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HARDING
UNIVERSITY



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Breaking out

University introduces breakout chapels

GABRIEL HUFF
head copy editor

The University commenced its new breakout chapel program last week, instituting 11 different chapel sessions across campus in an effort to make chapel more engaging for students.

The breakout chapel sessions will occur every Wednesday at 9 a.m. throughout the rest of the semester, featuring different themes and topics. Logan Light, assistant dean for Campus Life and chapel programs, began organizing the new chapel system last semester, noting the concept originated from President Mike Williams and Executive Vice President Jean-Noel Thompson.

“They were curious as to how we might be able to do that here in Harding,” Light said. “And so I knew in the last summer that we wanted to move toward this direction. And so we spent a good amount of time in the fall working through what type of breakout chapels would be good for students and how we could create a wide enough interest that we could really have students be able to get some more engagement in different ways.”

The start date was initially planned for Feb. 1, but a snowstorm that canceled in-person classes and partially closed the campus delayed its debut until the next week.

The sessions — consisting of women’s chapel, student athletes, international students, three “topical study” chapels, creative expression, home Bible study with Lisa Williams, Student Life, newly married or soon to be married discussion and worship chapel — are facilitated by different faculty, administrative and student leaders around campus.

“Some of it was hand-selected, and we went out and some popular professors we asked to be involved, people that we already knew that students enjoyed hearing from and engaging with,” Light said. “And then some others came by way of some of those meetings, where I would meet with them as part of a team to say, ‘Hey, would you guys do this chapel?’ And then from that meeting, they’d say, ‘Actually, we could do our own.’”

Dr. Heath Carpenter, associate professor of English, serves as one of the facilitators, leading a topical study on Lent with Dr. Mac Sandlin, associate professor of Bible, in the McInTeer Bible and World Missions Center in room 150. The chapel analyzes themes of self-control, sacrifice and discipline.

“I think it’s cool that Logan and the administration are trying to more individualize chapel for particular groups,” Carpenter said. “I think the more choice people have, usually the more invested they are in the process.”

One of those more individualized breakouts is women’s chapel, led by Associate Dean of Students Kara Abston, assistant professor of mathematics Jill Davis and senior Anna Claire Williams in the Anthony and Wright Administration Building auditorium. The session focuses on worship with devotional thoughts, singing and special programs intentionally organized for female students.

“I hope that women get to see church that looks like them and sounds like them and will bring together a community of empowerment for women to hear the Gospel and then go tell people about it,” Williams said.

In the student athletes chapel, hosted in various locations, athletic director Jeff Morgan and other team coaches are leading sessions designed for student athletes to spend time together in both collective and team-specific chapels. All students will be allowed to attend the collective assembly. Team-specific gatherings are reserved for student athletes.

“I think anything we can do to draw closer together in our walk and draw closer to Christ in our walk — if we’re drawing closer to him, then that’s going to draw us closer together in our relationships,” Morgan said. “I think most of the coaches, and the different sports, I think that’s probably the

primary goal: What can we do to help draw ourselves closer to Christ?”

Breakout chapel highlighted one of the primary functions of chapel’s new card readers, which were integrated last semester. The card readers have been stationed at entrances to breakout chapels for students to swipe their IDs as they enter the chapel rooms.

Junior Marissa Bennett has been attending a topical study chapel headed by Dr. Donny Lee, dean of the College of Education, in the Watson Center, where he addresses the skill and importance of discipleship.

“I like it because it’s more personable and we make more connections with others that we see everyday and then we learn more about them because he asks us questions,” Bennett said. “It just makes us think a lot more, too.”

Light said he believes the University will conduct breakout chapels every semester moving forward and is looking to expand the number of breakout chapel days to 10 next semester, keeping some of the same chapel sessions but introducing new ones, as well.

“I really think the concept of what we’re doing is really, really strong, and I’m really excited about it, and I hope that students find connection with it,” Light said.



Photo by MACY COX

Senior Josie Holman reads scripture during the creative expression breakout chapel Feb. 15. Eleven new breakout chapel sessions have been introduced with various topics in an effort to make chapel more engaging for students.

ASI continues distinguished lecture series with Miller

NIC FRARACCIO
student writer

The Harding American Studies Institute (ASI) hosted Michael Matheson Miller, director and producer of the award-winning documentary “Poverty Inc.,” in the first ASI Distinguished Lecture event of the semester to discuss his role in promoting entrepreneurial opportunities in poverty in the evolving world.

“Poverty Inc.” focuses on the downfall of human flourishing due to the outcomes of the poverty

industrial complex. The documentary promotes personal entrepreneurship as an efficient way to eliminate world poverty.

Filming for the documentary started in 2010. After collecting over 200 interviews filmed in 20 different countries, Miller and the Acton Institute released the documentary Dec. 5, 2014. The film promotes the tagline, “Fighting poverty is big business, but who profits the most?”

Miller is the senior research fellow at the Acton Institute and was the founding director of

PovertyCure, a television series and initiative of the Action Institute.

During his lecture, Miller talked about the dominant views of charity, the philosophical and theological underpinnings of the dominant poverty industry and the lack of social justice.

“I will argue that the biggest obstacle for poor people today, especially in the developing world, is not that they lack stuff, but that they are excluded from the institutions of justice,” Miller said. “That would enable them to create prosperity in their own families, in their own communities.”

Miller also discussed the issues of crony capitalism within governmental organizations. Miller said the collusion of political bureaucracy and powerful interest groups will continue to lock out entrepreneurs.

“When aid is given, it often can crowd out local businesses,” Miller said. “Even worse, aid becomes linked with crony capitalists.”

The second half of the lecture was a question and answer discussion led by President Mike Williams.

During the discussion, Miller said foreign aid creates negative incentives for companies to build their own institutions of justice.

Miller also said students can transform the world by having a deep friendship with Jesus Christ and obeying the commandments.

“If you want to fix the broken world, you’ve got to fix yourself,” Miller said. “You can’t fix yourself. Only Jesus can fix you.”

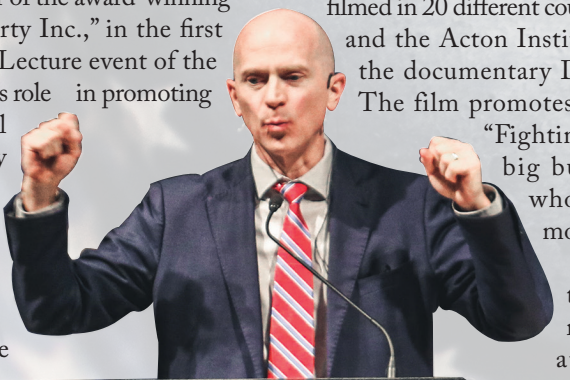
Miller’s lecture was met with excitement from faculty and students at the University.

Associate professor of communication Charles Bane said the decision to invite Miller was a great opportunity for students at the University.

“He’s out there living it,” Bane said. “He’s out there doing this. To bring in that actual real-world perspective, it’s fantastic.”

Sophomore Lydia Radke said she was excited to listen to Miller’s lecture after watching the “PovertyCure” DVD series with her family.

“It’s a really pertinent thing to talk about, like how we can alleviate poverty in a more sustainable way,” Radke said.



Michael Matheson Miller, founder of PovertyCure, speaks in the Benson Auditorium on Feb. 9 in the first American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture event of the semester. Miller discussed his role in promoting entrepreneurial opportunities in poverty in the evolving world.

Photo by BALAZS BALASSA



Photo by BALAZS BALASSA

Dr. Kenneth Gilmore shakes hands with a woman in the McInteer Bible and World Missions Center while visiting campus Feb. 9 to give a lecture on the theology and history of the Black church. The Black Student Association hosted the event, which Gilmore planned to build on with an eight-week series called "Theology of the Black Church Experience."

BSA hosts lecture on Black church theology

SARA HOOK
features editor

The Black Student Association (BSA) welcomed Dr. Kenneth Gilmore to campus Feb. 9 to speak on the theology and history of the Black church.

Gilmore began preaching at age 12, pastored churches for 25 years and taught for over 20 years in schools across the country.

"Dr. Gilmore provides insight and voice to student and church experiences that do not often get highlighted," BSA president Halle Miller said. "Among the theological voices that students are exposed to in their Harding Bible education, people like James Cone, who Dr. Gilmore references in building an understanding of the Black theological framework, are not often explored."

Gilmore spoke in the McInteer Bible and World Missions Center in room 145. Lectures like this are important, BSA sponsor Jessica Berry said, because through them people of different cultures, faiths and ethnicities can learn to support and value each other.

"Oftentimes we see a topic, and we feel like, 'Oh, because it's targeting a specific subject I don't need to learn about it because I didn't come from it,' but it's an opportunity for everyone to learn," Berry said. "I hope that it sparks continuing conversations after this event, and then I hope that it prompts some questions."

Berry said many students she recruits grew up in African American Churches of Christ, and being at Harding can be a culture shock. This lecture was also meant to help them realize the value of where they came from.

Gilmore will expand on his lecture in an eight-week series titled "Theology of the Black Church Experience," which can be taken for one, two or three Bible credit hours. The course considers the inception, history, nature and development of the Black church, as well as how theologians shaped Christian theology while facing suffering, injustice and racism.

"You live in a multiracial and a multicultural world, and if you only think through the prism through which you've been exposed to predominantly, then you miss out on the uniqueness and the richness of other cultures," Gilmore said. "As an educated person, you want to be awakened and be exposed to all broad ways of thinking."

Gilmore's doctoral and master's work was involved with Christianity as it relates

to the Black experience. It is fascinating, Gilmore said, because it deals with the uniqueness of the Black church, Black music and Black theology.

"I want [students] to see the beauty of the Black church and the beauty of how we do theology, how we read scripture," Gilmore said. "One of the things I'm gonna be pointing out is that our hermeneutics — how we approach text — is different than how most other people read text. So I'm just looking forward to students being challenged and being critical, self-reflective."

The class will be offered March 13 to May 5 and will be mainly online with some live lectures. Interested students must sign up by March 13. For more information, email onlinebible@harding.edu.

Harding to host annual women's conference

ABBEY WILLIAMS
guest writer

Harding has hosted the Bloom Women's Conference for 28 years, and this year the event will be held Feb. 17-18 with the theme, "When God Authors Your Story."

Two USA Today bestselling Christian authors, Serena B. Miller and Tamera Alexander, will speak at this year's event and have a book signing, according to the conference's webpage.

Co-director of the conference and associate professor of Bible Anessa Westbrook said Bloom aims to equip and help women grow spiritually.

"The Bloom conference is a national level conference," Westbrook said. "We do have a number of church groups that come from different states. We are always trying to think about equipping, encouraging them to go back into their churches and to contribute."

Westbrook said the committee likes to have students work with them.

"We also try to keep some students on our committee so we can get their perspective, but

we also mentor them," Westbrook said. "We currently have a group of students interested in Christian publishing on it."

Senior Karrisa Neal runs the social media for Bloom this year. She said it's her first year on the committee, and she gives student perspective when needed.

Neal said she has been to past Bloom conferences with her church family.

"I think of Bloom like a family reunion," Neal said. "It's like, dare I say, 'pre-heaven,' but then you have the spiritual aspect of it. Everyone is just together, and you're cultivating these relationships that you would never meet because they're from across the nation, and you kinda just remember you have that unifying bond in Christ."

Neal said there's always something to connect to in the classes.

"This year I'm speaking in one of the breakout classes, which is crazy, but like every year even if I'm not super passionate about the topics, there's still something you can connect to," Neal said. "It meets you where you're at. It's like this universal key; it just applies to your situation."

Harding admissions counselor Jessica Berry, who is a worship leader for Bloom, said the conference builds up women's ministry.

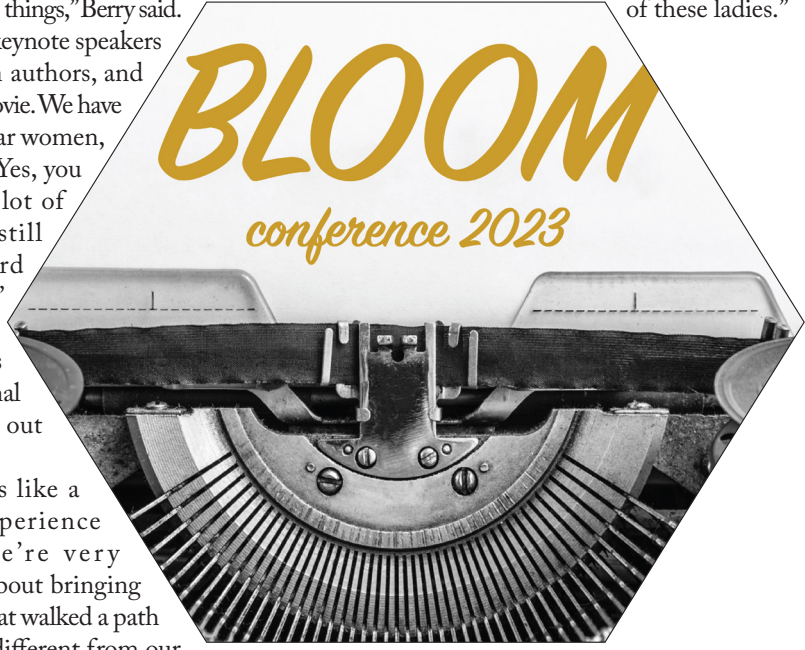
"We also build up women's ministry and say yes, you can do things," Berry said.

"So our two keynote speakers are Christian authors, and they have a movie. We have these superstar women, and we say, 'Yes, you can go do a lot of things and still love the Lord passionately.'"

Berry also said Bloom is very intentional with picking out speakers.

"Bloom is like a learning experience because we're very intentional about bringing in speakers that walked a path that may be different from our typical crowd," Berry said. "We

also just reinforce love and how Christ goes about and seeks individuals that may not be popular or we may not think of on a daily basis, so we try to put those types of people in front of these ladies."



Graphic by COOPER TURMAN
Photo provided by Bloom Conference

The Bison staff wins awards at Southeast Journalism Conference

★ Best of the South:

- No. 5 Best Newspaper: The Bison
- No. 1 Best Feature Writer: Sophie Rossitto
- No. 2 Best Graphic Designer/Data Journalist: Cooper Turman
- No. 3 Best Artist/Illustrator: Gracie Cornett
- No. 3 Best Arts and Entertainment Writer: Stacy Roibal
- No. 3 Best Special Events Reporter: Emma Weber
- No. 5 Best News Writer: Emma Jones
- No. 5 Best Press Photographer: Madison Meyer
- No. 10 Best Opinion/Editorial Writer: Malachi Brown

★ On-site Competitions:

- No. 1 Best News/Features Photographer: Macy Cox
- No. 2 Best Sports Photographer: Macy Cox
- No. 2 Best Sports Writer: Sophie Rossitto
- No. 2 Best Copy Editor: Gabriel Huff
- No. 3 Best Opinion/Editorial Writer: Emma Jones
- Honorable Mention Best Arts and Entertainment Writer: Tiane Davis



State of the BSA

Princess Welch
BSA events planner

When you think of history, where does your mind go? Does it go back to those lessons in high school or elementary? “In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue.” Do any Black historical figures come to mind other than Dr. Martin Luther King or Rosa Parks? For most people, the answer is no. This is why it is necessary to highlight historical figures and events via Black History Month. Having a month to give voice to Black gems that are often buried, such as Booker T. Washington, Madam C.J. Walker and W.E.B. DuBois, completes the narrative of history as a whole.

That’s right, Black history is literally just history. There are people that see the word Black in front of history and feel uneasy. It has often been described as “divisive.” I must say, I can somewhat agree. Having a whole month dedicated to Black history should be a bit redundant since Black history and history in general are the same thing. They are a part of the same narrative. If Black figures and events were commonly taught alongside American figures and events

throughout the year, then I would see no need in having a Black History Month. As of now, this is not the case.

“**Struggle is a piece of our history... but it is not our entirety.**”

– Princess Welch, senior

Black people existed, and continue to exist, outside of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement. We are inventors, entrepreneurs, authors, writers and everything else. Until this is common knowledge, Black History Month is necessary. This month is not to create separation, it is an attempt at filling the cracks that Black influence seems to slip through in the average history course. Struggle is a piece of our history, an important piece might I add, but it is not our entirety. Black history is brilliance, ingenuity and beauty.

So who is Black History Month for? You. If you are reading this article, it is for you. It is for whoever is beside you. It is for everyone to embrace and celebrate in its entirety. There are going to be some hard truths and tough discussions along the way, but there will be facts. It might be a little late in the month, but now is always the best time to learn something new. So, let’s start. Did you know Matthew Henson, along with Admiral Robert Peary and others, became one of the first men to reach the North Pole in 1909? Also, did you know Dr. Charles Drew invented a technique for the long-term preservation of blood plasma? Prior to his discovery, blood could only be stored for two days. Do you know what happened in Tulsa in 1921? These are just topics to get you started. Now, go research and discuss. Happy Black History Month!

PRINCESS WELCH is a guest writer for The Bison. She can be contacted at pwelch@harding.edu.



What’s good

Malachi Brown
Opinions Editor

Death and taxes

I came to terms with my mortality a while ago over a wide array of experiences with bad driving, club sports injuries and five semesters of biblical languages. More recently, though, I’ve had to come to terms with my parents’ mortality. Being away from them so often for so long, and really only getting to see them for a couple weeks out of the year means it’s hard to have an active knowledge on how they’re doing. My 50-year-old generally healthy father got the common cold last weekend, so naturally, I started preparing for his death.

I think a good portion of our generation, thanks to the extended influences of Neitzche, Freud and Marx, have become both comfortable with and fearful of what it means to die. Pop culture is oversaturated with death, telling us that death is inseparable from life.

The “yolo” lifestyle, and many forms of “carpe diem” stem from the pre-accepted assumption that one day, we will no longer be capable of seizing the day. We are comfortable with death when we think in terms of ourselves, but whenever I lose a loved one, that is when I begin to think “there is something seriously wrong with our existence, and it needs to be fixed.”

Sometimes, it feels a little weird saying, “Yes, I believe in life after death,” the same way it feels cliché to say, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” It is one thing to agree with these statements, another thing to confess them and still another to fully believe them.

In my preaching classes, I was taught that we should spend a good portion of our sermon on the application of the sermon topic; this leads to learning “what do we believe, and what it looks like if we believe this.” In my theology classes, and as a Bible major who doesn’t feel called to full-time preaching, I’ve begun to learn there are few activities that make me a better person than contemplating God.

Running the phrase in my head “I believe in life after death” over and over again doesn’t seem to make me any less anxious about my death, or the deaths of those whom I love. However, when my theology and my worldview zooms out to eternity and God’s mercy, I suddenly have the patience, the joy, the peace and the gentleness it takes to be in relationship with people who are not myself. When I truly believe in the gospel, I fear death less and still become less comfortable with it, feeling in my bones there is something seriously wrong with how death works.

It feels silly, too, to write out a confession of faith, especially in a school paper, but I think sometimes it’s helpful for a community to get over that. I believe that once I pay my two pennies to death and the rest of my bank goes to the IRS, my soul will still be around, and I think I’m a better person because I believe this than I would be if I didn’t believe that there’s life after death and taxes.

MALACHI BROWN is the opinions editor for The Bison. He may be contacted at mbrown33@harding.edu.



Graphic by Cooper Turman

discovered this when she struggled to make a visualization of hyperbolic planes for her hyperbolic geometry students. The current models of the planes were fragile and inadequate to describe such a complicated concept. Taimina recognized the pattern of the planes was similar to crochet patterns. She went on to crochet a functional, touchable, hyperbolic plane model. Mathematicians had struggled to create a usable hyperbolic plane model, some even said it was impossible, and here a crafter was the first to be able to solve the problem. The eyes and mind of a crafter open possibilities of viewing problems in a fresh and beautiful way. I personally feel honored to be a part of this crafting legacy handed to me by my foremothers and to be gifted with the eyes of a seamstress and of a crafter.

Despite all the joy I find in the intersection of engineering and crafting, the fact is that engineering is still engineering. It is hard classes that take a lot of work and persistence, but I rest easy knowing the crafting I do is continually building me to be a better designer and engineer as I accept nuance in what defines engineering and problem solving.

AMELIA SLATER is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at aslater1@harding.edu.

What’s your opinion?

To have an opinion published in The Bison contact the opinions editor, Malachi Brown at mbrown33@harding.edu.

Crafting is engineering



Amelia Slater
Guest Writer

When people ask my major and I tell them it’s mechanical engineering, they usually cower in fear over the thought of upper-level math and science classes. The next question is typically, “Why would you do that to yourself?” My atypical answer is crafting.

The stigma of engineering is thermodynamics, industrial machinery and complex math. While these things are true for the major, the heart of engineering is problem-solving. For me, my problem-solving experience has come from the timeless domestic hobbies of crocheting, sewing and crafting.

“**The art of creating is not only a cute skill. It also opens new dimensions in the world of science and math.**”

– Amelia Slater, freshman

The engineering design process follows a route of identifying a problem, brainstorming, creating a solution and continual innovation. This is true when applying engineering to a car to make it safer and more efficient and to be assembled using machinery. This is also true when applying engineering to a quilt that must follow a specific pattern and is then assembled using spatial recognition and sewing machinery.

Sustainability in design is a new pillar of engineering. Yet, through my crafting, I have already explored sustainable design when I crocheted a plastic yarn bag by creating my own yarn through a surplus of grocery bags.

Another new facet of engineering is the implication of human-centered design. No longer will products designed by one demographic for a diverse population be acceptable. Now designs must be intuitive and full of empathy for all users. Design focused on real humans is a focal point of crafting. When a skirt does not fit right, I measure my waist and hem it. When I need a place to store my yarn, I command-strip a cereal box to the wall with yarn as a make-do hanging shelf. When crocheting a bag, I consider the body ratio of my user to size the correct strap. Crafting has always been about human-centered design.

Engineering is also about understanding a process and materials so well that you can create intuition about problems and solutions. I have seen problem-solving intuition develop in those around me through crocheting. I know several crocheters who have tossed aside their pattern sheet to redesign a piece the way they want. This results in perfectly curated and unique pieces that only someone as tuned into the process as they are could make.

The art of creating is not only a cute skill. It also opens new dimensions in the world of science and math. Daina Taimina

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Ten Thousand Words
Emma Jones
Editor-in-Chief

For the love of love

One of the most influential figures of my freshman year was then-senior Kinsey Stubblefield. Kinsey was the opinions editor for *The Bison*, and after my very first *Bison* meeting, she talked to me and wrote her number down on a Post-it Note (which I still have glued in my scrapbook), which was a super nice move to the freshman who didn't know anyone on staff. She was opinionated, confident and cool, basically the opposite of freshman year me, and I loved her to death.

Kinsey's column, which she titled "Little but Loud," was always well-written, but one opinion of hers that stood out to me then was her vehement love for Valentine's Day (see "For the love of tunes," from the Feb. 14, 2020, issue of *The Bison*). As a former Valentine's Day hater, I thought it funny that she liked the silly holiday so much. In high school, it never held much weight for me, and as a perpetually single teenager who didn't like much of anything, that opinion made sense. But Kinsey's opinion, that Valentine's Day was a holiday to "celebrate all kinds of love," helped shift my perspective to become a reformed Valentine's Day lover.

That shift in perspective has been present in our culture, too. Valentine's Day is not just for couples anymore. I think it's clear that this holiday has become, as Kinsey wrote, about "appreciating those you love and who love you and who you love in return." The popularization of things like "Galentine's Day" is also selling this holiday as one that doesn't have to be romantic.

" Valentine's Day is not just for couples anymore. "

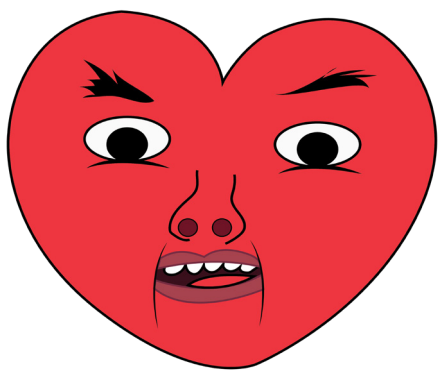
— Emma Jones, editor-in-chief

That's another issue people find with the holiday: the commercialization of it, how it's being sold to us in the form of flowers, chocolates, stuffed animals — the list goes on. As someone with gift-giving as one of my top love languages, this is definitely something I struggle with. But Valentine's is an easy holiday to make homemade gifts for, whether it's a handwritten card or something you bake or a personalized playlist for someone. My boyfriend of three years made me roses out of newspapers this year. (Is that not the cutest thing ever? One even had Dr. Michael Claxton's face on it.)

But I digress. Back to celebrating the holiday itself. You might say, "But Emma, shouldn't I be showing my love to these people who are special to me year round?" To which I say, of course! Valentine's Day just gives us a good excuse to make a special occasion of it, to remind our loved ones of our love for them, to wear pink and heart print tights, to buy people flowers and to celebrate love for a day. I think it's adorable that we have a holiday where we have reason to do all of that, don't you think?

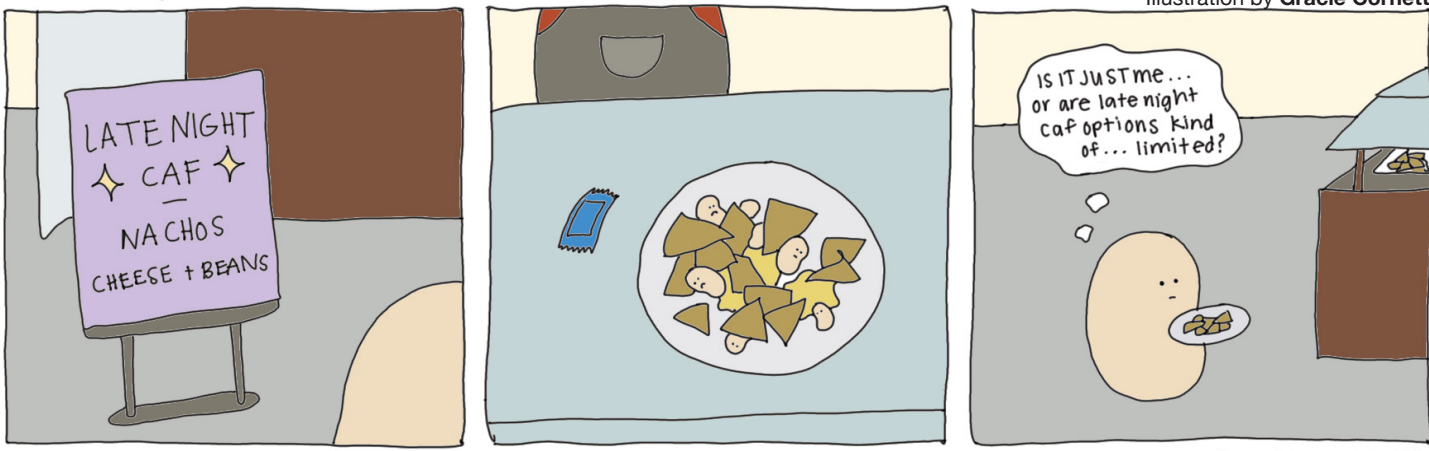
So whether you celebrated Valentine's Day with your significant other, or with your friends, or with your club or just by yourself, I hope you found many reasons to show love.

EMMA JONES is editor-in-chief for The Bison. She can be contacted at ejones19@harding.edu.



Graphic by Cooper Turman

BEAN THERE, DONE THAT — "DINNER"



GRACIE CORNETT



Caleb Chunn
Student Writer

Super Bowl Sunday has come and gone, and in its wake it has left some interesting plot lines that have turned thousands of regular fans of the National Football League (NFL) into cynical skeptics.

While the game itself was a great matchup between two of the top seeded teams in the playoffs — the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles — fans of the NFL have begun to worry that the league as a whole is more "scripted" and "fake" than they've let on before.

With a 38 to 35 final score, the Philadelphia Eagles were defeated and the Kansas City Chiefs were named the Super Bowl LVII champions.

Did you know this was the first ever Super Bowl to include a set of brothers on opposing teams with Travis and Jason Kelce? This year's matchup also saw the league's first Super Bowl featuring two Black starting quarterbacks: Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes and Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts.

While both of those statistics are good for viewership, public relations and growing the game, many athletes and fans have spoken up about the events leading up to these stats, calling them fishy or scripted. Whether in

a Twitter thread or on a podcast, people are calling out the NFL as an institution for some shady business that seems to have led to potential season-altering penalty calls.

Even in this year's Super Bowl, in the final minutes of the game between Kansas City and Philadelphia, there was a controversial holding call on the Eagles that could have influenced the final score of the game.

Since the end of the game, all kinds of social media accounts, small and large, across all platforms have spoken out about this call due to its decisive and questionable timing in the final two minutes of the game. Eagles cornerback James Bradberry spoke out about this penalty that was called on him in the post game interview saying, "It was holding. I tugged on the jersey."

Regardless of Bradberry's response, the public's answer has been aggressive in both directions. People were very outspoken in their criticism of almost every play throughout the game.

When all things are taken into consideration, it is difficult to truly believe the NFL is only a written script that is handed to each player before their team camp begins — even though it is a very interesting thread

to follow. This season was one of the most entertaining and heartbreaking in recent history. With teams coming out of the ashes to revive what was once a disrespected program all the way to the terrifying events that occurred to Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin while playing the Cincinnati Bengals, the 2022–2023 season was full of entertaining and nerve-racking moments that make the NFL as special as it is.

CALEB CHUNN is a student writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at cchunn@harding.edu.



Graphic by Cooper Turman

Just the Clax

The lighter side of chapel — part 3



Michael Claxton
Narrative Columnist

just to start a round of "Happy Birthday" at family parties — imagine trying to turn 3,000 people into a decent chorus. That's why I felt for the guy who was leading "When you pass through the waters" one day when he made a mistake and overcorrected. The slide said, "when you pass through the waters." But he started the verse that said, "when you pass through the fire." A sharp turn in the middle of a word resulted in him leading us all in a verse of "when you pass through the farther."

Which reminds me of the time my friend was asked to lead the closing prayer at church. What he meant to say was to ask forgiveness for our shortcomings. What came out was, "Lord, forgive us our falling shorts."

But my all-time favorite chapel story is from 2006. Dr. Jeff Hopper, who was then dean of the Honors College, came up with an idea for a spoof of "American Idol." The show was just 4 years old then, and our version was called, "Faculty Idol." Naturally, we had a panel of judges, based on the original cast from the show. A Walton Scholar named Denise Sandoval was Paula Abdul, women's soccer coach Greg Harris was Randy Jackson and Keith Cronk, now vice president for IS&T, was Simon Cowell.

Several faculty members appeared as contestants. Dr. David Cole did a chemistry experiment, and Dr. Donny Lee gave a flannel-graph lesson. Always cutting edge, that College of Education. Of course,

I can't say anything; I represented the English Department and diagrammed a sentence. Then business professor Dr. Randy McLeod gave an economics lecture. Finally, Dr. David Burks got up as a contestant.

The judges asked what he did as president, and he said, "I read announcements." Then, Burks held up his arm in a hip-hop pose and proceeded to rap an announcement — as only he could. Yes, it was awful, but that's why the crowd loved it. Then, the judges had the nerve to critique this brave performance. Harris tried to be positive. He said, "Your lyrics are tight." Then he said, "But your delivery," and he put his head in his hands and moaned for 25 seconds. I don't remember the other comments, but whatever Cronk said was the last straw. Burks stormed off the stage, went out the side door and slammed it behind him, which brought the house down again.

Proverbs tells us "a cheerful heart is good medicine," and the psalmist says, "We were filled with laughter and we sang for joy." Over the years, I've experienced a range of emotions in chapel: I've been moved and inspired, saddened and angered, filled with hope and challenged to think. Many a spiritual feast has been set before me. Yes, there have been some cold leftovers, but overall, chapel has been a blessing. I'm especially grateful for those times when — planned or not — something funny happened. May there be many more of those moments.

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



Photo by BALAZS BALASSA

Freshman Vlad Malykhin smiles in the Robert W. Plaster Center at the Indoor Gorilla Classic in Pittsburg, Kansas, Feb. 11. Malykhin broke the Harding record in the pole vault, clearing a provisional height of 5.32 meters or 17 feet and 5.5 inches.

Men's track crushes multiple records

SPENCER AIELLO
student writer

The Harding men's track team is continuing to dominate after returning from the Washburn Open Feb. 3-4 and the Eighth Annual Indoor Gorilla Classic last Saturday, where many of the athletes broke school and personal records.

The Washburn Open in Topeka, Kansas, marked the start of this continuing streak of excellence, with many of the athletes ranking in the top 10 of Division II nationally and continuing to break school records along the way.

The Gorilla Classic in Pittsburg, Kansas, followed up with more records being broken and more athletes ranking in the top of Division II nationally.

Junior Tad Kirby broke his own school record at the Gorilla Classic Saturday with

a time of 21.82 in the 200 meters event, breaking the previous record set earlier this season at 21.98 seconds.

Freshman Vlad Malykhin also broke a Harding record in the pole vault when he cleared a provisional height of 5.32 meters (17 feet and 5.5 inches) at the Gorilla Classic, passing the record previously held by NCAA national champion Dorian Chaigneau at 17 feet and 2.75 inches.

This record-breaking performance ranks Malykhin second nationally in Division II this season.

Sophomore Antiwain Jones broke a 34-year-old Harding high jump record at the Washburn Open when he cleared an NCAA provisional height of 2.12 meters (6 feet and 11.50 inches), which broke the Harding record set by Hall of Famer Te Howard in 1989.

The height of the jump ranked Jones in a tie for eighth nationally among other NCAA Division II high jumpers.

Jones shared what he thought when he broke the record.

"It just felt good in general, because I've been working to do better than what my [personal record] was," Jones said.

Jones expressed his gratitude to men's track and field coach Don Hood.

"He's been a great coach this year," Jones said. "Whenever I'm feeling down, he just has some encouraging words every single time."

Junior Dakarai Bush also broke a Harding record in the 400 meters at the Gorilla Classic when he finished with a provisional time of 47.30 seconds, the previous record having been set by Tyler Kemmerer in 2004 with a provisional time of 47.62 seconds.

This placed Bush with the second-fastest time in Division II nationally this season.

Bush shared what has motivated him to do well this year and keep him going into these competitions.

"Just being on the team and having guys around me," Bush said. "That's the only thing that drives me right now."

Sophomore Luke Walling broke his indoor personal record at the Washburn Open when he finished the 5,000 meters with a time of 15:07.57. This time placed him ninth at the open.

Walling shared what this meant to him and how it will help him going forward into the season.

"It was exciting for sure," Walling said. "Indoor is just kind of the opener for outdoor, so it just kind of gets you excited."

Women's, men's tennis teams push through season

MAGGIE SAMPLES
lifestyle editor

The men's and women's tennis teams lost to Drury University Feb. 10 but won against Emporia State University Feb. 11 at the Cooper Tennis Complex in Springfield, Missouri.

The Lady Bisons left Saturday night after losing 4-1 to Drury and winning 6-1 against Emporia State. Juniors Grace Dodd and Rachel McCrae won 6-4, and seniors Lina Romero and Jing Jing Yang won 7-5. Before the weekend, the Lady Bisons were 1-2 for the season, but are now 2-3.

"This match was a good confidence booster and allowed for team bonding from the travel, matches and long nights," Dodd

said. "My motivation is to play for a bigger power than myself, like my teammates, this University but most importantly God. I am playing for the glory of God, win or loss, and I couldn't be more excited or motivated."

Romero said she believes the team will do well.

"This is going to be my last season, and I am very motivated," Romero said. "I really

want to go to nationals this time with my team, and I think we can do it if we all keep doing everything right."

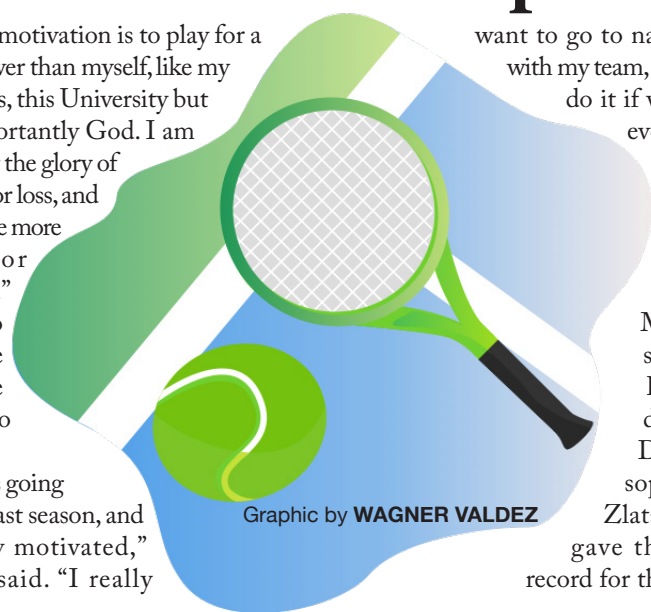
The Bisons lost to Drury 5-2 and beat Emporia State by seven.

Freshman Cian Mikkelsen and sophomore Cas de Ruiter won 6-1 in doubles, and senior Dani Ortiz and sophomore Teodor Zlatar won 6-3. This gave the Bisons a 1-1 record for the season.

"I am really looking forward to seeing what we can do as a team, not only in the conference but also the region and on a national level," de Ruiter said. "I think we have a very strong starting line-up and are very scary in comparison with other teams. I'm confident at the moment because I had a good season, and I can feel that my level in tennis is growing."

The Lady Bisons will play in Dallas against Texas A&M University at Kingsville at 1 p.m. Feb. 18 and against University of Texas at Dallas Feb. 19 at 11 a.m.

The Bisons will play Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. against University of Texas in Dallas then compete with Mississippi College at 10 a.m. on Feb. 20 in Memphis, Tennessee.



Bison baseball kicks off season with five straight wins

BAILEY RIDENOUR
student writer

The Bison baseball team started the season strong with a record-breaking series against Delta State University at Jerry Moore field Sunday, Feb. 5. The doubleheader sweep was the first that Harding had won against Delta State since 2013.

The team then followed their doubleheader wins with a three game series against Southwest Baptist University at home this past weekend. The Bison won their first game 22-1, the second game 8-0 with two home runs and concluded the third game at 19-1, with 30 hits at the plate. Taking the win in all three games the Bison improved to 5-0.

"The biggest takeaway from these first few games is that we have a group of unselfish guys that will just lock it in and get the job done no matter if they started or came off the bench," redshirt freshman Jenson Presley said. "I think the most important thing is to remember that we're playing for all the guys around us. Also I think it's going to be important to stick to and stay locked into our brand of baseball because our brand will win games."

Although Harding was picked sixth in the Great American Conference (GAC) preseason coaches poll behind Ouachita

Baptist University and just one point ahead of University of Arkansas at Monticello, the current standings before conference play have the Bisons as the last team unbeaten. Last year the Bisons were picked eighth in the preseason poll but ended up at third overall in the standings by the end of the season.

"The pitching staff was good last year but we are even deeper in the bullpen, especially this year," Joel Barker, a graduate assistant pitching coach, said. "Maddox Long was a very good starter last year and will be an important part of the staff again this year."

Long, a starting pitcher (1-0), threw five innings and only allowed two runs during the Delta State game. In all 14 of his starts, this was Long's sixth win.

"It was exciting to, [in] week one, know the kind of teams we are capable of beating," Long said. "It felt good to have a say in the win, but I contribute that to how well we produced runs and made big time play spots. It is awesome to see success like this early in the year. With that being said, we play in a tough conference. We plan to use this early success to help boost our confidence."

The Bison will see their first game of conference play at Jerry Moore Field on Friday, Feb. 17, against Southern Nazarene University at 6 p.m.



Photo by BALAZS BALASSA

Junior Davis Welch pitches the ball to a Delta State University batter at Jerry Moore Field. The Bisons defeated them twice in a doubleheader Feb. 5.

'Omnivores, carnivores and vegans head North'

New restaurant opens in downtown Searcy



Photo by MACY COX

A North AR Pop-Up employee makes a chicken wrap. North AR emphasizes alternative options in their food as well as creative burger options.

EMMA WEBER
community editor

A new restaurant has opened its doors in downtown Searcy.

Kyle Dismang and his three partners opened their first location of 501 North Bar in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 2017. Following that success, Dismang and his wife opened a new location called North AR Pop-Up, just off Market Avenue in Searcy.

This location had its soft opening Feb. 4, and is continuing to serve food with limited hours. Eventually the full menu will include alcohol and a more robust alternative menu for those with dietary restrictions.

North AR explained in a Feb. 5 Instagram post what a pop-up restaurant was.

"We have signed a lease for a year and

may possibly renew next year," the post said.

North AR has a creative menu that focuses primarily on gourmet burgers, sandwiches and wraps.

"You can't get a fried pickle burger anywhere other than here," Dismang said. "We try to feature something different and unique every week."

This sentiment was also shared by associate professor of Bible Mac Sandlin, who visited the Searcy location of North AR.

"I've been a big fan of the North Little Rock location for a long time, and I'm excited to have access to it locally now," Sandlin said. "Kyle Dismang, the owner, is a friend of mine. We grew up going to school and church together. He opened the NLR location several years ago, and I've loved it every time I've been. I think I've had most everything on

the menu and never been disappointed. They know how to make quality food, present it in a fun and aesthetically pleasing fashion, and find making something as common as a burger into a new experience without losing what makes burgers so popular in the first place."

The new location has taken staff some time to get used to. Due to the limited space and seating capacity, Dismang and his team have run into some bumps. However, Dismang is confident that these problems will be worked out as they continue to find their rhythm.

"Since it's not the same capacity, we are focused on wrangling the chaos," Dismang said. "We really like the small-town feel, and you can tell that everyone appreciates the work we are doing. We have a warm and welcome atmosphere, and we would love to see more

of the younger crowd and eventually have Harding students work here."

One of the advantages of the small space is the ability to focus on freshness. This freshness also allows Dismang to have an inclusive menu, which is a personal desire.

"Everything is cooked at the moment," Dismang said. "My sister has celiac and she's just fine with our gluten free buns. That was one of the original things behind North Bar. I have so many family members with different kinds of dietary issues and at one point, we had a four-page menu, a whole vegan page and a whole gluten-free page, but the pandemic kind of killed that. We still try to have something for everybody. Our slogan used to be 'Omnivores, Carnivores and Vegans, head North.'"

Graphic by COOPER TURMAN

CDC trailers on campus collect local health data

SOPHIE THIBODEAUX
student writer

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had trailers parked beside the Ganus Activities Complex (GAC) since last November for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to collect health and nutrition data on White County residents. The trailers were removed from campus on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Dr. Lisa Ritchie, professor of family and consumer sciences (FCS), said the CDC is conducting an ongoing survey to gather data about the health and nutrition status of people in the U.S.

"They divide all of the counties in the U.S. into 15 different buckets and choose randomly

a county out of each bucket," Ritchie said. "The buckets are based on size and makeup of the community, and they try to assess 5,000 people a year. When they come to White County, they randomly select people to participate in the screening, and it's just data collection to find out how we're doing."

Ritchie added that the survey goes beyond analyzing people's health.

"We talked with the chief medical officer, and he told us that the data is used in planning programs," Ritchie said. "How wide should an airline seat be? All kinds of things that we're going to interact with every day, and we have no idea. It's more than just how we're doing health-wise."

According to Ritchie, there were three sets of trucks outside the GAC, combined

into a small clinic. Dr. Brittany Cumbie, FCS department chair, spoke about the involvement of the survey at Harding.

"They reached out to us at Harding to the nutrition department and the family consumer sciences because we talk about the surveys that they do in all of our courses," Cumbie said. "The surveys they do in the community help outline and change guidelines. So some of the things that they survey in their health surveys have changed the food pyramid plates ... People in the community receive letters, so it was a randomized study that not everyone in Searcy or White County got a letter."

Dr. Baldemar Gomez, the manager of the surveys in the trailers, said the survey has been ongoing for more than 50 years, targeting 15 counties annually.

"We do what we call an initial screening of

who lives in a particular residence, and then once we identify who lives there, the computer will randomly select a number of people to participate in the survey," Gomez said.

Gomez said the survey team is usually at a given location for about five to six weeks.

"Our goal was to be able to identify at least anywhere between 300 to 350 to be selected for the health exams," Gomez said. "Those people who were selected to do the exams, when they come in, we do a series of exams including blood work analysis, body measurements, blood pressure, an ultrasound on adults and a balance test on adults."

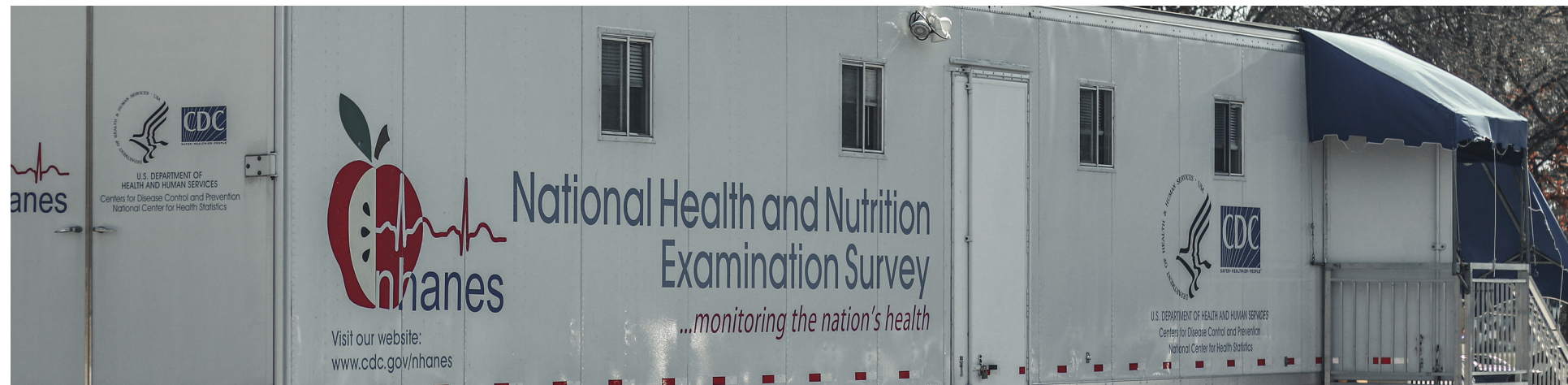


Photo by BALAZS BALASSA

CDC trailers tested local health and nutrition to collect and analyze nutritional data. The nutrition trailers left the parking lot behind the Ganus Activities Complex on Feb. 14th.

Construction on Berryhill Park courts continues

TIANE DAVIS
sports editor

Delk Construction is making progress on the new pickleball court project at Berryhill Park, which was approved in August. The project includes eight new pickleball courts and six new tennis courts.

Director of Searcy Parks and Recreation Mike Parsons said he believes the new courts, specifically the pickleball courts, will bring variety to the parks in Searcy.

"I think that it's going to offer a different avenue and a different venue for Searcy citizens to participate in," Parsons said. "Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports out there right now, and we're trying to get on that trend. I think it's going to give people who have never played or heard of pickleball a new opportunity to do it in Searcy."

Parsons said pickleball is different from sports like soccer, baseball and basketball in that any age group is able to play. He said he hopes it will bring the Harding and Searcy communities closer together.

"People from all different walks of life can get out there and participate in it together," Parsons said. "Hopefully Harding students will participate in the different

tournaments that we have and just every day going out there and playing in their free time."

Parsons said there were a few people who opposed the project to begin with, but the overall reaction has been positive.

"We have received a tremendous amount of support for the project, not just people from the pickleball community, but also people in the tennis community," Parsons said. "We're hoping that it gets used not just by people locally, but that we can draw people into the city to use it, as well."

Bear Davidson, the lead engineer for the project, said the project is ahead of schedule. The original goal for the project was to have it finished in August 2023, but Davidson expects it to be completed in July.

"Construction is going very well," Davidson said. "We've had enough dry spells during the winter to be able to continue construction. Delk Construction, a local firm, is the contractor for this job and they've been great to work with."

Davidson said he is excited about the project and for the impact it will have on the park and the city.

"I think when people see the finished product, they will be even more excited and supportive of future projects in Searcy,"

Davidson said. "I'm thankful for our city leadership and especially the A&P Commission for choosing to fund such a neat project and for allowing us to be a part of that process."

Head tennis coach David Redding, who teaches the pickleball class and plays the game nationally, said he has been an advocate of pickleball since 2013 when he became involved in the sport. He said he thinks Berryhill Park is a great place for the new courts.

"It will be a busy place servicing the growing number of pickleball players in Searcy and White County as it opens up later in the spring," Redding said. "Berryhill Park is the perfect location for these new courts: Close to the center of town and surrounded by many restaurants. It will be the place to gather for great pickleball play and family activities."

Redding said he expects Searcy to become a top location for pickleball once the courts open.

"It's great for the citizens of Searcy to now have a top notch facility for individual play and group play, in addition to running leagues and holding tournaments," Redding said. "It's time for Searcy to be a top pickleball destination in Arkansas."



Photo by MACY COX

A "Do not enter" sign outside the construction zone for the pickleball courts coming to Berryhill Park. The plan for the courts was approved last August.

Tri Sigma Delta revived as 14th women's social club

MATTIE POWERS
student writer

A former women's social club, Tri Sigma Delta, is making its comeback to Harding this semester with new members, sponsors and future plans. This women's club originally began in 1972 but is being revived by students to create the 14th women's social club.

Sophomore Emma Curry initiated the idea to reestablish the club. Curry is an athlete on Harding's softball team, and she sent out the idea to form a club in the team group chat while she was walking to chapel one day.

Curry and sophomore Brooke Johnson looked up past women's social clubs at Harding, and Tri Sigma Delta appealed the most to them.

"This club is mainly athletes," Curry said. "We have friends outside of our sport, but I feel like this will help us connect with other sports or just even like anyone, like with other clubs, just people we wouldn't normally talk to on a normal basis."

Tri Sigma Delta was an active club at Harding from 1972 to 1993 but changed their name to Kappa Gamma Epsilon in 1994. Kappa Gamma Epsilon lasted from 1994 to 2008, and at that point, the club was disbanded.

Johnson expressed the mindset they have as sophomores taking on this task.

"It's good that we have two more years," Johnson said. "We can start it now and then we can kind of build a foundation, and leave that to the other people."

Another quest in creating a new club was finding sponsors for it. Johnson found many Tri Sigma Delta alumni online and reached out to see if any of them were interested in being a sponsor for the club. One person they found was Debra Nesbitt, the residence life coordinator for Keller Hall and now a sponsor for the club.

"We're all going to have great relationships that I think work well together."

— Debra Nesbitt,
Sponsor

"Well, I know it's going to be super great because I know all these girls that I'm going to be a sponsor with really well," Nesbitt said. "And so, I know that part of it is going to be great. We're all going to have great relationships that I think work well together."

Pulled from 1997 - 1998 Petit Jean yearbook

SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA DELTA

Sigma Sigma Sigma Delta. Front row: T. Carter, Matthew, Finn, Grimes, McEntire, Galtre, Simko, McGee, Darrab, Kinsler, Blakeney, Shappard, Humphry, Gaskin, Chandler. Second row: L. Kuehn, Martin, Robertson, Golden, Pickle, McGowan, Hunt, Bowen, Steele, Lambert. Third row: Moore, Humble, Chapman, Clewell, Jones, Hooper, D. Carter, Swangel. Fourth row: Edmunson, Holliman, Noblitt, Barnett, Boykin, Ninemire. Fifth row: Adams, Sherman, Koch, Lockhart, Baker, J. Kuehn, S. Carter, McCoy, Lewis. Back row: Casada, English, Barnes, Cragwall, Arnold, Willingham, Burch, Shanklin, Hodgens, England. — photo by Bill Tripp.

LISA HUMBLE...

"Throughout my four years with Tri Sigma Delta, I've witnessed a tremendous amount of growth in the club, not only in number of members, but also growth in club spirit, closeness to one another, and closeness to God. As a result, Tri Sigs has given me wonderful friendships and memories, both of which I know will last a lifetime."

You gotta be kidding. Tri Sig member Sonia Finn, a senior from St. Louis, MO, can hardly believe it is time to meet so many new women students. — photo by Danny Meeks.

Hug, hug, Byron McKean, a senior from Derby, KS, gladly gives Lisa Jones, a junior from Dearborn, MI, a well-known Harding hug. — photo by Danny Meeks.



HEAL offers new classes and events this spring

STACY ROIBAL
beat reporter

HU Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) has introduced various new opportunities for students to get involved this semester. They are offering two new classes, training for club and intramural sports, tailgates for spring sports and other events that will be taking place over the coming months.

Dr. Britney Finley, the director of HEAL and an assistant professor in the Kinesiology department, said their mission is to use their God-given talents to spread the message of holistic wellness on campus.

"It's not about body image, how we look, diet culture, any of that," Finley said. "We're taking care of these bodies so that we can do the work that God has given us, and if it's not about that, then we don't want to be a part of it."

New this semester is a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) class led by Hazel Jackson on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Ganus Activities Complex (GAC) mirror room. Finley explained that a HIIT workout alternates

between high intensity movements and short periods of low intensity movements.

The other new class is yoga on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the GAC mirror room led by English professor Dr. Amy Qualls. Finley said she hopes having these classes in the evening will encourage more people to come.

Sophomore Jiana Manglicmot has been attending HEAL's yoga class this semester. She hadn't previously been involved with HEAL but has loved the experience.

"My friends and I love working out, and we love Dr. Qualls, so it's the best of both worlds," Manglicmot said.

Manglicmot also felt that the environment was very calming and safe. After attending the class, she saw what a special opportunity HEAL is offering at Harding.

"I realized that there are spaces on campus where I don't have to feel intimidated to take care of my body," Manglicmot said.

HEAL is also offering a new opportunity for intramural and club sports teams to receive basketball training from junior Leah Ward, who is on the HEAL club sport training and social media teams.

"She's helping them with their basketball skills and having little practices," Finley said. "It's actually pretty popular."

Junior Elise Siklosi is the spiritual life coordinator for HEAL, and said they are working on having a spiritual retreat in March partnered with HU Explore. Siklosi said the theme is "living water," and the retreat will focus on "how we can all sit under the steady stream of the Lord so that we can overflow to other people and therefore share the living water with others."

Another event in the works is called "If Gathering," which Siklosi said stands for "if God is real — then what? What is our next step of action?" A group of random people will be gathered around a table to eat a healthy meal together and discuss important questions.

"They will be given cards with questions to ask, and they're not just surface level questions," Siklosi said. "It's like, 'What are you longing for?' or 'How has God shown up in your life?' The end goal is to have that group of people be closer together. We want to help build stronger relationships through HEAL."

Finley said they are super excited about "if tables" and the opportunity to bridge gaps between a community of people who have a common love for Jesus. There is no official date yet, but HEAL hopes to host at least one gathering this semester.

HEAL also partners with Nourished Souls, which is a community of encouragement for body image and disordered eating. Finley said they want a space for people to be able to talk about their struggles.

"We're gonna punch the enemy in the face and get him away because that is not why we're eating healthy, and that is not why we're exercising — it's all about health," Finley said.

HEAL has monthly hangouts, which Finley said are a great opportunity for anyone in the student body to hang out with HEAL leaders and ambassadors to learn about what they do and have some fun. The next hangout is Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. More information can be found on the HEAL Instagram page @harding_heal.

New chess club competes in Little Rock tournament

BAILEY RIDENOUR
student writer

EMMA JONES
editor-in-chief

Harding's new chess club sent students to a chess tournament this past weekend in Little Rock.

The chess club was founded at the beginning of the spring semester and has grown to approximately six members who return weekly to play. Meetings occur every Monday and Friday from 7-9 p.m. in the David B. Burks American Heritage building in room 209.

"Anyone can join," freshman Tate Allen, president of the chess club, said. "We had people join who had never played chess before, and now they're able to at least play the game. We teach everyone who comes by if they want."

On Saturday, Allen and other members of the club left Searcy around 8 a.m. en route to Christ Episcopal Church, where

the tournament was hosted, which ended at 2 p.m. Each player had 30 minutes of play with a five second delay, meaning they only had five seconds to make their move or it would eat into their play time.

"Well, it was kinda exciting actually going to a tournament instead of playing on your computer," sophomore Steven Whitwell said. "It was a lot more stressful. I felt like I couldn't mess up ... It was stressful, but it was a lot more rewarding."

Whitwell and Allen both played against the person who won the tournament overall, which resulted in their tie for second place. They won \$25, which they split.

Brackett Library director Jean Waldrop became a sponsor for the chess club after Allen asked about reserving a room in the library to play chess in and told her that the group wanted to form an official club. The other club sponsors are special accounts manager Angie Shafer and health science librarian John Boone.

"I think they would like to participate more



Photo provided by Tate Allen

Sophomores Steven Whitwell and Kyle Saelzler play a practice game at Christ Episcopal Church on Feb. 11. Two of the club members, Whitwell and freshman Tate Allen, tied for second place.

in doing some official tournaments," Waldrop said. "I would just encourage students [to come] if they're interested, even if they don't know how to play chess but are interested in

learning. It's a great place to come. They're all very welcoming."

Delta Nu hosts Anti-Valentine's Party



Photo provided by Delta Nu

Members of women's social club Delta Nu at the Anti-Valentine's Day party Feb. 12. The club emphasized a return to their roots with the feminine theme this year.

MORGAN WRIGLEY
student writer

Women's social club Delta Nu celebrated "Anti-Valentine's Day" Sunday, Feb. 12. Members said the celebration looked different this year as the club emphasized a return to its roots.

"It has a big sleepover-type vibe," senior Delta Nu president Allison Wisdom said. "It's getting together and just confiding in each other and being silly with each other."

She added that although the club's beaux will sometimes drop by briefly, the function is solely for the women.

Senior activities directors Chloe Cooper and Claire Cunningham said it was important to them to reclaim the annual tradition this year.

When planning this year's event, they took inspiration from what they remembered from their freshman year.

"Our first Anti-Valentine's Day was very 'slumber party,'" Cooper said. "Women empowerment, just very red, black and pink."

Cunningham said last year's more masculine-themed Anti-Valentine's Day brought an entertaining side of its own as members donned suits and mustaches for the event.

"Normally we try to make it super feminine, but that time, we were like, 'Let's make it masculine and make it funny,'" Cunningham said.

Cooper and Cunningham said the idea of going "back to the roots" of Anti-Valentine's Day is about focusing on embracing femininity and having fun with just the women.

"I would say it's almost like reclaiming femininity and not being afraid to be super feminine," Cunningham said. "... We do a lot of fun, silly things."

A major part of the event is setting aside time to share stories with each other, Cooper and Cunningham said.

"We tell a lot of bad date stories, or funny stories or frustrating stories," Cunningham said.

Cooper said having a safe space to share stories with each other is both empowering and a reminder not to take life too seriously.

"The stories that people tell ... it's like, 'Oh my gosh, that's funny,' but actually, there's a whole lot of heartbreaking stuff behind that," Cooper said. "Just to be able to have a story [like that] and to make it out to something positive and funny for everybody."

Cooper and Cunningham said the core traditions and secrets involved in the celebration are what make it special to the club.

"I think for a lot of people in the club, femininity is definitely valued, but there's almost a fear of feeding into it too much," Cunningham said. "We're all very feminist-centered people, so it can be difficult to balance that."

Cunningham added that Anti-Valentine's Day is meant to be a safe space where members can feel liberated in being feminine.

"It's basically just a time to unleash with the girls," Cooper said. "It is literally just the biggest girls' night out of the year."

TEST YOUR CROSSWORD SKILLS!

- ACROSS**
- Which women's social club hosted an Anti-Valentine's Day function?
 - Name of Michael Matheson Miller's documentary:
 - Where did the chess club travel to?
 - ___ Classic track meet held in Pittsburg, Kansas:
 - Who invented the technique for long-term blood plasma preservation?
 - The BSA hosted preacher Kenneth ___
 - New restaurant in downtown Searcy: North AR ___
 - Bloom Conference theme: When God ___ Your Story
- DOWN**
- How many new breakout chapel programs were introduced?
 - What kind of courts are being built at Berryhill Park?
 - Who does the baseball team play tonight? Southern ___
 - 2006 "American Idol" chapel spoof:
 - Organization behind the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey:
 - HIIT stands for High Intensity ___ Training:
 - What women's social club is being revived? Tri ___ Delta
 - Which university did both tennis teams win against?
 - Who won Super Bowl LVII?

