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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CAR CLUB

written by Guest September 7, 2023



Written by Lauren Simmons // Photo by Morgan Pickering

The HU Car Club started its engines full throttle last week with meet-ups and cruises to begin the new semester. The club scheduled future meetings every Sunday at 3 p.m. for the foreseeable future in the parking lot behind the Benson Auditorium.

The group began last fall when sophomores Morgan Pickering and Ethan Tucker came to Harding as freshmen and discovered a shared love for cars. Tucker said their goal was to find new friends on campus with similar interests and do fun things every weekend.

“We both wanted to start a car club because we didn’t know any other car people on campus,” Tucker said. “I have met a lot of great people, and we are still close friends to this day. The one thing we all have in common is cars. Everyone is a little different, but we can all agree on that.”

The duo created an Instagram page and began advertising the club in hopes that more car enthusiasts could join. Sophomore Sam Brown was one of the first to join the club after he saw a flyer in Harbin Hall. Brown said his interest in cars began over the summer of 2020 when he got his first car while stuck at his house due to COVID-19 social distancing.

“We all click pretty well,” Brown said. “Having that common interest makes it easy to become friends.”

The car club held approximately five meetings last year, according to Tucker, the vice president of the club. The meet-ups usually last around an hour, Tucker said, while the members and new guests talk about different cars and car-related topics. After that, the group piles into their cars and goes for a drive.

“Every meet, we try to go on a cruise around some of the backroads around Searcy in the country,” Tucker said.

“Those are really fun to go on as well. We just find abandoned backroads that nobody drives on, and it’s really fun to drive on those.”

Sophomore Sadie Hoffner, the treasurer of the club, said that her favorite part of the club was getting to know different people as well as learning more about cars.

“I have been introduced into a very new, different world of culture through some of its members,” Hoffner said.

“Specific people I never thought I would ever meet or have the chance to connect with are there to connect over the world of engines, speed and fun. It’s a surprising way to connect to different people from different styles of life and connect through one purpose.”

The car club’s members have taken steps to make the club officially sanctioned by the University and said they hope to see more car enthusiasts in the future.

“We just want it to be bigger,” Brown said. “We want a tight-knit community that is willing to help out other people who need things. You can build each other up and foster that community and have fun. ... If you are into that kind of thing, even just a little bit, we want you to come hang out.”

The HU Car Club members said they welcome all car enthusiasts – with or without a car – to join. Details on future events can be found by following [@hu_cc_](#) on Instagram.

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM HIRES ALUMNUS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

written by Ciannajay September 7, 2023



Written by Cianna Jay // Photo by Jeff Montgomery

The McNair Scholars Program at Harding, a U.S. Department of Education grant program, hired alumnus Dr. Kanembe Shanachilubwa as associate director. The McNair program provides first-generation, low-income and/or underrepresented groups in graduate education with tools to guide them to attain their doctoral degree.

Fresh off completing his doctorate in mechanical engineering in just four years, Shanachilubwa has come equipped for the role. Not only has he brought insight from his time as a McNair student, but also experience working with the program as a peer mentor and administrative assistant the last three summers and research into the postgraduate McNair student experience from his dissertation titled, "The STEM Graduate Student Experience: A Study of Well-Being, Disenchantment and Socialization."

McNair Program Director Lolita Meredith said she has known Shanachilubwa since she started working for the program in 2018. Meredith said that he was one of the first students she met and part of the reason she fell in love with the program. She said he was perfect for the associate director role because of his mix of skills and experience.

“He brings a creative element,” Meredith said. “He brings an experiential element because he’s already done the whole process ... from participating here, doing the workshops, doing the travel, doing the conferences, presenting research. He’s published, and then he went through grad school. ... But the main thing is the human being that you get along with that, as someone who cares about the other students, he wants to know and get involved with them.”

When Meredith heard Shanachilubwa defend his dissertation this past June, she noticed his research aligned with ideas she had been considering about changes to the way the McNair program views success.

“I’m listening to [Shanachilubwa], and he’s explaining how these students actually experienced more well-being when they made decisions that were personally rewarding and personally wise as to what direction they wanted to go, and it wasn’t always a Ph.D. track,” Meredith said. “Kanembe has done research that backs up my premise.”

Meredith said she hopes Shanachilubwa can present his research at a higher level so a policy change can be made. She said this could involve updating the point system used to measure performance, such as offering partial credit to students for achieving an undergraduate degree.

As part of this goal of policy change, Shanachilubwa said one of his responsibilities has been working on the survey the program uses to assess the academic and career developments of students for the 10 years after they graduate.

“One of my first tasks in the office has been kind of revamping the survey instrument that we use to assess and just refining the kind of questions that we ask and asking different sorts of questions that will give us a little bit more data on how we can better serve future cohorts of students,” Shanachilubwa said.

Becoming the associate director made sense for him on many levels, Shanachilubwa said. He said the McNair program has been a huge part of his life, and he can bring insider knowledge of the effect of decisions from a student standpoint.

“I think there are lots of ways we can continue to evolve and shape the program to more closely tailor to the needs of students,” Shanachilubwa said. “I look forward to bringing whatever insight I can and fresh ideas and innovations to the way we do things, from marketing the program to adding value to students.”

Shanachilubwa took a group of students to a conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sept. 6-7 to present their work from their summer research internships. Senior Desiree Johnson, who attended this trip, said Shanachilubwa was kind and knowledgeable as he helped her with her research over the summer.

“If I had to describe Dr. Shanachilubwa, I would describe him as a good hidden book,” Johnson said. “Not too many people know of him, but once you meet and get to know him, there is just so much to learn and unpack, not only about him, but from him as well.”

INTERNATIONAL ART AND DESIGN TRIP HOSTS EXHIBIT

written by Maggiesamples September 7, 2023



Written by Maggie Samples // Photo by Caleb Chunn

An exhibition inspired by a summer international Art and Design Department trip is on display at the Stevens Art Gallery.

Assistant professor of art and design and coordinator of graphic design Ricky Colón said the trip focused on exposure to other cultures and the art they produce. The trip stopped in Greece, Egypt, India and Japan.

“Part of the challenge that we presented to students was, how could you share this experience with people back home?” Colón said. “So, they’re seeing museums, they’re seeing architecture, they’re being exposed to culture and people from all over. So, we wanted to give them a challenge to be creative.”

Colón said the gallery provided outlines for student creativity.

“I just set the ball in motion and presented them with a challenge,” Colón said. “They took it upon themselves to express themselves.”

The theme of the display is “Surrounded.” The idea of being surrounded was something the group talked about during their trip, Colón said.

“As art and design students, we create culture in a way,” Colón said.

Colón said that an abroad trip is important because of the exposure it offers to different cultures and ways of life.

“The world is full of a lot of really good, thoughtful, talented people, and we have a lot to learn,” Colón said. “And I think as Christians, it’s our responsibility to be aware of other cultures, be aware of other ways of thinking, be aware of other ways of doing things and try to honor the beauty that God created when he said, you know, he created in the first few days and it was good. It is good. And if we limit ourselves to just our little community, I think we’re missing out on a lot of really beautiful, wonderful, good things.”

Communication instructor Noah Darnell was another faculty member on the trip. He said the students were a highlight of the trip, because of how small the group was and how close they became throughout the trip.

“I think they had a real experience that allowed them to see that, you know, the design that we do, the art that we do in the West, that is only a small fraction of the quality or the quantity of the type of art that’s being done around the world,” Darnell said.

Junior Cassell Stewart was on the trip, and she said knowing the group would do anything for one another was the part of the trip that meant the most.

“We went all around the world in about five weeks, and it was a whirlwind kind of trip,” Stewart said. “I only really knew a couple people going into this trip, so it was amazing to get to know so many other new people.”

An artistic moment that stood out to Stewart was in India with junior Olivia Williams at the Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula.

“We instantaneously recognized the beauty of the contrast of the morning light and the shadows cast, as well as the intricate detailing on the doorway itself,” Stewart said. “It was kind of funny to be able to share that moment with another artist, and so many moments like that happened on the trip. Artistic styles can be very different, but we all recognize beauty when we see it.”

The art will be on display until Sept. 20.

CAMPUS LIFE OFFERS SPORTS PASSPORTS

written by Guest September 7, 2023



Written by Emma Field // Graphic by Ben Evans

Campus Life introduced a new incentive for undergraduate students to attend NCAA events on campus. As of Aug. 31, students can purchase a sports passport and win prizes for collecting stamps at various athletic events.

Passports can be purchased for \$10 at the Campus Life office. A similar program was once used for other campus events, and Director of Campus Life Jane Chandler has worked to bring it back.

Chandler, who was a student at Harding from 2012-2016, said a similar program was available to students when she attended. She said similar prizes were offered then as well.

“One of my best friends won it in 2013, so once I started in this position, I knew it was something I wanted to look into bringing back,” Chandler said.

Upon arrival at a game, a Campus Life student worker will mark the passport with a red stamp and then a blue stamp at departure. Eligible sports include football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball and softball.

“We are looking into doing a one-time event for the remaining sports that are a little trickier in terms of audience and participation,” Chandler said.

Chandler mentioned the Code Black and Midnight Madness hype rallies. These events are highly anticipated and considered double-stamp events, where students will gain two stamps for attending rather than just one.

“While 40 stamps may sound like a lot, there are over 90 home sporting events this year,” Chandler said. “Between the frequency and the double-stamp games, I think it is more achievable than people might realize.”

To follow along with the various events, physical schedules are in the Campus Life office or students can follow @hardingcampuslife on Instagram for weekly updates.

Freshman Ella Fox said she looks forward to the season ahead.

“I played basketball for a while, so I really like basketball,” she said. “I would also probably go see a football game because it’s fun to cheer.”

Sophomore Jiles Burnham said he also anticipates a busy athletic season.

“I think the sports passport is a great idea,” Burnham said. “It’ll drive attendance and promote student camaraderie.”

Passports must be submitted to the Campus Life office by Friday, April 12. Winners will be announced the following week.

The rewards are as follows:

20 stamps: Meal card to be used anywhere on campus

30 stamps: Exclusive T-shirt

36 stamps: Bluetooth speaker

40 stamps: Entrance into Grand Prize giveaway

3rd Place: \$100 Amazon gift card (three winners)

2nd Place: Apple AirPods Pros (two winners)

Grand Prize: Free study abroad trip

HARDING FOOTBALL RETURNS READY TO RUMBLE

written by Guest September 7, 2023



Written by Eli Dean // Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Harding football started their season last Thursday against Southern Nazarene University on the road but now begin preparations for the first home game of the season.

Junior running back Blake Delacruz led the offense in the 53-20 victory with four rushing touchdowns in the opening game, making him the eighth Harding player to accomplish the feat in school history. Delacruz said he is confident in the team's ability to score on the offensive side of the ball.

"We have a great group of guys that can make plays at any point in the game," Delacruz said. "It was really just a great feeling to help out the team in the best way I could, but none of that success would have happened without my guys up front. Landon [Ray], Hunter [Willis], Levi [Pate], Austin [Toler] and Jake [Dugger] do such an amazing job. It makes my job just that much easier."

The passing game didn't play much of a factor in the win, as Harding completed two passes the whole game, but that was largely due to the early 35-0 halftime lead and the need to keep the clock rolling. That has been a theme in recent years, as the Bisons only had one game last year with more than five completed passes.

Delacruz said he believes the contributions the offense made in the first game will continue during this week's home game.

"I hope to see that momentum continue to next week for the entire offense," Delacruz said. "We have a great group of guys that really care about each other, so I believe we will be prepared."

While the offense side of the ball was key in the win, a stronger defensive showing helped seal the victory. After only forcing 12 turnovers last season, the Bisons came out strong with six in the season opener. Sophomore linebacker Clark Griffin led the defense in tackles.

"I think it says a lot about how we prepare week in and week out and our game planning by our coaching staff," Griffin said. "Being in the right spot to make plays and force turnovers is a big testament to the game planning and the play calling by our coaches."

After the nearly five-and-a-half-hour road trip to Bethany, Oklahoma, the team is ready to be within walking distance of First Security Stadium next Saturday. Senior defensive back Ahmad Butler said he wants a full house to show support for the team as they look toward a bowl appearance this season.

"One thing I'm looking forward to the most in our first game is the moral support from our fan base," Butler said. "Coming back from a road game with the stands filled with people there to support us is big and will give us all a boost in this upcoming game."

HARDING CAMPUS LIFE HOSTS TAYLOR SWIFT LISTENING PARTY AND COSTUME CONTEST

written by Guest September 8, 2023



Written by Camille White // Graphic by Makayla McDonald

The Eras deTour, a Taylor Swift listening party organized by Campus Life, took place Friday, Sept. 1, from 9 p.m. until midnight at the Anthony Wright Administration Building. The event was free and open to the public, with around 120 participants.

Campus Life encouraged students to dress in their best Eras Tour outfits. Three individuals were awarded the best dressed and received official Taylor Swift merchandise of their choice: sophomore Marah Davis and freshmen Jayda Mullins and Emma Ramsey.

Director of Campus Life Jane Chandler said she got the inspiration for the Eras deTour after seeing Taylor Swift in concert in April and going to a similar listening event in Little Rock this past May. Chandler said after the Eras deTour was approved by Harding, she checked with their entertainment contract to ensure they were not violating any copyright laws.

“A lot of people didn’t get to go to [The Eras Tour],” Chandler said. “And so, you can’t recreate it in person, but this is at least kind of the next best thing.”

While the Eras deTour was planned for Harding students, it was free for all. Chandler said after announcing the event, alumni and local high school students were interested in attending as well.

“You can kind of appreciate her at whatever stage [in life] you’re at,” Chandler said.

When people entered the Anthony Wright Administration Building, they were handed a glow stick bracelet. Additionally, they were given the opportunity to take photos at 10 photo booths, each representing a Taylor Swift era. In the auditorium, the overhead lights were turned off, but floor lights in different colors also represented each album.

“This event has made me just feel very pretty, and all the girls I have seen feel very pretty,” said freshman Bonnie Permenter. “And it’s just so fun to be able to show what we are interested in and make friends with it.”

Senior Brenley Colbert, sports engagement director for Campus Life, said she was excited that the community wanted to get involved.

“Campus Life is stepping up in such a direction, and we’re just very aware of what’s going on in the world and how we can kind of play to that,” Colbert said.

Colbert said Campus Life may host future listening parties for other famous musicians, depending on the feedback from the Eras deTour.