

# the Spectator

Christopher Linnin



THE STUDENT ESTABLISHED & OPERATED NEWSPAPER OF MCPHERSON COLLEGE



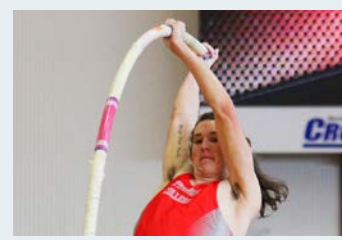
Students Participant in On-Campus Gambling

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## Bulldog Mascot Competition Won by McPherson Alumni

BY JORDYN LIPE  
SPECTATOR STAFF

After several years McPherson College opened a competition for the new face of campus

Entries for the contest of the new Ben the Bulldog were accepted Oct. 9 through Nov. 30, 2015, after meeting a series of requirements.

Since 2004, McPherson College had been represented by a bulldog designed by MC alum Darren Hendricks, while he was Director of Communications for McPherson College '02-'08.

Guidelines for the entries included using the original MC colors of red, black, and gray, as well as the forbidding of any text used in the design.

The contest was opened to not only the students but also all faculty, staff, alumni, and community member.

"There was a strong voice wanting a new bulldog and this contest offered an opportunity for people to show their support," stated Colleen Gustafson, Promotions and New Media Manager.

"We wanted to see it as a way to bring back and build Bulldog Pride which plays a big part in the McPherson College community."

Many entries were received in various mediums including pen, graphic design, paint, and pencil.

Once the contest closed, a committee of 24 students, staff, faculty, and alumni were asked to choose their top ten and under favorites from all entries.

After their decision was made, Gustafson, along with the help of Brian Lundberg, Director of Marketing, sorted through the choice to find the common denominators within the group. Voting was then opened to the public online for the final winner.

There were 893 online votes which were comprised of 214 students, 594 alumni, and 85 faculty. Gustafson noted that there was a prominent winner though the next four finalists didn't fall far behind.

The reveal of Evan Hiebert's winning design was held on Saturday, Feb. 6, after the women's basketball game.



(Center) Evan Hiebert, '14 alumni, at bulldog reveal with (Right) Dr. Schneider and contest finalists.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hiebert, graduate of McPherson College '14, was awarded the \$1,000 prize though he showed his pride for Mc's use of his design as the official mascot for years to come.

With the change of mascot, the initial phasing out of the old design has already began.

The first phase simply focuses on replacing the old design wherever it may

be found. The marketing department has already began taking steps towards trademarking and registering the new design.

Transitioning into a new mascot will come in phases

as expenses will be planned with the current budget in mind. One of the major focuses in the first phase is to get the new design more known and in the faces of potential students.

## Art Given Home at Local Museum



BY ALAINA JOHNSON  
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

The McPherson Museum is showcasing an exhibit of the McPherson USD 418 106-year-old Art Collection.

Carl Smalley, who was a seed dealer in McPherson, started the McPherson Art Collection.

Smalley and his friend Birger Sandzen, an artist from Lindsborg, both thought art was important for children to be exposed to.

Smalley and Sandzen started having art shows, in which their friends who were famous artists would donate art for the children to sell to then buy more art.

In 1910 the first art exhibition featured 25 pieces and took place in a classroom at the high school.

Even though the annual art exhibitions came to an end in the mid-1930s, the McPherson art collection was ranked second in the nation for art schools in 1935.

"The art work hung in the schools. I went to school here, but the schools never talked about the art," said.

Anna Ruxlow, director of McPherson Museum and former director of alumni at McPherson College.

Not all of the art was hung in the right places; some art would get left in an attic or basement when not on display or moving to

different locations.

"The schools didn't know what they had until the Art Alliance Committee got together and started preserving it," Ruxlow, said.

Sandzen has many pieces on display at the museum ranging in mediums from oils to sketches. He was from Lindsborg KS where there is now a Memorial Gallery in his honor.

One of the pieces of art that was donated by the McPherson High School class of 1916 is "A Prayer for Rain" by Oscar Jacobson.

This painting was on exhibit last summer at the University of Oklahoma in the prestigious Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. This particular piece was chosen because Jacobson is famous in Oklahoma.

Not all art pieces in the collection are on display at the McPherson Museum. Some are hung up in the elementary schools and others are in storage.

The collection has reached nearly 200 pieces of art today.

Some featured artists include, Birger Sandzen, Charles Rogers, Edmund M. Koppitz and Oscar Jacobson.

The McPherson Museum is located at 1111 E. Kansas and is open Tuesday through Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. College students with a student I.D. admission cost is three dollars.

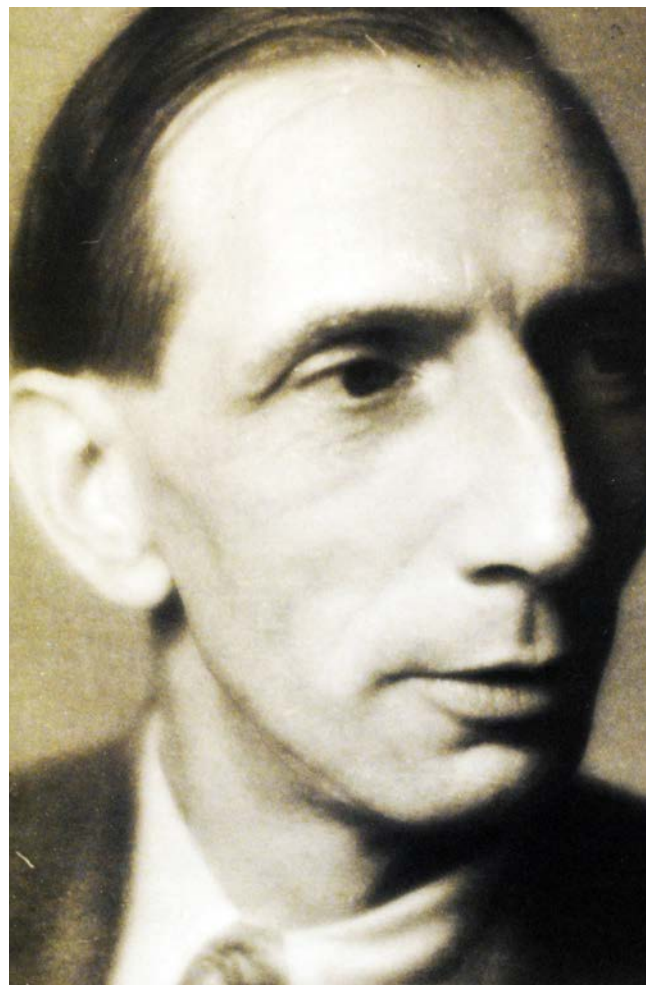


Executive Director, Anna Ruxlow, stands by "A Prayer for Rain" collected by the MHS class of 1916.



Part of the art collected started in 1910 by McPherson students.

PHOTOS BY  
TESSA SZAMBECKI



Local art dealer, Carl Smalley.

PHOTO BY  
TESSA SZAMBECKI

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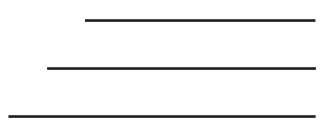
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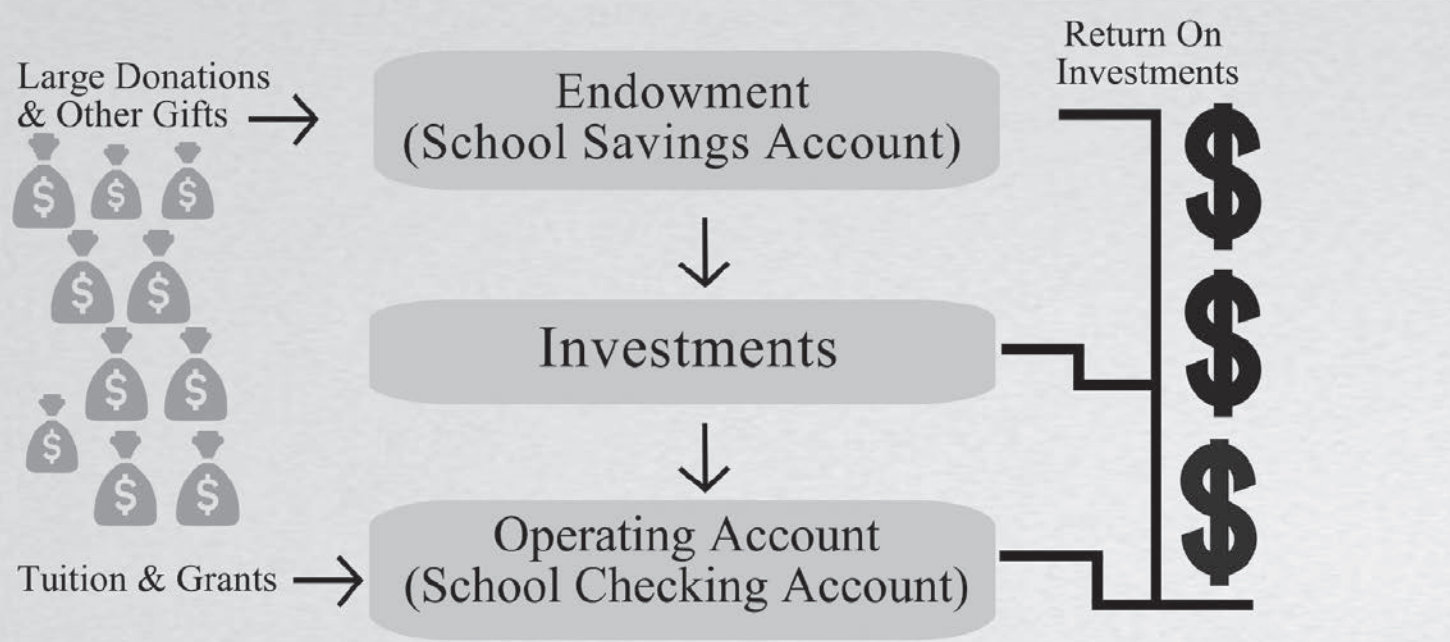


## WONDERS OF CAMPUS

BY CHANNING WALL  
NEWS EDITOR

### How Do Endowment Funds Work?

Endowment Funds are used for two goals, increasing principal and creating a steady flow of income. The money put in is paid back in a small percentage each year for things like operations, activities and programs.



#### Who Makes Decisions?

Board Of Trustees	Investment Committee	Investment Officer	Fund Manager
All say in final decisions.	Develops strategy and appoints officer.	Hires Managers to evaluate career performance.	Selects investments and reports status.



Colleges and universities are big investors, it's estimated that their combined assets equal over \$400 billion.

## Political Race Continues and Tensions Rise

BY AUSTIN ATKINS  
SPECTATOR STAFF

To the uninitiated the system of electing a national leader seems to be a bit chaotic. The only information that is widely known about a candidate in many cases is obscene, offensive or otherwise peripheral to what their integral message or intent truly is.

In order to understand how this election will affect the students and staff of McPherson as well as the U.S. in general, everybody must first look at the contenders.

Since McPherson lies within a historically conservative stronghold, the first look should be at those vying for the GOP Nomination. Donald

Trump, often known as an actor and producer, is the current frontrunner for the Republican nomination following a substantial win in the New Hampshire primaries.

Trump is accompanied by a host of hopefuls including the likes of Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. It should be noted that most of these individuals share similar opinions on issues concerning women's rights, immigration and economic regulations.

These are all important topics, but another that is of high regard to college students and the young adult population is addressed by the democratic candidates.

Both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have vowed to increase the affordability of secondary education if

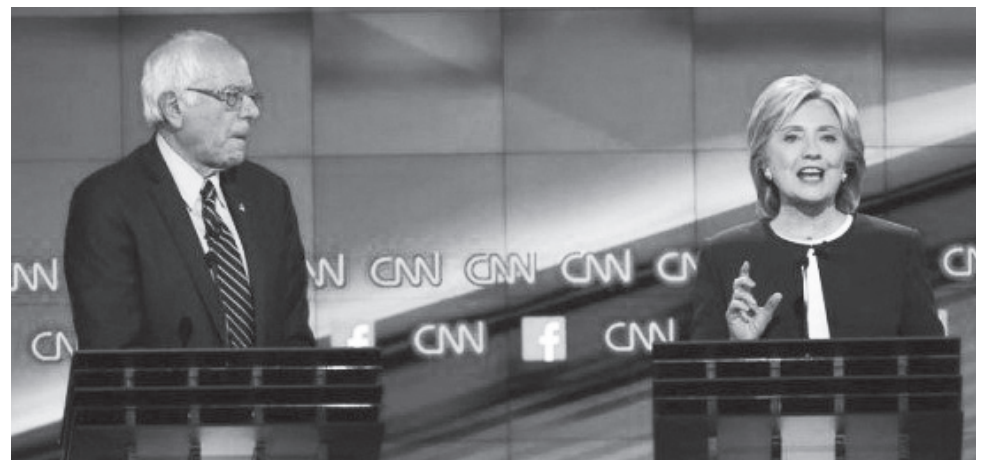
elected president.

This may come as a welcome relief to any current or future college student who is concerned about the affordability of creating a better life for themselves.

Trump has stated his discontent for the Common Core curriculum standards in K12 institutions and promises to limit funding for the Department of Education entirely.

In opposition to Trump, Sanders has previously supported the proliferation and promotion of public schools and continues to advocate for lower interest rates on federal student loans.

"How do you think this upcoming presidential election will affect you and this institution?" and "Do



Bernie Sanders and Hilary Clinton during a CNN debate.

you favor any candidate so far?" were questions McPherson College students were asked in order to learn their perspective.

"I don't care for any of the candidates, especially for Hillary and Trump," Casey Zimmerman, freshman, said

when asked who he would prefer to be elected.

For many of the students at McPherson, politics is a concern that goes unnoticed as if the ability to be included in the democratic process is somehow relegated to an older

generation.

It remains to be seen whether this mindset will continue to perpetuate itself across campus in the coming months as this election will undoubtedly shape many aspects of student lives as it progresses.

## Coffee Shop Merged Local Business Buys The Well

BY MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The beginning of February brought about a new change on Main Street in McPherson.

The Cake Lady, which is owned and operated by Michelle Unruh, purchased The Well from Central Christian College (CCC). Unruh both received the keys to The Well and opened on Feb. 1, keeping The Well from ever closing.

The Cake Lady moved into the same building as The Well, merging two businesses into one. Previously, CCC owned The Well and often had their students as workers.

The Presidential Opportunity Challenge allowed CCKK students to work for an extremely reduced tuition cost with the agreement that they would work a certain number of hours weekly.

The program will not apply to The Well any longer.

"My experience has been great so far," Julia Berger,

freshman who recently started working at The Well, said.

"Michelle (the Cake Lady) has done an excellent job of taking over The Well and making sure the customers experience is good while they are there. I think it's great that the two companies have joined together. I've seen a huge increase in the sales of baked goods and how her customers are now coming to The Well for coffee as well."

Sam Edwards, a barista who was working at The Well before the changes, noted that the two businesses coming together was a good decision.

"Overall it's been great," Edwards said. "There is more business, good feedback and the costumers are happy."

The same costumers that went to the Cake Lady still come here and are happy that they have more options."

The Well is located at 101 N. Main St. and is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.



## May Term Class Offers England Trip

BY LAYNE HIGGINS  
SPECTATOR STAFF

J.D. Bowman, former actor and associate professor of theatre at McPherson College, will be taking ten people to London, England for the May term class. The trip is from May 18-24.

This April was the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death; therefore, the class will be able to have a chance to learn about the famous writer. Shakespeare's most popular works include "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet" before he

became a world-renowned playwright.

During the class, everyone will get the chance to travel to Shakespeare's birth town, Stratford-upon-Avon, which is along the banks of the River Avon, even though he grew up in Tudor. The trip will cost around

3000 dollars. Included in this trip are all of the traveling expenses, lodging, theatre shows and various other attractions, such as the Stonehenge and the London Eye. The course is entitled The Shakespeare Experience.

"The trip gives students a

chance to learn a little about one of the world's most famous writers, as well as being able to travel to see a different culture," Bowman said.

Even though this is through the school, the trip is also open to community members and alumni of the

college. This trip would be a great experience, even if it does only revolve around certain majors. Anyone interested in traveling with Bowman can contact him at bowmanj@mcpherson.edu.

## Clinic Provides Health Care to Community On Campus Physicians Prove to Make a Positive Impact



BY TERRANCE GRANT  
SPECTATOR STAFF

When it comes to Partners in Family Care, it is about the patients. Partners in Family Care is a privately-owned health care provider that operates in central Kansas. Some of the locations Partners in Family Care has are in Hesston, Inman, McPherson and Moundridge. The goal that everyone at Partners in Family Care has is committing to improve the health and well-being of their communities and staff with compassion, competence and integrity.

When Partners in Family Care was reopened for the students this school year, there were expectations placed upon them to do well. Normally, the clinic is for McPherson College students, but also they accept non-students as well.

"I am glad and believed we lived up to the high expectations for us," Ashlee

Pauls, PA-C, and the doctor at the clinic, said. "I'm happy we can help more than just students here."

During this school year there have been a lot of people coming in for a number of different things. "Now that the school year has been going on I can honestly say that it has been a 50-50 ratio between students and the public," Pauls said.

Being that the clinic is very busy throughout the week, Pauls feels that there are some things that are needed for the clinic to be even more successful.

"I feel that we need a secretary as soon as possible. With so many students and non-students coming in, walk-ins are fine but appointments work the best and a secretary will help it run smoothly," Pauls said.

The hours for the clinic are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PHOTO BY  
ALAINA JOHNSON

A nurse and Ashlee Pauls, P.A.-C., pose by the front door of the Partners in Family Care on-campus health clinic. The health clinic hosted an open house last spring to celebrate their new location in the Hess Apartment complex.

## Basketball Teams Encourage Bible Study

BY ADRIAN CARSON  
SPECTATOR STAFF

The McPherson College men's and women's basketball teams have started a bible study that they host every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Sport Center. The idea of having weekly bible study sessions came from members of both teams with the desire to bring people

together. The first session took place on Feb. 9. The group hopes that the bible study session will continue to grow and receive more attendees.

"I think a bible study is great to have on campus," Jared Whitten, junior forward on the men's basketball team, said when asked about the new

outlet on campus. "Being a Christian-based college, it provides a great way to bring the teams together through faith."

Students began to spread the word about the bible study, and have had a growing interest.

"It's been going great so far, we've slowly been getting more people and

making very good progress on our topics," Whitney Jefferson, senior guard on the women's basketball team, said. "You'd be surprised at some of the things people have to say and how much we have in common."

"I am not too familiar with the history of FCA (Fellowship of Christian

Athletes), but I started going to the bible study here at school because I heard it was Christians who were involved with sports," Scarlet Rodriguez, freshman guard on the women's basketball team, said. "I had a teammate encourage me to come and see how it was, and I love it. I honestly enjoy going every Tuesday

night, and encourage others to come."

The feeling of being welcomed is one of the main things the Bulldogs wanted to stress. The bible study sessions welcome all of campus.

## THE CAMPUS CALENDAR FEBRUARY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ST. MARY'S @ 5 P.M. MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ST. MARY'S @ 7 P.M.
21	22 BANANA BREAD DAY IN DINING HALL	23	24	25	26 END OF FIRST FIVE WEEKS	27
28 NATIONAL CHILI DAY IN DINING HALL	29					

# Campus Participates in Casino Night



BY RYAN KRESKY  
COPY EDITOR

Casino Night was an event that took place at McPherson College to bring students together. The Student Activities Board (SAB) hosted Casino Night in Mingenback Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 17, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event was free and any student could come and participate with their friends. Over 100 students came to the event to try their hand at gambling, while SAB members helped run the tables and booths.

Two different emails were sent out before the event, asking students to come well-dressed to earn extra cash.

"It is a great way to hang out with my friends," Deiah Curtis, sophomore, said. "This gave us a reason to dress up and to have fun."

PHOTOS BY  
ALAINA JOHNSON

There were nine student members, one residential advisor and voluntary faculty members who helped with the event.

"It has been a well-established tradition at the college," Jamie Pjesky, resident director for Dotzour Hall and director of student activities, said.

Pjesky and SAB planned the event, bought the prizes, and had concessions for students.

"Before the event, Jamie purchased all of the prizes," Joshua White, junior and student who worked on Casino Night, said.

"She also contacted the company that provided the poker tables and sent out advertisements of the event talking about the event." He also commented that the event has been going on for at least seven years.

Throughout the event, students gathered at poker tables, a craps table and

a roulette table with each student provided fake money so they could participate. The amount given was \$5,000, however if they were dressed well then the student was given an extra \$1,000.

Towards the end of the event, the students were asked to turn in their chips and extra cash to receive tickets so they could enter to win the prizes offered. Students were able to choose which prizes they took their chances on. Some of the prizes included a snack pack, some gift cards to Applebee's and Hibbett Sports, a movie pack, a Bluetooth speaker, a laundry pack, 32 inch flat screen television and an X-Box One bundle pack.

The winners of the flat screen and X-Box One were Matthew Bryan, senior, and Hector Carrillo, sophomore, respectively.



## McPherson College Theatre Presents "The Mousetrap"



BY MARISSA PATTON  
SPECTATOR STAFF

"This is going to sound insane," Eric Johnson, McPherson College alumnus, said. "But you just pick little themes and go with it."

Johnson is the director for "The Mousetrap," opening March 5-6 in Brown Auditorium. Unlike the previous three plays where settings have been unusual, Johnson wants the set of "The Mousetrap" to be much like that of the original London set.

"I was at a second-hand store and I found this amazing pair of 1940s shoes, brand new," Johnson said. "The buckle was golden, and I knew I had to build a show around these shoes."

Last year, when the meeting to decide the 2015-2016 seasons was held, Johnson was quick to choose "The Mousetrap."

Johnson said they wanted to mix up the genres for the season, explaining why Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" was set in a pirate's cove, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" was on the drawing board of Charles M. Schulz, "The Great Cross Country Race" had a steam-punk theme and the next play, "Hotel Paradiso," will be set in New Orleans. Johnson wanted to have a very classic performance of "The Mousetrap."

Deiah Curtis, sophomore, said that she likes the idea of the set being in London. "It's very true to the original," Curtis said. "It's fun to hear everyone with different accents."

Curtis plays Mollie Ralston, who runs the boarding house where the murder mystery takes place.

This will be Curtis's first college performance, but she has experience with the theater.

"I'm super excited for the way my character role is," Curtis said. "She is very intricate and very versatile. Characters like her are always the best to play."

"I'm also nervous that everyone I know is coming to the show both nights," Curtis said. "This is my first college performance and I have the lead role. I'm both excited and nervous, because you want to do a good job."

Johnson stresses that the quality of the show is not strictly limited to the performance itself, but to the environment around the viewers.

"It's very important to me that the sound comes from the set," Johnson said.

He has a commitment to keep the audience engaged with the performance. He already has a wind machine ready to go behind scenes. Rather than using the microphones to pick up the actors, Johnson plans to have them used for sound effects.

"We are planning to set up a machine to cover the actors in snow that would melt as the scene goes on," Johnson said.

"The Mousetrap" is the longest, continuously running play production in history. It first opened in London 1952 and has continuously run ever since. And like the original, our actors ask for the audience to not reveal the surprise ending after leaving Brown Auditorium. So if you know the ending, please keep it to yourself.

PHOTO BY  
MARISSA PATTON

(Upper left) Ashley Burch, freshman, (Middle) Deiah Curtis, sophomore, and (Right) Joshua Hall, junior, act out a scene during rehearsals. (Lower left) Ashley Burch, freshman, (Middle) Aubrey Hollinger, sophomore, and (Right) Joshua Hall, as they rehearsal.

# MISSION FEATURE

SCHOLARSHIP • PARTICIPATION • SERVICE



BY CAITLYN BLAGRAVE  
SPECTATOR STAFF

Lauren Wankum is a sophomore majoring in business/accounting and finance who keeps her days busy by helping others, working an internship, and juggling school.

Although she grew up in Manhattan, she graduated high school from McPherson High School. During her senior year of high school, she began running with the McPherson College cross-country and track and field teams. This led to her recruitment from Cameron Magnall, head cross-country coach, and a commitment to run at the college post-graduation. Wankum currently is running an average of about 50 miles per week, which is a large time commitment and a step up from her high school days.

Wankum has shown great improvement in her early years of college and has not allowed injuries to hold her back.

Not only does she run cross-country and track and field, she is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, has an internship at Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, & Loyd, attends church service every week, and cares for her five younger siblings.

At her internship with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, & Loyd, where she has worked for nearly two years, she manages the project department for creating budgets for the public entities, such as counties, cities, and fire districts. She also makes sure that all of the W-2s and 1099s get sent out before tax season. She averages roughly eight hours a week during the school year and works full-time over the summer.

Wankum attends church services every week at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Here, she is involved with leading Catholic Youth Ministries every Wed. This also leads into her being actively involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which meets every Wed. at 12:15 in the Student Union.

To top it off, Wankum often helps her parents care for her five younger siblings.

"My family is what brings me joy," said Wankum.

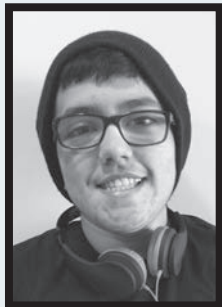
Wankum has not only shown success off the field, but she maintains her grades as well. Last semester Wankum was listed on the McPherson College Honor Roll. She is also set to graduate a year early and plans to attend graduate school post-graduation.

Through her participation on the cross-country and track and field teams, FCA, her internship, and ministry work, it is clear to see that Wankum embodies the McPherson College mission: Scholarship, Participation, and Service.

Lauren  
Wankum

PHOTO BY  
JONATHAN ULRICH

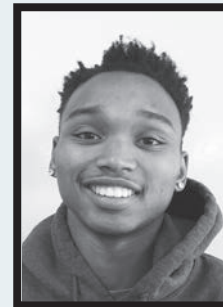
## WORD AROUND MAC : What Do You Think of the New Bulldog Mascot?



"I really like it, I think it makes it more fierce."  
-Gabe Padilla, senior



"I like it better than the old one, it looks more aggressive."  
-Megan Rocky, junior



"It's awesome! I like that it looks more scary"  
-Chris Crook, junior

"It's a good change. Our old one was out of date. Now we look more fierce than the high school."  
-Jasmine Himes, junior



"I think it is a lot cleaner and looks more modern. It is simpler and updated."  
-Jessie Neher, junior



"I think it was a good change, I like that it looks meaner."  
-Molly Kelley, junior



## Is it the Hair, His Claims, Or..?

A Student's View on the Republican Front-Runner, Donald Trump

BY ADRIAN CARSON  
SPECTATOR STAFF

It has to be the hair because how else can you explain Donald Trump's rise in political popularity?

Myself, I am not a Donald Trump fan. However, his rise through the political landscape is a fascinating one.

The go-to response I

hear from Donald Trump supporters is he speaks his mind and has no filter in the light of a politically correct era.

This is all good, but the old man I met in Denny's last week did the same thing, and I am sure we are not going to be sending him into the Oval Office anytime soon.

So besides his brash, take

no prisoners attitude, what else does Trump have going for him?

Is it the fact that he is a billionaire and knows how to manage money?

Well, that can't be it because he has filed for bankruptcy multiple times, oops.

He is not even a candidate that I, personally, can rationalize getting behind

because he is not a part of the political machine.

He lies just as much as any politician in Washington D.C., so much that PolitiFact named Donald Trump the 2015 Lie of the Year.

PolitiFact gave Trump a score of 1% true, meaning out of all of the promises and or statements he has made on the political trail to the White House, only

one answer could be backed up by facts and considered 100% fact.

He also has a 40% false rating and a 19% pants on fire rating.

I am not saying you should take PolitiFact as gospel considering every news outlet these days seem to have an agenda, but PolitiFact does seem to attack politicians equally

when they can prove that false statements were made.

I know this is probably said around college campus every election cycle, but your vote matters and it is important no matter what your views are.

Learn all you can about all the candidates and let your voice be heard this election season.

## There's a New Bulldog on Campus

McPherson College Has Updated to a New Bulldog Mascot

BY ALLIE HICKS  
SPECTATOR STAFF

A new Bulldog, Why? That was the same question I asked myself when Colleen Gustafson, promotions and new media manager, first reached out to me about being a part of the process.

The more I thought about it, the more I began to look at our old Bulldog and see that it was definitely time for an update.

If you are one to just

be in it for a free t-shirt, I urge you to reevaluate your stance.

The countless hours of planning, organizing, designing and implementing a stunt like creating a new mascot, not to mention inspiring college students to actually participate in campus events, is surely something to appreciate and admire.

Our new Bulldog is much more than just a nifty recreation of a canine we

awkwardly accept as our symbol upon being accepted to McPherson College—this is our unifier.

We are a melting pot of students, staff and faculty from all different parts of the world, all of which participate in something different and add something special to this campus we call our home away from home.

But what is the one thing we all have in common?

Well, we are all Bulldogs.

Now, not only are we all Bulldogs, but we are all Bulldogs that finally look more fierce than our Bullpups down the road.

We have a unifying symbol that we can be proud of, not just because we finally stand up to the Bullpups, but because this symbol was created by one of our own, voted on by us and decided by us.

Now that is exciting. Every time I see our new Bulldog or slip on my

(rather soft) free t-shirt, I can fully appreciate the design process of this wonderful creature I identify with.

For many years to come, I will be able to look back at my time at McPherson College and say I was a student that helped decide on this timeless symbol.

Don't be excited just for the free t-shirt, but be excited that we have a school that actually values our input, which is way

more than you can say for large state schools.

Our new Bulldog is symbolic in more ways than one.

On a side note, if you run into Colleen Gustafson, I highly suggest a thanking her for all her hard work in giving us a Bulldog we can be proud of. As always, it's a great day to be a (new) Bulldog!

## Balancing School and a Personal Life A Life Taken Too Soon Causes Appreciation For What You Have

BY CHANNING WALL  
NEWS EDITOR

I once saw a post that said, "The only thing I learned about being an adult is to hoard plastic bags inside of other plastic bags and to feed people if they're at your house."

While I've learned a few other things along the way, hopefully most have, it's a comical reminder of how much of adulthood is straight winging it.

We aren't ever really prepared for the unexpected,

good or bad. This week was a little rough on the unexpected front.

Jess was a friend of mine from William Jewell College who has unfortunately become a reminder of how delicate life can be.

As I struggled to find a balance between responsibilities and grieving for a few days, I wondered how to find closure for a life lost too soon.

I found it helpful to let myself feel the emotions, instead of trying to suppress them and deny myself the

acceptance I'd have to keep on trucking.

Her passing also reminded me to always go for the adventure but never to take things too seriously, nothing is that big of a deal.

Keeping the big picture in mind is sometimes hard but it helps me to take a step back and look at a situation more objectively.

Nothing is worth the amount of worry we give it, worrying is as useful as trying to solve algebra by chewing bubble gum.

That comes from a great

song called, "Everybody's Free to Wear Sunscreen." It is a great song to listen to every once in a while because he reminds us that reading beauty magazines will only make us feel ugly and how the battle we face is only with ourself in the end.

Although, it's definitely easier said than done, I worry too much but I realize I need to take some of my own advice.

With that said, standing up for your beliefs is important, and so is having the right information to do so.

Don't let people stomp on your feelings, but know what battles to pick.

Having the facts and details to back up your beliefs shows you aren't ignorant and are capable of using your resources productively.

The reality of the world and what it is, or isn't, can be overwhelming; and trying to develop or find individuality regardless of the outside forces can feel impossible but individual thinking is what frees us from labels.

Time for clearing your mind of all the real world muck is important, sometimes it can be a little scary to do but it's important to keep a level head.

I suppose the overall message is a little cliché, but I think the circumstances call for a reminder not to take things for granted.

Never underestimate the power of a smile and the friend you can be for someone.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Any student, staff or faculty member can submit a letter to the editor to potential be published in The Spectator. Letters should be limited to 350 words in length. The letter must be accompanied by the signature of the author; letters may not be sent anonymously.

Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling, content or length. The Spectator staff reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

All letters should have a point that is constructive or contributes to the enhancement of the McPherson College community; The Spectator staff will not print libelous material.

Anyone can submit a letter to the editor at any time so long as the time of publication is not vital to the author.

Letters can be printed and submitted directly to any member of The Spectator editorial staff or emailed directly to the Editor-In-Chief at [spectator@mcperson.edu](mailto:spectator@mcperson.edu).

## Baseball Takes Their First Bat of the Season Bulldogs Start Their Season in Texas Successfully

BY TYLER BAILEY  
SPECTATOR STAFF

The Bulldog baseball team traveled to Hobbs, N.M., to open up their season on Feb. 6. The Bulldogs split a four-game series with the University of the Southwest Mustangs and then followed that performance up with a three-game series against Dordt College of Iowa. The Bulldogs hold a 3-4

record heading into the third week of their pre-conference schedule.

Controversy surrounding the team following the resignation of Head Coach Shawn Powell has not dampened the spirits of the team.

"The guys have done a great job," Interim Head Coach Aaron Martinez said. "They have worked really hard at staying

the course even during an event that could have caused turmoil. It really speaks to the mental toughness of this team. I am extremely proud of all the guys for continuing to simply work the process."

A large number of the freshman players are getting their first taste of college baseball this year at McPherson College. "It has always been a

dream of mine since I was little to play college baseball," Trent Smith, freshman second baseman, said. "It's fun because you get to go out there with your brothers and apply what you've been working on all offseason."

Some of the team's top performers so far are starting pitcher and center fielder Dylan Klava, junior, who boasts a 1-1

record on the mound, and a .450 batting average. Joining Klava are the sluggers Riley Martin, sophomore, and Kyle McDonald, sophomore, who play left field and catcher respectively. The duo has a combined 11 runs batted in and five extra base hits in only seven games.

The Bulldogs hope to carry their good

start to the season into the upcoming months. They will have a tough conference schedule but have high hopes of making the post season. On Feb. 20-21, the Bulldogs will play Hastings College (Neb.) at 1 p.m. CDT followed by Oklahoma City University after. The team will go up against Hastings again on Saturday at 10 a.m.



PHOTOS BY  
MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH

(Left) Dylan Fontenot, sophomore infielder, runs to catch the ball to get an out against the Kansas Wesleyan University Coyotes on April 25. The Bulldogs lost to the Coyotes 5-13 and 5-9. (Right) Brandt Rhoades, senior pitcher, throws to the Coyote batter.

## Softball Keeps Spirits High Into Start of Season Lady Bulldogs To Compete This Upcoming Weekend

BY CAITLYN BLAGRAVE  
SPORTS EDITOR

McPherson College softball traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, for five games in total Feb. 12 and 13. With tough competition, the Bulldogs could not find a win. However, this was a good way for them to get a feel for what they need to work on for their season.

"We didn't start out exactly how we wanted, but we know what we are capable of and know we will come out with a sweep this Saturday and Sunday," Alex Yeoman, junior third baseman, said. "We are Coach Spencer's first recruiting class and there are so many talented girls on the team and we honestly can't wait to see how we turn out this season."

"It was great competition for the start of our season," Michaela Dimitt, senior outfielder, said. "We played hard and tried our best."

The Bulldogs are coming into the season with a young team, having recruited eight freshmen. With all the new talent, it can be hard to find flow as a team and that showed over the weekend.

"I believe we have great talent," Dimitt said. "It's just a matter of putting it all together. With so many freshman, it's nice having fresh legs coming in and

keeping us young."

Even with the struggle of trying to find their flow as a team, the Bulldogs managed to play well overall.

Unfortunately the score does not reflect that. Emily Davis, a senior second baseman, noted that the team struggled with hitting.

The first team McPherson played was LSU Alexandria, ranked number four in the nation. Although the Bulldogs lost 10-1, they stayed with LSU until the fourth inning. The second game went well for the Bulldogs overall, however, they were still trying to figure out their pitchers, noted Samantha Harrity, a senior outfielder.

"We are going to be better this year. We have some really talented freshmen, which is good," Harrity said. "We'll need them to fill in some big rolls if we really want a successful season."

After falling to LSU Alexandria, Morningside College, Texas Wesleyan University, Columbia College and Our Lady of the Lake University, the Bulldogs look to find a win this weekend on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. against Northwestern College and Sunday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. against Midland University. Both games will be played on the Bulldogs home field.



(Top) Whitney Miller, senior first baseman and outfielder bats at the ball against the Ottawa Braves on April 21. The Bulldogs were taken down by the Braves 0-8 in both games. (Left) Emily Davis, senior second baseman and outfielder, throws to first base to get an out against the Braves. (Right) Amanda Darrow, senior catcher, gets ready to throw the ball for an out against the Braves.

PHOTOS BY  
MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH

## Men's Basketball Works For a Win During Tough Season Bulldogs Stay Optimistic For Late Season Games

BY CAITLYN BLAGRAVE  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Thursday, Feb. 11, the McPherson men's basketball team struggled to try to find the net against Oklahoma Wesleyan. Coming into the game, the Bulldogs were slow and when they were finally able to find the net they were already down 20

points. The first half was rough with the Bulldogs going into halftime down 23 points.

The Bulldogs managed to gain momentum halfway through the second half and ended up having a close half.

With the final score being 107-81, the Bulldogs

ultimately fell to the Eagles. Even with a rough loss, the Bulldogs still managed to find a high note with Chris Crook, junior guard, scoring a game high of 26 points; Christopher Lowe, freshman guard, scored 16; and Dee Roberts, junior guard, was the last to hit double digits with 15 points.

The season has been a rough one for the Bulldogs. They have managed to stay in nearly every game this season; unfortunately they have not been able to find the win when the buzzer sounds.

"I think we need to play better defense, which will start with us rebounding the ball and executing our offense," Chris Crook, junior guard, said. "We need to bring a lot more energy to the table. We can't come out flat and we need to win the first five minutes of each game. Overall, I think if we come out and believe that we can win, we will win and get the job done."

With the final week of regular season starting, the Bulldogs will face off against Sterling in their final away game of the year on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. They head into this game with a four game losing streak and hope to find a win.

For their final game of the regular season, the Bulldogs will face off against University of Saint Mary at home on Saturday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m.

PHOTOS BY  
MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH



**(Left) DeAndre Hensen, junior guard, goes for the basket during the game against the Kansas Wesleyan University Coyotes on January 27 at home. The Bulldogs got the win with a score of 83-66. (Right) Ramon Martinez, sophomore forward, takes a three-point shot against the Coyotes.**



## Track and Field Surprises Many at Conference

BY CAITLYN BLAGRAVE  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Feb. 5-6 the McPherson College track and field team competed at the KCAC Conference meet in Pittsburg, Kan. Both teams finished well, with men finishing second place overall and women in fifth, who only had 15 athletes compete.

"The Conference meet was one that brought about a lot of great performances and new personal records, which sets us up very well for the outdoor season that is coming," Head Coach Robert Spies said.

There were many outstanding performances, one of which came from Christopher Linnin, freshman jumper, who finished in first place in all three of his events, which were high, triple, and long jumps. He also received the Male Athlete of the Meet award.

Another impressive performance came from Dixon Cooney, junior distance runner. Cooney

won the men's mile with an "A" standard time of 4:17.83. He also got fourth in the 3000m run and helped the men's 4x800m relay take fourth place.

The men's team as a whole had 17 new personal records, and the women had seven.

"As a coach, I was rather impressed with the way our team carried themselves as a family and continued to support one another throughout all of the ups and downs of the meet," Spies said. "It speaks volumes of the student athletes that we have on our team right now."

Rea Samuels, senior sprinter, had an outstanding meet by placing second in both the 60m dash and the 200m dash. She also helped the women's 4x400m relay take third place.

"I think the team preformed very well as a unit. We supported each other across all events more then we have the entire season," Samuels said. "I even shed a few tears at the end of the meet."

Jasmine Helms, junior jumper, contributed points to the team by placing second in triple jump and fifth in long jump.

To top off a successful weekend, Spies received the Men's Coach of the Year award in his first season as head coach.

The last indoor track meet will be today, Feb. 19 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo. This meet is a last chance for athletes to qualify for Nationals. The first outdoor meet is scheduled for March 10 at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan.

PHOTO BY  
MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH

**Jasmine Helms does her second attempt at the long jump at KCAC Conference on Friday, Feb. 5. Helms earned a fifth place finish in long jump, giving the team four more points towards their fifth place overall finish.**



## Women's Basketball Has No Doubt at Making Post-Season Conference Tournament

BY CAITLYN BLAGRAVE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Bulldogs took down nationally-ranked Oklahoma Wesleyan University (OKWU) on Thursday, Feb. 11. This is a huge win for the Bulldogs, as it guaranteed them to make the postseason conference tournament. This win means no matter what happens in the final week of the team's regular season the Bulldogs will hold their spot in postseason play.

In the opening quarter, the Eagles scored 23 points, however, the Bulldogs trailed by four points. In the opening 10 minutes, the Bulldogs made 60 percent of their shots.

Later, both teams starting having difficulty finding the net. The Bulldogs held the Eagles to just seven points and the Bulldogs scoring 11 points of their own to tie the game 30-30 at halftime.

In the second half, the Bulldogs used major defensive stops to the lead, 56-45, in the final period. Late in the final period, the Bulldogs were working the clock to keep their lead, however, OKWU started to sink shots. Free throws were what helped the Bulldogs maintain their lead and

ultimately their victory, winning 73-71.

"It was really nice to see our team stick to the game plan and get the win to defeat the Eagles again," Ashton Bruner, senior forward, said.

Bruner led scoring with 23 points, followed by Bailey Brown, senior guard, with 17; Brooke Racette, freshman guard, with 13 points; and Amanda Allen, freshman forward, with 12.

"I hope everyone will give their all, because for a lot of us, it's our last chance and we want to finish strong and get the 'W,'" Georgia Smart, senior forward, said.

Before postseason begins, McPherson will face off against Sterling College Thursday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at Sterling and University of Saint Mary Saturday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. at home.

PHOTOS BY  
MIRANDA CLARK  
ULRICH

**(Left) Bailey Brown, senior guard, goes for the net against Kansas Wesleyan on Jan. 27. (Right) Ashton Bruner, senior forward, works her way around a Coyote.**

