they sit in the President's Office.

Brazzell said Burks was eager to join in the drawing.

"Once we brought it up, he immediately said yes," Brazzell said. "He didn't have to think about it."

Burks said he was looking forward to the drawing.

"We have done this in years past, and it has always been a great experience," Burks said.

"It was hard to come up with an idea to help get the student body involved with helping the people in the fires at Melody Lane," Brazzell said. "Because the needs whenever you lose everything are more than just going to Walmart and buying groceries, but actually helping restart their lives."

Brazzell said he thinks the fundraiser will help motivate students to get involved with a good cause.



Photo provided by HALLE MILLER

A group of Harding students pose at the Sugarloaf Dance Center in Heber Springs. The dance center has been a tradition for students for several generations.

Students attend Sugarloaf Dance Center

ADDI PROVINCE
guest writer

For years, students at Harding have found many extracurricular activities outside of Searcy city limits. One of those is the Sugarloaf Dance Center in Heber Springs, Arkansas, where groups of students often participate in dances with the residents in the area.

Several generations of older students have passed down the tradition to dance at the center at least once during freshman year. Harding alumna Sadie Thornton recalls attending the dance center during her days as a freshman.

"It was something different to do, and because I went with freshmen, none of us knew what to expect," Thornton said. "The dancing was always a little two-stepping with the locals. Sometimes they would even lead a line dance or two. You can tell they have a lot of pride in that sweet place. Husbands and wives were dancing, and friends were meeting up. They were always so nice and welcoming to the Harding students, and when I went that was no exception."

Junior Amber Pupel experienced Sugarloaf Dance Center for the first time with a group of students that attended the weekend of Feb. 18.

"I've only been once, but I would love to go back," Pupel said. "I went with a group of about 20 people, which I could tell the older community there loved meeting a big group of college students."

Sugarloaf Dance Center is owned and operated by nonprofit organization Heber Springs Folklore Society. Local bands often provide live music for participants to dance to.

"I spent half an hour sitting down and talking to three Heber locals and dance center regulars, Jim, Judy and Bob," Pupel said. "They were so sweet to talk to and were so excited to see so many young people. In college, we spend a lot of time with people our own age, so it was really fun getting to spend time with older people in this way."

Sally Roach, Harding marketing and events director of admissions, attended the dance center as a student.

"Definitely one of my favorite memories of freshman year," Roach said. "I went twice my freshman year, and both times there were at least 60 other freshmen there. Our peer guides told us about it and said we just had to go do it sometime on a Friday night, so it just happened."