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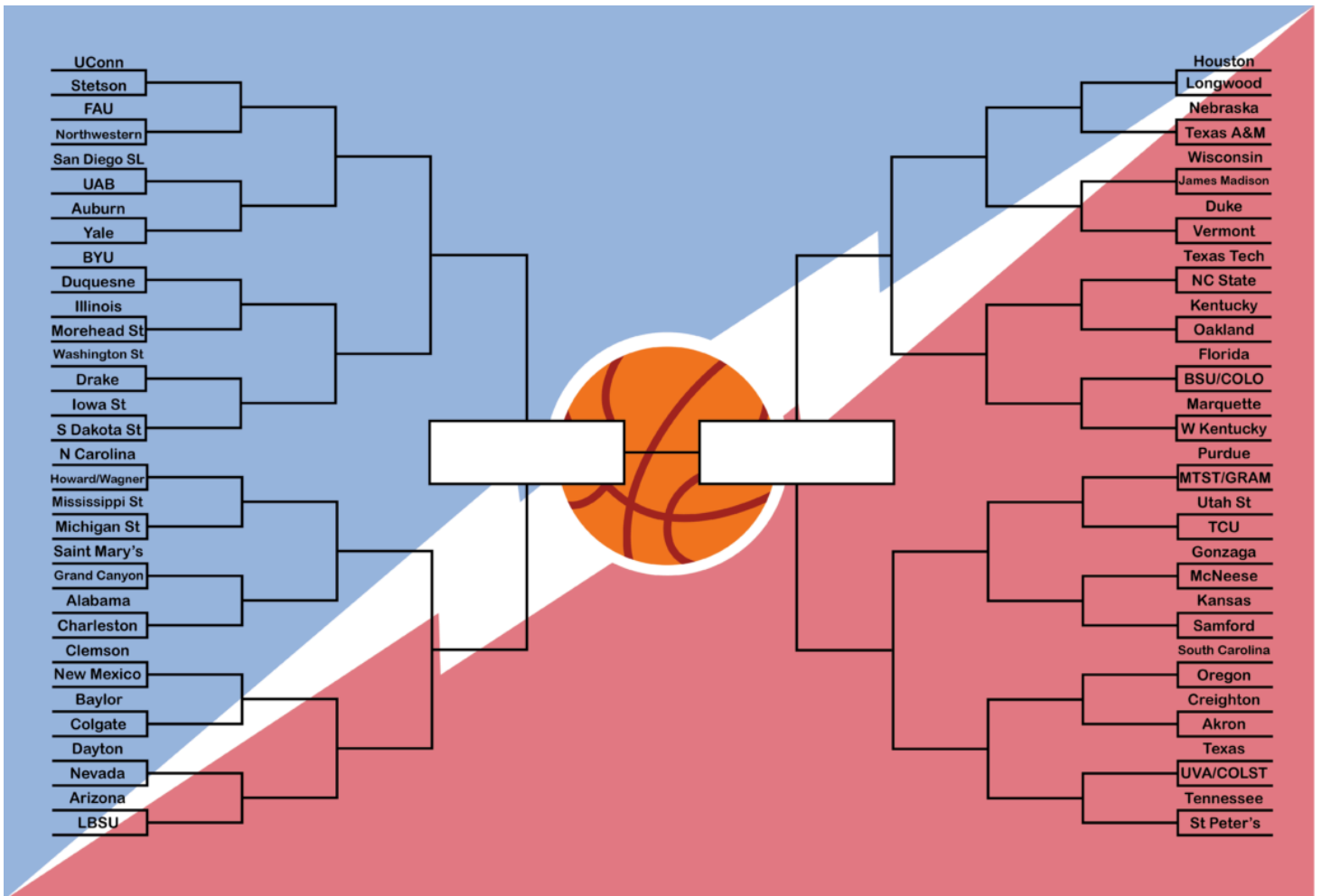
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HARDING
UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS LIFE HOSTS MARCH MADNESS BRACKET CHALLENGE

written by Guest March 21, 2024



Written by Alaina Wolf // Graphic by Ben Evans

Campus Life is hosting a March Madness Bracket Challenge for students to participate in and win prizes. Students of all levels of experience with March Madness are encouraged to participate. Students of all levels of experience with March Madness are encouraged to participate.

Students were able to sign up last week either online or in person at the Campus Life office located in the Student Center to fill out a bracket between March 17 and March 21. The brackets Campus Life provided were the same basketball brackets that were passed out across the nation for this season of March Madness. The challenge applications closed March 21 at 11:15 a.m. Campus Life encouraged all students to participate in this event since it did not cost anything to join in on this activity.

One aspect about this March activity that will keep it competitive is that students will be able to have a visual for whether they are still in the running throughout the competition. Junior Evan Carter, the Campus Life small events director, does not recall Campus Life ever hosting a campus-wide bracket during his time at Harding.

“We will display the brackets, and they can track their progress to see if their bracket has busted or not,” Carter said. “Once your bracket is busted, you can still win something.”

One of the Campus Life sports engagement directors, senior Brenley Colbert, has played a major role in implementing this easy yet engaging activity for the student body.

“We will display them in the Student Center so all students can keep up as the games progress,” Colbert said. “The best bracket will get a jersey from the team of their choice, and the worst bracket will win a Campus Life sweatshirt.”

Coined in 1939, March Madness refers to the annual NCAA college basketball tournament. Although the month is coming to a close, the games will go into the month of April, so there is plenty to look forward to.

Many students have been raised watching these March Madness games and filling out the brackets each spring. One of these students is Campus Life Community and People Director Lynley Eller. Eller shared her excitement for bringing this activity to Campus Life because of her history watching these games.

“I’ve grown up watching March Madness with my family, so I’ve loved it my whole life,” Eller said. “This is a huge reason why I’m excited for our little piece of the fun.”

Although students can no longer enter this challenge, anyone can walk in the Student Center to see whose brackets are still standing.

HARDING EMPLOYEES RECEIVE A RAISE

written by Guest March 21, 2024



Written by Emma McDaris // Photo by Edgar Cardiel

Faculty and staff across Harding's campus received news this week that will directly affect their salary as faculty members, effective immediately.

The University Executive Leadership Team raised the employee salary March 1. This raise came from the administration adjusting salary to 3.4% more to account for the higher cost of living around the country. The University had a better financial year with an increase in enrollment as well as the Centennial events that produced additional funds.

Employees received an email from President Mike Williams that notified them of the raise March 1 and explained the circumstances behind the decision. The raise will be implemented for all new employees as well.

“We are so blessed to have a talented and committed faculty and staff,” Williams said. “Over the last two previous years, inflation has grown 6-7% annually. The growth in the cost of living has placed a tremendous burden on many of our faculty and staff. This salary increase mirrors the increase to the current inflation rate.”

Williams said the salary increase was the best way for the University to consistently show its appreciation to its faculty. This decision showed the administration’s dedication to fairly compensate their employees and maintain a positive work environment.

Amy Cox, an associate professor of Harding’s Art and Design Department, served as president of the Faculty Leadership Council, which advocates and handles communication between the faculty and the administration. She said the council advocated for and supported the decision.

“Compensation is an ongoing focus of the Faculty Leadership Council and the Faculty Welfare Committee,” Cox said. “We greatly appreciate the commitment of the administration to raise pay for all employees.”

Both the faculty and staff were included in the pay raise, which uplifted the entire campus. Cindi Ingram, assistant director in Harding’s Center for Professional Excellence, said she saw this raise as an appreciative gesture that would ease the stress of daily life.

“The salary increase was a positive step toward empowering Harding’s employees to better navigate the escalating costs of living,” Ingram said. “Ensuring that faculty and staff can adequately meet our basic needs and support our families is crucial for our ability to serve students optimally. This increase alleviates some of the strain caused by inflation, enabling us to prioritize student service and enrich the student experience at Harding.”

HARDING PROFESSOR PUBLISHES EVANGELICAL CRITICISM

written by Guest March 21, 2024

SINS OF CHRISTENDOM

**ANTI-MORMONISM AND THE
MAKING OF EVANGELICALISM**



NATHANIEL WIEWORA

Written by Randi Tubbs // Photo provided by Nathaniel Wiewora

Associate Professor of history Dr. Nathaniel Wiewora published his book “Sins of Christendom” this month. Wiewora worked with an editor at the University of Illinois Press who guided the project from a proposal to a completed book.

The lead time for university presses takes longer than trade presses since academic publishing requires peer review approval. Wiewora said he submitted his first manuscript in the fall of 2021.

“The manuscript was reviewed by several expert reviewers,” Wiewora said. “The process is blind review, in the sense that I do not know the reviewers. When their comments came back, I submitted a revised manuscript. That was then copyedited and designed and became the final book, which was published in March 2024.”

The book is based around evangelical criticism of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wiewora said.

“This book uses the diverse animus expressed by evangelicals to illuminate how they used an imaginary Church as a proxy to disagree, attack, compromise and settle differences among themselves,” Wiewora said. “The evangelical practice to contrast itself with the emerging faith not only encompassed but also went beyond religious matters.”

Wiewora explored similar conflicts expressed by attacks on the Latter-day Saints, the Book of Mormon and Nauvoo ideas.

The main audience for the book was historians of evangelicalism, Mormonism and religious intolerance, Wiewora said. It appeals to audiences and readers interested in both evangelicalism and Mormonism, as well as the broader American crowds.

Chair and Associate Professor of history Dr. Shawn Fisher works with Wiewora in their shared department.

“Dr. Wiewora has taught me a lot about anti-Mormonism in the antebellum period and about the ways evangelicals defined themselves to some degree through comparisons with Mormons,” Fisher said. “He is speaking to professional historians, but it is a useful book for anyone interested in the development of Christianity in America.”

Fisher expressed the importance of continued education and exploration of academic professions shown by Wiewora.

“Academics should be constantly working to seek the truth,” Fisher said. “This is an arduous journey, and sometimes, we discover things we would like to share with others. We historians do this mostly by writing. Dr. Wiewora has worked hard in the field to establish himself as an authority, and that process produces the kind of discipline and competency that pays off in the classroom, too.”

Wiewora said he hopes his book will introduce a topic that will leave readers inquiring about how their own religion or the ones discussed can influence lives.

“As a historian of American religion, I am interested in the ways that religion influences people’s lives,” Wiewora said. “This book is about the myriad of ways people use religious intolerance to advance their own religious consequences and the unexpected consequences that follow.”

Wiewora served as visiting faculty on the Harding University in Greece abroad program in fall 2023 with sophomore Abby Davidson. Davidson said she admires Wiewora’s character and teaching.

“He is the kind of teacher that makes sure his students are engaged and are understanding the material,” Davidson said. “He would allow for a space of conversation where we could discuss the sights seen and our feelings about them.”

The official publish date was March 12. Wiewora held an event on campus March 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Holland-Waller commons for the publishing announcement and a signing.

HARDING SOFTBALL CONTINUES WINNING STREAK

written by Guest March 21, 2024



Written by Nic Fraraccio // Photo by Macy Cox

The Harding softball team continued its success last weekend by sweeping Southwestern Oklahoma State University in a three-game Great American Conference series.

The Lady Bisons succeeded at the plate and the circle to complete their second three-game sweep of the season.

Harding's lineup collected 34 hits in three games to power past the Bulldogs. Senior outfielder Jordan Cabana continued her season by tallying eight hits in 10 plate appearances.

Cabana said the goal to be productive in each game has helped change her approach at the plate.

"I think breaking down my swing into 'What can I do to score whoever is on base in front of me?' has really helped us to stay in games," Cabana said.

Along with the lineup's success, Harding's pitching staff handled the Bulldogs offense throughout the weekend. Junior Riley Price, senior Abby Burch and freshman Sarah Phillips held the Bulldogs to five runs in three games.

Burch said the pitchers went "back to the basics" when preparing for the conference series against Southwestern Oklahoma State.

"We had to trust that we would hit our spots and trust that the defense would make the play behind us," Burch said.

With this sweep, the Lady Bisons extended their conference winning streak to 10 games. Harding sits in third place behind Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Arkansas University in the GAC standings.

Despite the recent streak, the Lady Bisons are looking to build on their success as the conference tournament approaches in May.

Junior outfielder Macy Ham said the team's chemistry will test opposing teams as the 2024 season rolls on.

"Everybody wants the same thing. Everybody wants to play for our seniors and give them another game," Ham said. "I think the unity and loyalty of our team is going to carry us through."

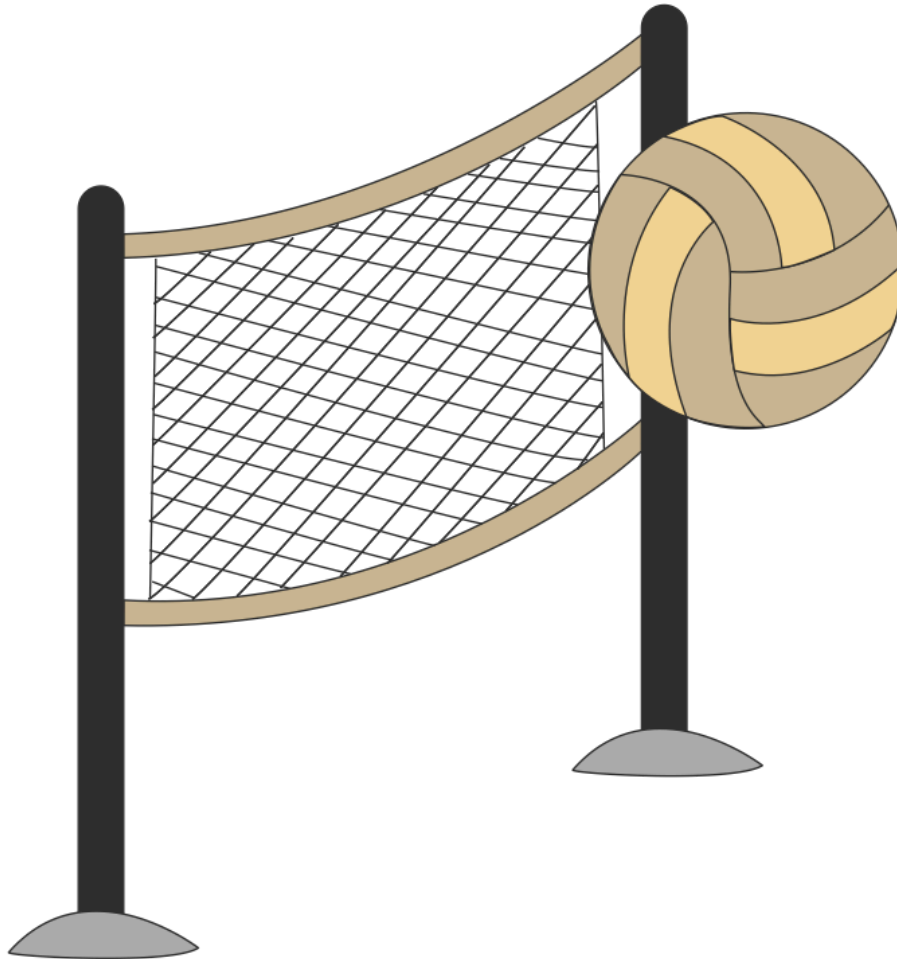
Cabana said the team is still attempting to accomplish goals on the individual and team levels.

"We want it for each other so bad, and I think that is what will make us good this year," Cabana said. "It is super exciting to see us accomplish the goals that we have set for ourselves going into the next couple weekends."

The Lady Bisons travel to Alva, Okla., this afternoon to take on Northwestern Oklahoma State in a three-game conference series. Game one begins March 22 at 1 p.m. Following the regular season, the GAC tournament will begin May 2 in Bentonville, Ark.

MEN'S TRAVEL VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS TOURNAMENT

written by Guest March 22, 2024



Written by Bailey Coffman // Graphic by Wagner Valdez

With the end of the spring sports season approaching, the Harding University men's travel volleyball club competed in the Midwest Plains Volleyball Conference Crossover Tournament in Springfield, Mo., winning the tournament and becoming Division II Gold Bracket champions to begin March. A mix of 32 Division I and Division II men's teams competed in the tournament, making the matchups a "crossover" bracket.

For most of the members, the traveling volleyball team is an opportunity to be with their friends while participating in something they are passionate about, as the team is simply one of the many ways they are involved on campus.

Ben Sloan, a senior athlete on the team, spoke to how much he has enjoyed playing on the club team the past two years.

“I personally, as a senior, have enjoyed my time since this is the last chance I really have to compete at this kind of level before adulthood begins, and I wouldn’t want to do it without my friends on the team,” Sloan said.

The team has had the opportunity to face several experienced teams throughout their season and over the years, many at the Division I level.

“We got to compete against many Division I schools such as the University of Nebraska, Wichita State University and the University of Arkansas, beating all teams in two sets going 7-1 on the weekend [and] coming home the Division II champions,” Sloan said. “We look forward to fighting into Division I in the upcoming tournament in Chicago.”

Although the team is undeniably skilled, the most important thing to the team is the relationships formed while traveling and competing together, said senior Daniel Houser.

“It’s such a blessing to get to play volleyball with this extremely talented group of guys,” Houser said. “We have all been working hard to improve every aspect of our game, so it’s good to see that work come to fruition in this past tournament win for only being our second year as a program.”

Sophomore Joshua Schmidlein also said the team has undeniable chemistry, which he has experienced while playing on the team.

“I’m so proud to be a part of a team that meshes together and upholds Christian values on and off the court,” Schmidlein said. “The tournament was just a fraction of what this program can develop into. Through the support of Harding and our community, we will continue to advance the men’s volleyball team with hopes of NCAA sanctions in the future.”