

In Sports
Softball season is underway.
The team is practiced and
ready for their upcoming
tournaments.

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In Viewpoints
College literature, newspaper
offends some. Staff reminds
readers these issues are
important.

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Campus community members
share their black history during
their years at McPherson
College.

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The McPherson College

SPECTATOR

Volume 93, Issue 8

February 27, 2009

THE STUDENTS' VOICE SINCE 1917

NEWS BRIEFS

Natural Sciences to host seminars

The Natural Sciences department will host two upcoming speakers.

Craig Little, Board of Trustees chair, will present "Nuclear Power-Hydrogen Fuel Cycle" on March 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the Melhorn lecture hall.

Mike Everhart will present "Oceans of Kansas - A Fossil Treasure" a month later on April 3 in the Melhorn lecture hall. Everhart is the founder of www.oceansofkansas.com.

SGA election booths open March 19

SGA announced today candidates running for the 2009-10 school year.

President/vice-president running mates are Lane Allison, fr., Greensburg, with Savannah Sievers, fr., Stafford, and Shaun Griffin, jr., Inman, with Kiley Loesch, jr., Raymond. Running for secretary is Amanda Pangburn, jr., Albertville, Ala.

Rebecca Grosbach, sr., Enders, Neb., is running for senior representative. Those running for dorm representatives are Tecie Turner, soph., Scott City, Bittinger; Cain Wright, soph., Pryor, Okla., Metzler; Michael Darden, fr., San Antonio, Texas, Metzler; and Randall Livingston, soph., Abilene, Morrison.

Rafail Reyes is running for member at large.

Teacher Ed Program to admit new candidates

Any student wishing to be a teacher must apply for admittance to the program. Applications and questionnaires are due March 6. Recommendations are due March 13, and interviews will be scheduled March 16 to 20.

SAB to sponsor campus activities

SAB will host Bingo in the Student Union on March 4 at 9 p.m.

Free bowling will be March 6 from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the bowling alley on West Kansas.

The big event for March will be the hypnotist on March 11 at 8 p.m. Location to be announced.

Schneider selected President

Faculty meet with future president to discuss moving forward

AUDREY SECKER
Sports Editor

The Board of Trustees chose Michael Schneider, vice president of advancement, to be the 14th president of McPherson College. The decision was announced to the campus Feb. 13.

"It's a great opportunity for me, it's an honor and I'm excited about the opportunity to start working with faculty and staff on all the things that we need to do to move forward," Schneider said.

Schneider said he shares many of the same concerns about the college as others.

"I tell you that people that have concerns is an opportunity because I'd rather have people that are concerned versus people that are disinterested,"

Schneider said. "I see it as an opportunity to work together and to move the college forward. I understand that there are people who are concerned or surprised, but again I see it as an opportunity that people care about who our next president is and I have a lot of respect for that."

Schneider has been working at McPherson College for seven years. He started as director of career services, then moved to vice president of advancement, his current position, in 2007. He is in charge of student enrollment, fundraising and annual giving, alumni relations and marketing and career services.

"After the board meeting, we'll be announcing what the transition plan will be," Schneider said. "Ron (Hovis) is under



Photo by Erica Shook

Michael Schneider works on paperwork, and prepares for his future role as McPherson College's next President.

contract until June the 30th and so we'll be announcing what that date will be and in between now and then I'm spending my time visiting with faculty and staff and having a series of conversations

about lots of things. I'll be spending most of my time essentially listening and then we'll talk about changes after that."

Kim Stanley, Professor of English and communication is encouraged by

Schneider's actions so far. "He's started off by meeting with many of us faculty individually and listening to us and that's a good way to start," Stanley said.

Blind Date Night success



Photo by Kelsie Patrick

Lane Allison, fr., Greensburg; Jenny Andreesen, soph., Johnson, Neb., and Seth Williams, fr., Davenport, Neb., participate in Blind Date Night, hosted by SAB Feb. 16.

Five accept severance

AUDREY SECKER
Sports Editor

Five faculty and staff will no longer be with McPherson College next year.

Susan Taylor, college librarian; Ocie Kilgus, associate professor of modern languages; Gary Entz, associate professor of history; Mel Wright, professor of physical education and Roger Trimmell, assistant professor of physical education, accepted severance packages from the college in the midst of the college's financial difficulties.

Wright has worked for McPherson College for 15 years. He explained why he took the severance package.

"One of the big reasons was I've been privileged to be involved in some really, really fun business opportunities and I could spend more time with them," Wright said. "The debate I had to have with myself was how much

was I going to miss being with the students, which is a lot. It takes a while to get over that."

Trimmell has worked for McPherson College for 27 years.

"After 27 years of service to McPherson College, the Board of Trustees, in a December meeting, proposed a sustainability plan that eliminated my position as a physical education instructor," Trimmell said. "This is, despite the facts and figures from an institutional review of the program, that the cost of instruction within the physical education department was contributing \$91,240 to the college and the number of majors was a 17:1 student/faculty ratio, higher than the college's average."

He continued, "A better scenario would have been for the Board of

Please see Severance, page 8

Obama stimulus plan to affect students, taxes next year

JESSICA ARNOLD
Spectator Staff

President Obama's stimulus plan is making quite a buzz all over the nation, but does it affect McPherson College's current financial situation?

"The stimulus package does not have any language that directly benefits small liberal arts colleges such as McPherson

College," said Shane Netherton, vice president of finance. "However, we may see increased enrollment because the stimulus package does make college more affordable for more students."

There are three major ways Obama's plan might affect McPherson College students.

First, there was a Pell Grant provision that in-

creased the maximum grant to \$5,350 in 2009-10 and \$5,550 in 2010-11. Last year, the maximum was \$4,731. The Pell Grant is a federal financial grant so it does not need to be repaid.

Netherton said that students with low or no expected family contribution can expect to see additional Pell Grant money for next fall.

"This should help offset college costs for those eligible students," he said.

Secondly, Obama's plan increases the funding for community service in work study by \$200 million across the nation - the allocation is uncertain - as well as \$60 million for student aid administration.

"Our budget for work study right now is \$63,000," Netherton

said. "We may get around \$4,000 (more) in the future, but of course that's just a rough estimate."

Finally, American Opportunity Tax Credit is replacing the Hope Tax Credit for postsecondary education. The American Opportunity Tax Credit is a \$2,500 credit that is 40

Please see Stimulus, page 8

LEAD EDITORIAL

Staff reports regardless of offensive topics

We understand that some of the content that we choose to print will not make everyone happy. Readers, welcome to the media.

Comments have been made regarding negative columns and inappropriate content in the Feb. 13, issue. For example, we reported on the Safer Sex Night that was hosted by Student Services.

We reported on the events and activities that were going to occur and the percentage of the campus that said they were sexually active. Some readers were offended and felt that we were promoting sexual activity and giving the college a bad reputation to future students, parents and alumni.

Here is an idea for thought: if the campus claims to be sexually active would it not be important for us, as a staff, to report on an event that would provide students information about educating and protecting themselves sexually?

Alumni have commented on McPherson College literature and it's content. Some feel that the content students are being exposed to is inappropriate. Those comments spawned a new set of arguments from members of the communication/alumni department wanting to refrain from sending out future Spectator issues like the Feb. 13 issue.

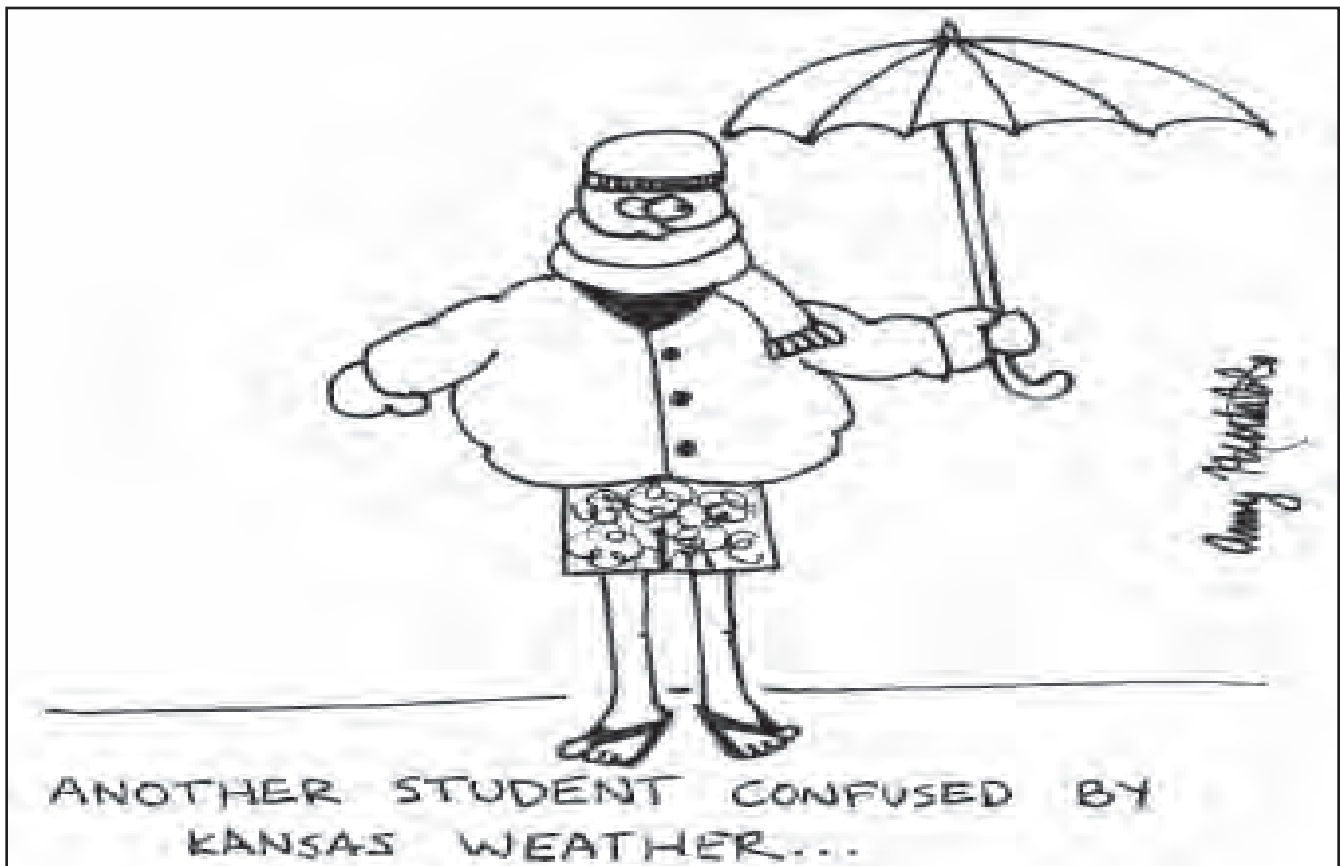
On Feb. 14, interviews and tests for the potential presidential scholars were held in Melhorn science building. That day, a member of the admissions department decided to take it upon himself to remove the Feb. 13, issue from the Spectator stand at the entrance of the building. This member thought the content in the issue would offend some parents and students. We felt like they were blinding those parents and students from the real issues that happen on campus.

This paper is also a recruitment tool for us that those potential students did not get to see. We report issues that affect the students directly and inform the public about topics that are going on around campus. Things are not white-picket fences and "Golly-gee whiz!" anymore. There are serious, adult topics that we face as college students every single day. We want to report on these issues to allow students to be informed and give them a choice to do something about it or not.

We are not going to hide these from students. Bottom line, every media outlet in the world is going to offend someone. This paper is not different from any of those other outlets. We will probably lose some readers. But we will not stop reporting the important issues to the students.

ISSUE: Content of the Spectator
OUR POSITION: If content offends you, don't read it.

Not Necessarily Ordinary



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student Government Association response to recent opinions article

In response to the article in the Feb. 13, 2009, edition of the Spectator "Voices Muted By Poor Leadership," McPherson College Student Government Association would like to comment.

First, all of our meetings are open for members of the student body to come and voice their opinion. Our meetings are Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. in the basement of the student union and last 45 to 50 minutes. We encourage everyone to come join us and share their opinion on the changes they would like to see

take place at McPherson College. SGA cannot help you, the students, if we do not hear the students' opinions. SGA has tried to implement things on campus that would positively affect the student body. Throughout the past semester and upcoming, we have purchased internet services to increase speed, started a recycling program in the Sport Center, helped host, organize and run the blood drive, and sponsored many clubs on campus.

We believe the entire SGA is a voice for the college, not just

the executive board. Many, if not each of the student government representatives, have attended campus events and co-curricular activities. The president and vice president addressed themselves publicly to the entire student body during the fall semester.

SGA represents the voice of the students and works within the budget to accomplish their needs and desires. The opinion of our student body is vital to our organization. We hope this helps the students understand that SGA is here to encourage students to take action and respond positively.

Student Government Association

Mysterious illness infects student section, diagnosis revealed

Students' lack of school spirit spreads like infection, antidote provided

My junior year of high school, I cheered at a state championship basketball game. The Fort Scott Tigers took the title and a sportsmanship award back to southeast Kansas - champions. Champions! The word buzzed over phone lines before the bus even pulled back into town, where it was met by a hundred fans, parents and students.

At the game, the stands were full of Tiger fans, dressed to the nines in ridiculous costumes, screaming hometown chants they knew by heart, yelling with us - the cheerleaders - and doing more than just supporting our boys. Those fans were part of the team, part of the reason the Tigers took that title.

When I came to McPherson College as a cheerleader, I expected the same, or even a bigger response from our crowd. I mean, it's college athletics. That's exciting! My

JILLIAN SAYS...



Jillian Overstake

expectations failed then, and still fail now.

The games, no matter how exciting on the court, are lackluster because of dull fans.

Our cheer squad does its best to get the fans riled up, to get them to yell M-A-C! with us at the top of their lungs, but to no avail.

They seem to be suffering from Paralyzed Mac Syndrome (PMS) - unable to stand, yell, clap or do anything to show support for the teams.

PMS sufferers tend to have the following symptoms:

* Blind to the entire spirit squad, unless the talented Emily Herron is tumbling or we are throwing T-shirts. Free stuff tends to alleviate all symptoms immediately.

* Oblivious to three-point shots, incredible plays, saves or other basketball phenomena.

* Love for the game is only shown through dunks.

* "Yell with us!" chants are ignored - must be hard of hearing.

* Frozen in seated positions, even when the team is coming on and off the court.

It is not just the students who are to blame for PMS. Administrators, professors, residential life staff, even alumni - from down on the court where we cheer, it is obvious PMS has no boundaries.

Yes, even the head honchos sit quietly while their

teams battle for victories with no help from their own home crowd. A little spirit for Mac College can't be that hard. Even our rivals schools - Tabor, Friends, Bethany and Sterling muster up enough of a fan base to intimidate even their most daunting opponents.

With basketball season coming to a close, it becomes evident that the teams with the strongest fan sections are on top: Sterling's student section rocked the house when we traveled there, and both men and women are ranked number one.

We may not be a Division I team but that shouldn't matter. Positivity goes a long way in the realm of sports. Our energy in the stands can greatly affect the attitude on the courts and fields.

Let's help propel our teams to glory and defeat this silly PMS - the memories will be well worth the energy.

Good Dog / Bad Dog comparison table with paw print icon. Topics include Cafeteria asking for students' food suggestions and ideas, Attendance at Safer Sex Night, Spring sporting events, Dogs pooping on campus lawn, Construction on Kansas Ave, Paper towels being thrown on the floor next to the trash cans in the bathrooms.

CHEW ON THIS section with quotes from Ezra Taft Benson and Dalai Lama.

The McPherson College SPECTATOR

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Black History Month vanishes from monthly event calander

SHOUT IT OUT!

Cultural celebrations used to unify and educate, so where are they?

February is full of events. It's the time for spring semester to begin, the weather to slowly start warming up and to celebrate your loved ones on Valentine's Day. I've missed something, though. That's right, it's also Black History Month.

When I was a little girl in grade school, each teacher dedicated the entire month of February to learning about black history instead of the things we normally learned about. The moment I entered junior high it was like black history was a thing of the past and it was going to stay there.

Now I am a senior in college and will be leaving this campus in a few short months. Out of the three and a half years I have spent here, there have been minimal activi-

MEGAN'S CORNER



Megan McKnight

ties that reach out toward Black History Month. There was a guest speaker here and there, the panel of black male students called "Holla at a Brotha" and some special ethnic food in the cafeteria for a day. But did any of this really make an impact on our campus?

The first year I came here I noticed a course called "African-American History." Every year I looked for that course to appear in the schedule, but I never found it. I don't know what happened to that class, but I sure wish it would reappear.

And it seems like more and more things are disappearing on this campus. Programs are being cut, amazing faculty members are leaving and there are a lot of disgruntled individuals about the new president of the college. With the new changes being made at the school, I don't want culture to be something that gets lost as well.

It is hard enough as it is to get a well-rounded cultural experience on this campus and it doesn't seem to

be getting any easier. The fact that there are so few events for Black History Month makes me wonder if the campus doesn't care about it, but I don't think that's true.

All of these changes that are happening are making students wonder if McPherson is going to stay the same place that they've grown to love and consider home.

This is the time where those who are a part of this establishment need to start reaching out to us to let us know that McPherson is still the same wonderful place we came to a few years ago. Placing an emphasis on events like Black History Month would help students feel like they still have a voice and are appreciated here as individuals and not as

numbers.

Considering the economic crisis our country is in, the crisis our college is in and that the president of the United States is half African-American, it seems like a great time for this campus to unite together and celebrate something positive. It is a wonderful thing to know those around you and the history behind their cultures.

And in this time of crisis, we definitely need to embrace the good things that we have right now. It upsets me that this college has not taken advantage of the recent events that have opened up the eyes of a lot of people. Hopefully we can have open minds and start embracing the positive things, instead of focusing on the negative.

To contribute to Shout It Out! put your shout in the submission box in Hoffman Student Union.

Yeah for Safer Sex Night!

Keep the band!

Eat more chicken.

Metzler smells even worse this year.

Go Lakers!

No, I will not rub lotion on your back!

I'm glad that as college students we still need mommy and daddy to come fix our problems for us.

If you want people to respect SGA, follow the consitution. Do not override it to make SGA more popular.

\$7 and I can't just get a piece of garlic toast?

Promotional pens that write for less than a day are not ideal forms of promotion.

Yes, I'll take a plate of terrible with everything on it.

I hate England!

Man, I really do miss watching those boys.

What's safe sex in Mac?

Track used to be fun.

Watch out for the boogeyman!

The Bulldog Cafe found the cure for America's obesity. Serve terrible food that no one will eat.

Lets go to the moon!

I hope that things will get better with all of these changes.

Thank you caf staff for listening to our requests for different food.

Roses are red, violets are blue, that dude spits on shoes.

Impression changed, interview with new president shows different perspective

The last issue of The Spectator came out just hours before the Board of Trustees announced that Michael Schneider would be our college's next president.

I have big-headedly suspected that the article I wrote was part of the reason that this issue was hidden from prospective students and their families, and was considered being withheld from alumni and paying subscribers.

My article levied strong words against Schneider. I had formulated these opinions after attending a formal student luncheon that week. Since then, I have met with Schneider again, one on one, in order to get to know him better.

He met with me at a quarter to five, and rather than use the end-of-the-workday excuse I half expected, we spoke for nearly an hour and a half about everything from previous McPherson presidents to the Hannah Montana poster in his office.

I asked how he felt the Board would move on the

BRIAN TALKS



Brian York

faculty's proposed budget.

"I think that there are parts of the plan that they're going to be excited about," he said. "I can't say enough about what the faculty and staff has done in such a difficult year."

When asked about the paper being withheld, Schneider commended the Spectator staff, though we played no part in its release, and said, "you guys made the right decision to send it out," quickly adding that "it's also your job as journalists to understand who your readers

are and what might offend them," and finally settling on, "it's not my job to censor the newspaper."

Throughout our conversation two constants remained: Schneider's eagerness to give what he felt was the "right" answer, and his willingness to give the most politically correct answer. What I could not find was an abundant desire to give the straightest or simplest answer.

"People want to see change," he said when I asked him to explain why he thought the campus was so dissatisfied with the Board's choice for him as the next president. "And when you hire someone internally you wonder, will they bring change?"

A short bombardment of the word "change" ensued as I began having flashbacks of Obama's campaign catch-all.

Schneider continued the Obama-ism, highlighting those aspects of himself that set him apart from the typical college president - namely, he is not an academic. This is the issue of

most concern to some faculty and students.

Schneider recognizes that "things have been tough here," but said, "I'm not out to prove people wrong (about my qualifications), I'm out to do the job."

Modest Michael Schneider has been changing minds, however.

"I'm spending time with faculty and staff," he said. "Over the next several months I'm going to meet with as many people as I can."

This initiative is what prompted my writing this article.

Last week, I met one of the faculty members with whom I had spoken about the plans for sustainability. This faculty member was delighted to tell me how much this person's opinion of Schneider had changed for the better in the week since his appointment. So seeing the beginnings of an article, I contacted Schneider for an interview. A couple days later I met with him.

By the time I asked Sch-

neider what his job will be, the cafeteria had been serving dinner for nearly an hour and I had twice run out of tape on the recorder and fallen back on note-taking.

"Relationships are high on the list," he answered in an uncharacteristic tone of simple, direct resolve. "I'll work every day to earn the respect of faculty, staff and constituents. Respect isn't just handed down," he said. "I'm going to have to build credibility."

The character of Schneider is one that may feel insincere at first, but by the time six o'clock arrived I realized that all the other offices were vacated and locked - he was the only one still working, still answering questions. After walking me out, he gave me his cell phone number in case I had any more questions, and with a smile, a thanks, and a handshake, I headed out into the cool evening, and he turned back in, to work at the one lit office in the otherwise dark building.

On the Fly

If you were elected president of the college, what would you change?



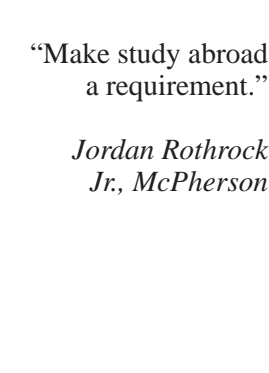
"Location."
Cody Compton
Fr., Colorado Springs, Colo.



"No visitation hours."
Nathan Clary
Jr., McPherson



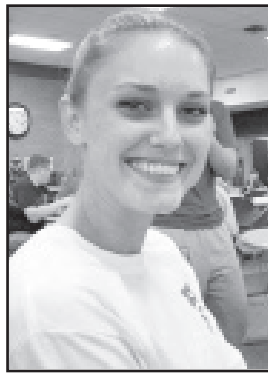
"Give more scholarship money."
Mallory Griggs
Jr., Colorado Springs, Colo.



"Make study abroad a requirement."
Jordan Rothrock
Jr., McPherson



"Bar on campus."
Amy Ziegler
Sr., Hudson, Colo.



"Student apartments."
Shaylin King
Jr., Wichita



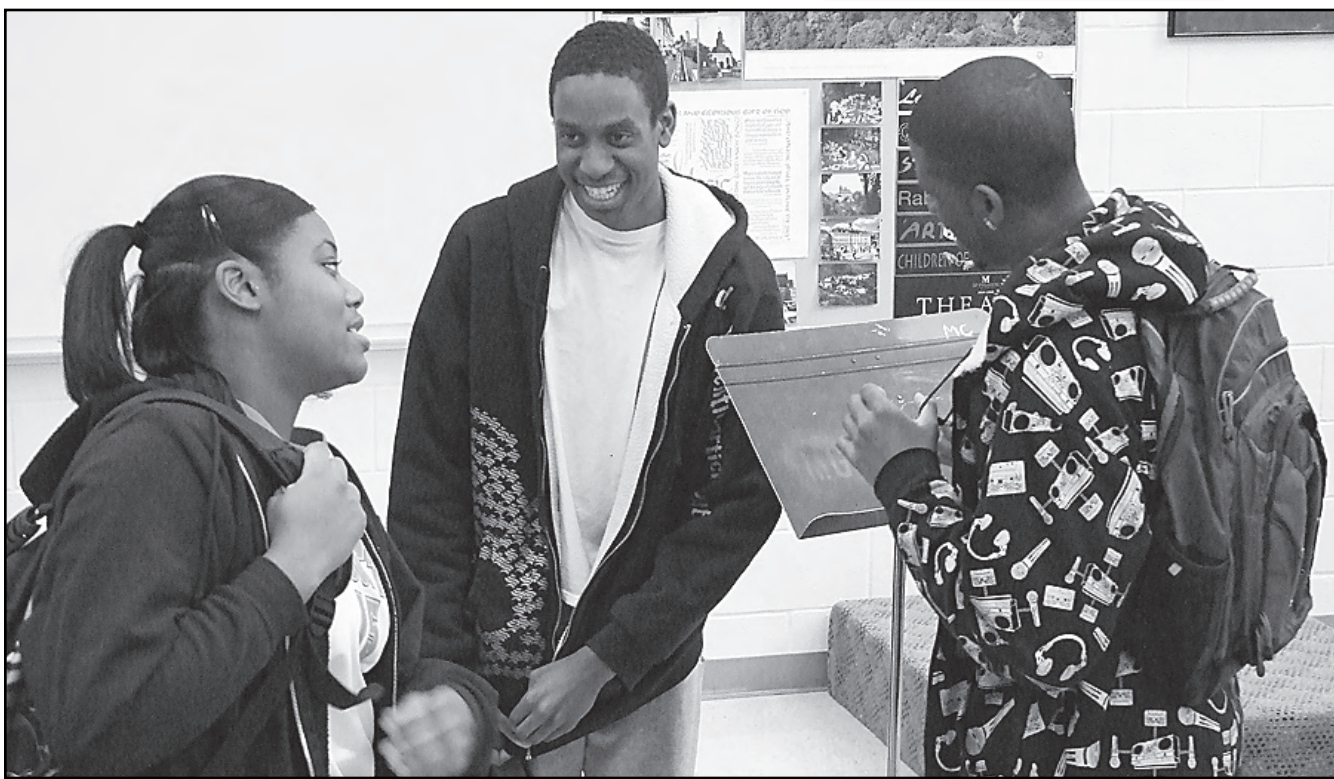


Photo by Adrielle Harvey

L to R: Mallory Griggs, jr., Colorado Springs; Tyler Stevenson, fr., Broken Arrow, Okla., and Zack Gaddis, soph., Oklahoma City, share some laughs after choir on Feb. 23. The students are three of 50 black students enrolled at McPherson College.

Black students have varied experiences in college's history

Exposure key to understanding diversity, embracing other cultures

ADRIELLE HARVEY
Editor-in-Chief

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For multimedia coverage on McPherson College's black history, go to <http://spectator.mcperson.edu>.

As a black student from Mississippi, Alferdeen Harrison described the interaction between McPherson's black and white students in the late '50s as curiosity. This exploration was due to lack of exposure to people of the opposite race. She does not remember any negative experiences, but admitted that she was probably "sheltered" from them.

"When I was there as a student, I had excellent, really bosom friends," Harrison, class of '61, said. "Also, people who looked after my well being, particularly that I wouldn't run into situations where people didn't like black people."

Even as early as Harrison's freshman year in 1957, faculty, staff and even students, showed support of African-Americans on campus.

Harrison, who is now serving her second term as a Board of Trustees member, said her history professor, Raymond Flory, was protective of her during her time at McPherson College.

"I had a lot of wonderful experiences traveling with his groups that went to Mexico and places," Harrison said. "I particularly remember that he would go in first and see if it were okay that a black person came in. If it weren't, we didn't eat there, we went to another place."

This lack of exposure that Harrison experienced was the same that David

Barrett, director of admissions, felt even as a student in the late '80s. He said many white and black students were encountering the opposite race for the first time.

"Even though I thought that we had arrived in 1986 and there were some things we had gotten past, there was still a long way for central Kansas," Barrett said. "There was still some naivety."

It was this naivety, but perhaps even blatant racism, that McPherson's black students experienced in January 1998. Upon walking to their cars, some black Dotzour residents were met with discriminatory writing on their cars that said "one way tickets back to Africa."

"It was a reawakening for all students of color, not just us," said ShaRhonda Maclin, assistant professor of education, who was a sophomore at the time. "I think sometimes we get so comfortable. Even at that moment, we were so comfortable on campus that we never thought this could happen to us and it did."

Since that time, Maclin thinks the students are more accepting and open to black students and other cultures, but that the college is not as ready to deal with the issues that come from diversity.

"I think we dealt with things a little different," Maclin said. "I wouldn't say it was better, but I think we were more equipped to deal with some of the diverse issues than we are dealing with currently. We had people in key roles who really did intervene for a couple years, especially when we were going through tense times on campus. It wasn't just African-American students, we had issues all around. Not big ones, but it did happen."

At this point in McPherson's history, students have varied experiences.

Zack Gaddis, soph., Oklahoma City, said his time thus far in McPherson has been very positive.

"They treat us the same way they treat the white people," Gaddis said of his professors. "Every teacher I've encountered, they always treat me the same way I see them treat someone of a different race."

While Gaddis said he sees the same positive attitude reflected even during trips to Wal-Mart, Mallory Griggs, jr., Colorado Springs, believes there is not as much acceptance within the town.

"The college knows what to expect and the town doesn't really know what to expect," Griggs said. "That's why when

you walk into Wal-Mart, there's staring, there's 'oh no, there's another one.' The town has a different outlook on us... but we'll work on it."

Ronnie Miller, fr., Tulsa, Okla., said people on campus haven't recognized Black History Month.

"I feel like the attitude toward black people doesn't really change," Miller said. "I know a lot of people didn't even know it was Black History Month."

Black History Month was started by Charles Woodson in 1926 as Black History Week to teach Americans about contributions and development by African-Americans.

"Society has given us a month to celebrate who we are," Barrett said, "but I think it should be a celebration of who we are as a people every day because as a person of color, there are constant reminders of who I am. There are still systemic issues that we have to deal with in our society."

STATISTICS

African-American students: 50

Total full-time students: 509

Percentage of African-American students on campus: 10

Based on fall enrollment.

Interest in Resident Assistant position increases

MELISA GRANDISON
Spectator Staff

Unlocking doors, monthly programming, hall decorations and camaraderie - those who find these activities appealing, were likely a student who applied for a resident assistant position for next school year. Currently, there are 42 applications on file, more than twice the number received in 2008.

"I was excited about the number of students interested in becoming members of the Res Life team," said Colleen Gustafson, Resident Director of Dotzour Hall.

Requirements for RAs are a 2.45 GPA, the ability to handle stress involved with being a good student, demonstrate leadership skills, get along with di-

verse groups of students and model good work ethics.

Ashley Luthye, soph., Northglenn, Colo, applied to become an RA.

"I have a lot of good activities and ideas to bring together the group of girls that could potentially live on my hall," Luthye said.

"Plus, I enjoy interacting with students on campus." This year, applicants were asked to submit only a cover letter. This is a much shorter application process than previous years, which required a cover letter, application, and references.

"It wasn't a difficult process," said Kyle Toland, fr., Kansas City.

LaMonte Rothrock, dean of students, said, "The goal was to see who all was interested, to draw out a large pool of appli-

cants. The positions available for men and women resident assistants are still up in the air."

There are 10 open positions for next year. The projections for student enrollment and resulting housing plans, according to Rothrock, also affect the number of resident assistants hired.

Rothrock believes the main reason for the increase in applicants is due to more students on campus and the opportunities the position offers.

"Becoming an RA," he said, "provides leadership opportunities, skill training and great compensation."

identifies leading candidates, Rothrock interviews those students. Finally, the ResLife team reassembles to select the new team based on results of both interviews.

ResLife team members are Lamonte Rothrock and Karen Caylor, administrative assistant to the dean of students, and the four resident directors, Colleen Gustafson, Shandi Tobias, Alan Grosbach and Joe Battasso.

The ResLife team plans to select the new team members by the first week in March. This timeline allows for new RAs to begin some training this spring.

"Dorm life is a growing experience for many McPherson College students and I appreciate the diverse applicant response we received," Gustafson said.

The Hot spot

A THOUGHTFULLY DEvised ARRAY OF QUESTIONS FOR OUR FRESH, BRAND NEW HEAD TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY COACH JOSEPH EBY .

ADRIELLE HARVEY
Editor-in-Chief



Q What is your role at McPherson College?

A They all kind of scare me.

A I am the head men's and women's track and field and cross country coach.

Q In one word, how would you describe yourself?

A Passionate.

Q What have you learned so far in your time at this role?

A It's nice to have assistance and there's a lot of work to do.

Q Who is your favorite musical artist?

A All time, probably Blink 182. Currently, I would say Bloc Party.

Q Do you have any pets?

A I have two cats- Hermione, obviously after the Harry Potter character and the other one is Roger, named after the first man to break the four-minute mile. Hermione would be my wife's and Roger would be mine.

Q What would you like to be when you grow up?

A A successful coach. It's more than just having trophies and a trophy case. It's making an impact on students' lives to the point where they come back, they call you on the phone, people you stay in touch with for years and years to come.

Q What are some of your hobbies?

A I love music. I love listening to music. Probably music and movies, hanging out with my wife. I guess running. I do that a lot

Q If you could be someone else, who would you be? Why?

A I guess my initial thought would be Sebastian Coe because he won two Olympic gold medals, he was a world record holder in four events at the same time. I've always been jealous of the elite, elite athletes who their whole job is just to run. That's what they get paid to do.

Q What is your marital status?

A Married. Happily Married.

Q Who is your dream date and where would you go?

A I should probably say my wife. My ideal date with her would just be hanging out with her at home, watching a movie, just getting to spend time together. In a fantasy world, Kiera Knightly and anywhere would suffice.

Q Who is your role model? Why?

A I've always really looked up to my dad. My dad really was the one that really got me involved in athletics. My other role model would be my mom. We've been through a lot together.

Q Angelina Jolie, Flo Jo or Victoria Beckham?



Melisa Grandison



Mira Coulter

Grandison, Coulter face problems with study abroad program

BETSY SHAFFER
Campus Life Editor

With the poor economy nationwide and the college's own shifting financial situation, students trying to arrange study abroad trips for the upcoming school year are facing more problems than ever.

In the past, students could transfer their scholarships to a foreign school. Now, however, it is a possibility that with the new sustainability plan, this will no longer be an option. This decision will be revealed in mid-March with the rest of the Board's plans.

Steven Frick, director of financial aid, said that until the Board of Trustees' meeting, there is no new information on next year's study abroad program. In the meantime, some students will be waiting on pins and needles for the Board's decision.

Melisa Grandison, soph. Quinter, wants to study for a semester in Xalapa, Mexico.

"This trip is immensely important to my education," Grandison said. "Not only is it the best opportunity to learn a language, but I also think study abroad allows me to serve in another country. It's part of becoming a globally informed student which in turn, I believe, helps create a well-rounded service-oriented student."

But Grandison will hit a wall if the Board approves the changes. "With the new changes, BCA becomes in-

credibly expensive to me as a student and I can't afford it," Grandison said. "Mira Coulter and I have written a proposal asking to study abroad to finish out our Spanish major under the original plan. We submitted it to President Hovis and will hear back by mid-March."

Mira Coulter, jr., Wakita, Okla., has also been planning on studying abroad in Xalapa, Mexico.

"We've submitted a plan, which is basically an alternative to transferring to another school," Coulter said. "It will be a transitional time to allow the students who were planning on studying abroad to do so under the previous plan."

Both Grandison and Coulter are Spanish majors who believe studying abroad is extremely vital to their major.

"I think that an immersion experience is the best way to learn a language and there are no classes that can substitute for the experience that study abroad allows," Grandison said. "I feel that it is of utmost importance to a Spanish degree to be able to study in a place where I can have firsthand experience with Latin culture."

Coulter seconds Grandison's opinion.

"It's an important aspect of education for my major," Coulter said. "I don't think I can get the same experience in the U.S. as I would abroad."

If this proposal doesn't go through, the possibility of transfer may become strong for both women simply because of the strong need for a Spanish major to study Spanish in its natural setting. However, both Grandison and Coulter see this as a last possible resort.

"Transferring is a worst case scenario for me," Grandison said. "I don't at all want to leave McPherson College, I love it here."



Courtesy Photos

Top left: Nathan Clary, jr., McPherson, and Jordan Rothrock, jr., McPherson explore the Parthanon in Greece. Top right: Rothrock poses for a photo outside of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. Center: Clary, Rothrock, and friends visit the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.

Study abroad program: learning tool for students

BETSY SHAFFER
Campus Life Editor

All students chose McPherson College for different reasons - academics, athletics, distance from home - but for one semester why not leave practical reasons behind and travel the world to study abroad?

This past semester, several students took the opportunity to leave Kansas behind and explore the world around them. From June until November, Eric Sader, sr., Salina, studied at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Sader studied chemistry, art history, history and religious studies.

Sader experienced everything from a "Fijian Kava ceremony to pub quiz nights to mountain climbing."

His own personal advice is to "discover the world by living in it."

Sader said he would "absolutely" study abroad again if he had the chance.

Bryanna King, jr., Gallup, N.M., studied at the National University of Ireland in Galway, Ireland. She took courses in history, philosophy, women's studies and Irish cul-

ture classes over the 2008 spring semester.

"I think studying abroad is incredibly important in shaping a global outlook," King said. "It helped me to gain new perspectives and increase my knowledge of European culture. Being fully immersed in a culture is the best way to learn."

King said the relationships she established was the best part about the experience.

"I had friends from Ireland and the U.S., but also from all over Europe," King said.

She also enjoyed the ease of travel.

"Once you're already living in Europe, traveling to other parts of Europe is so easy," King said. "I got to go to Spain and France and all over Ireland."

Gary Yates, sr., McPherson, spent three months studying astronomy, business and Greek in Athens, Greece.

"By studying abroad, you will open new doors in your life," Yates said. "Not only will you be more knowledgeable about the world, but you will meet so many interestingly diverse people and make lifelong friends."

Yates said he would

"love to study abroad again."

"Submersing yourself into another culture is thrilling and very informative in foreign culture," Yates said. "Living abroad will change one's life forever."

Nathan Clary, jr., McPherson, spent September through December in Cheltenham, England ,studying business, world literature and the archaeology of Roman Britain.

"The school life in England was quite different than here," Clary said. "The class would meet for two hours once a week. I had class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays allowing me to have a four day weekend. The grading scale is also very different. A 40 percent is a passing grade. They do not grade very hard as well. The average grade is a 55 percent."

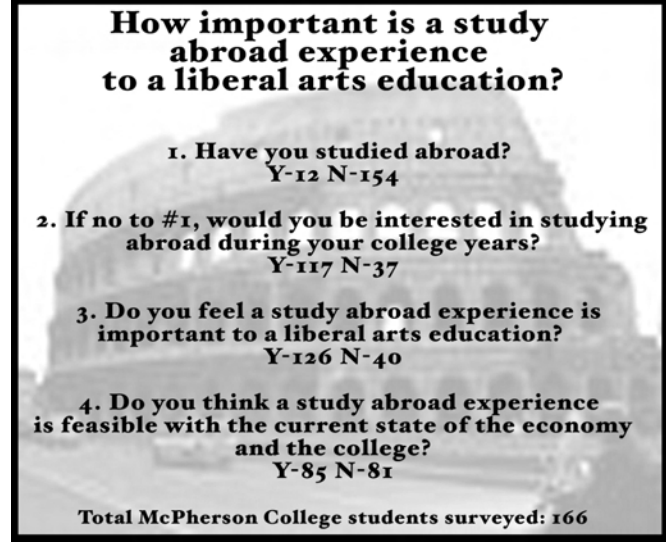
Clary gained a new perspective in England. "(Studying abroad) gave me a chance to see things in a whole new way," Clary said. "It opened lots of new doors that I had never even thought about. I am now looking at ways that I can move back to London after graduation to live and work."

With the ever-changing economy, many college students feel that studying abroad is just out of their reach. However, these students are here to prove that studying abroad is a lot closer than one might think.

"Go for it," Yates said. "This may be the only opportunity you ever get."

King seconds Yates' thought.

"I know that a lot of people would like to study abroad, but they feel like they don't have the resources," King said. "It is well worth going out of your way to find a way to go. I know it sounds cliché, but studying abroad really is a life changing experience."



Infographic by Jessica Stahr

Automotive restoration program attracts prospective students

KIM SMITH
Spectator Staff

McPherson College is known especially for its automotive restoration program, as it is the only accredited four-year colleges that offers such a degree. This is the reason there is such a large population of AR students on campus.

However, being accepted into the program is not as easy as one may think. It requires a person to apply for the program outside of the normal college

application process for the college.

This year alone, almost 40 students have submitted the proper materials to be considered for entrance into the AR program. Of course this number could grow because there are always people who hear about the program a little too late or turn in their application after the Feb. 1 deadline.

The program is well known for its unique mix of balancing technical programs with the liberal arts course load and an-

other major.

"When (students) graduate they are very well sought after because of this balance," said Matt Tobias, admissions and financial aid counselor.

Some prospective students are not turned away, but decide not to come here for a variety of reasons. AR professors sometimes feel that certain students are not a good fit for the type of program offered here. Failing to turn in a complete portfolio may also lead the group to decide not to accept a

student into the program. There are a few students who are accepted, but individually decide not to come here and be a part of the program. All of these situations lead to the ultimate number of students accepted into the program on a yearly basis.

A portfolio or application into the program typically consists of four main requirements - a resume, two letters of recommendation, a research paper written on a topic of choice related to the automotive field and whether

it looks professional.

Many students also include photo journals, personal essays or cover letters and project lists. Tobias holds all the applications in his office until the deadline, then they are sent to the AR professors to be looked over and a decision about acceptance made. On average, the program offers 40 to 50 new students the opportunity to join the program.

"We have the best program for automotive restoration in the nation," Tobias said. "We want

our prospective students to understand what we are all about and make sure they are a great fit or the program."

In the near future, some changes will be made to the way the AR program is marketed. The college now wants to take a direct marketing approach including changing the Viewbook, making more personal visits to high schools and possibly implementing a DVD project for prospective students to see what the college and program are all about.

Athletes take on multiple sports

LETERIUS RAY
Spectator Staff

The dual athlete has often been a spectacle in the world of sports. Many fans are amazed at an athlete's ability to succeed in one sport, but to be capable of excelling in multiple sports is often a rarity.

Bo Jackson is probably the most famous dual athlete in history, after playing running back in the

National Football League and outfielder in Major League Baseball. Deion Sanders is another athlete who played both sports and is the only athlete to play in both the Super Bowl and World Series.

Jim Brown is known as one of the greatest running backs of all time, but few know he was also a stand-out lacrosse player in his time at Syracuse.

Yet, collegiate athletics

seem to have become the last stop for dual athletes.

If an athlete is skilled enough to become a professional in a single sport, contracts often discourage and even prohibit the participation in another.

This has led to what is most likely the end of the dual athlete era in professional sports.

While they may have disappeared from the realm of professional sports, the dual athlete can still be found on college campuses. One of today's most notable dual-sport athletes is Louisiana State University's Trindon Holiday. Holiday plays wide receiver for the Tiger's football team and is one of the NCAA's elite sprinters. In the same category, is Clemson's C.J. Spiller, who plays running back for his Tigers and is also an All-American sprinter.

Mark Watson, jr., St Charles, Mo., is one of a few McPherson College dual athletes. The defensive back spends his spring sprinting for the Bulldog's track team.

"I like to work on my speed for football, and it helps me get into shape for the next season," Watson said. "Football is a game of speed and inches. If I can be one step faster than my opponent, I feel like I can dominate whoever lines up across from me."

Head football coach Brian Ward said he is fully supportive of his athletes



Photo by Drew Griffin

Andrea Swanson, soph., Littleton, Colo. puts a shot for the track and field team.

participating in track and field.

"In fact, I gave Coach Eby (head track coach) a list of six potential sprinters (from the football team)," Ward said.

He also said there are six recruits that are possible football and track athletes.

"When Mark asked me about it, I said, by all means, go ahead," Ward said. "Yes, the football team is my main concern, but I'm also a team player."

Although Watson is in mid-season with the track team, he still attends off-season football workouts.

"I lift with the team and cheer them on when they

run," Watson said. "I hate getting up at five in the morning, but I'm with my brothers and it motivates me to do better in track, too."

In addition to Watson, Drew Griffin, jr., Rancho Cordova, and Gary Cox, jr., Glendale, Ariz., are the football players currently practicing with the track and field team. Ben Cummins, soph., Buhler; Shelly Brandt, fr., Divide, Colo., and Andrea Swanson, soph., Littleton, Colo., are track and field participants who spent the fall playing for the soccer teams. With the basketball season coming to an end, the track and field team is also awaiting the efforts of

Antowine Lamb, jr., Topeka; Dwayne Thomas, jr., Houston, Texas; Charles Moore, jr., San Antonio, Texas, and Kirk Pottorff, fr., Limon, Colo.

Head track and field and cross country coach Joseph Eby is welcoming the help.

"I'm really excited about the athletes we do have," Eby said. "I think it's really good for them to come out, because the more sports you do, the better athlete you become. Looking at Division I schools like Florida and LSU, a lot of their national caliber athletes are defensive backs and running backs that are allowed to showcase their talents on the track."



Photo by Benjamin Denton

Andrea Swanson, soph., Littleton, Colo., plays goalie for the women's soccer team.

Ladies tough out rough season

Women finish basketball season 3-21 overall, 1-18 n KCAC play

BRYANNA DANIELS
Spectator Staff

The women's basketball team finished the season 3-21 overall, 1-17 in the regular KCAC season and 1-18 in the post-season KCAC play.

The team's three wins were against cross-town rival Central Christian College, York College of York, Neb., and Friends University of W.

All three games showed the girls' spirit, dedication, hard work and passion for the game.

The team never gave up on themselves, even though they suffered some major losses that detrimentally affected them as a whole.

In the first week of practice, the Lady Bulldogs lost senior Jamie Sims, McPherson, and junior Taylor Plowman, Over-

"It was a tough year but one that I will always remember and appreciate because of the girls who were involved."

- Shelly Prescott

land Park.

Shortly after that, only eight games into the season, junior captain Michelle Ducey, Pueblo, Colo., tore her ACL, again leaving the Bulldogs in a sticky situation.

"Losing Ducey really hurt us, especially on defense," Head Coach Shelly Prescott said. "She was holding the best players way under their averages."

The women also had a few other injuries that

caused a few minor setbacks for them, including a knee injury for senior Angelina Fiorenzi, Bishop, Texas. Overall, this season was one that rebuilt the team.

"Everybody was so new that it took time getting used to one another and playing together," said Stephanie Poland, jr., Arvada, Colo.

The team was also young and inexperienced with only one returning senior. Overall, the biggest problem the team had this year was shooting.

"We struggled to shoot above 30 percent in most games and it's tough to win that way," Prescott said. "Our free-throw shooting and turnovers were terrible."

Next season, Prescott plans on working with the team so it can become more aggressive on the

court and not be so passive.

"We need to learn how to win," Prescott said.

Prescott's players also seem to be on the same level of thinking as their coach.

Poland said that in order to have a more successful season next year, "the team just needs to learn how to play a full game of 40 minutes."

Prescott plans to recruit players who can help strengthen the team's weaknesses by adding depth to the team.

The Lady Bulldogs are looking to add players who can score and bring intensity into the game with them.

"It was a tough year," Prescott said, "but one that I will always remember and appreciate because of the girls who were involved."



Photo by Kyle Toland

Kristen Ozbun, soph., Rose Hill, shoots over a Kansas Wesleyan defender trying to block the ball.

Winter slows Ultimate play, spring to open upcoming tournaments

CHRIS PLOOSTER
Spectator Staff

With the weather beginning to warm back up, it is a sure sign that spring is right around the corner. It also means that after being idle for most of the winter, McPherson College's Ultimate Frisbee team will again be returning to action.

"We play in the park when it's nice, when we can all get together," said Kyle Toland, fr., Edwardsville. "The leaders are in grad school so it's hard, but we play whenever we get the chance."

Ultimate is played with

seven players per team on a field 70 yards long and 40 yards wide, and with a 175-gram disc. It combines the constant running and cutting of soccer with points being scored by catching the disc in the opposing teams end zone à la football.

Each match begins with a "pull," the equivalent of a kickoff, and the disc can only be advanced by successfully completing a pass to a teammate. Games are played to a predetermined number of points, usually 13 or 15, instead of a specified amount of time. There are no referees present for Ultimate

"The atmosphere is extremely competitive, but remains very congenial as compared to other athletics."

- Eric Sader

matches. Instead, games are self-officiated, even at high-level events.

The McPherson Mudhuckers, the official campus Ultimate club, is a team that consists of McPherson College students, faculty, staff and

alumni that gather to play pick-up games of Ultimate Frisbee.

Even Dean of Students LaMonte Rothrock has been known to lace up the boots for a friendly game of Ultimate, but a source within the team said he seems to suffer from chronic hamstring pulls and various other "phantom" injuries.

"The atmosphere is extremely competitive, but remains very congenial as compared to other athletics," said Eric Sader, sr., Salina.

The team plays throughout the fall and spring semesters, hosting an alumni

game and its own tournament called the Flatland Freezer.

The annual Flatland Freezer, which takes place in mid-November at the Grant Sport Complex, draws teams from many nearby large universities such as Wichita State and Kansas State, as well as schools from surrounding states like Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri.

This spring the Mudhuckers hope to attend at least two tournaments that have yet to be decided upon. They are also working on potentially hosting another home event this semester.

"We have a few tournaments lined up," Toland said. "We might team up with Wichita State's team, but nothing's been confirmed. I think we're going to have a heck of a lot of fun and be very competitive against some of the bigger schools."

Any students interested in playing Ultimate this spring should attend any of the pick-up games or practices that are held at Lakeside Park across the street from Sonic, or e-mail Alan Grosbach at grosbaca@mcpherson.edu with questions. Also, look for e-mails about pick-up games.

Softball team to play Central Christian March 3

KELLI FOWLDS
Spectator Staff

With months of preparation behind it, the McPherson College softball team anxiously awaits the approach of its 2009 season. The Lady Bulldogs have been hard at work all year, through vigorous off-season workouts and pre-season practices that involve both indoor and outdoor sessions.

"We do a lot of hitting and a lot of field work," said Ashley Luthye, soph., Northglenn, Colo.

The team is working on every aspect of themselves to improve its overall performance this year.

"Outfield has really been working on hitting cut-offs," said Katie Sorensen, sr., Gunnison, Colo.

After a few days of fielding, hitting and weights, the team will also scrimmage against each other. The overall hard work is expected to bring many changes this season.

"I am looking forward to each of us reaching our full potential," said Natasha Florian, jr., Russell.

Many of the players agree the biggest competitors for this season are likely to be Friends, Kansas Wesleyan and Ottawa, all of whom are top ranked in the conference.

With that in mind, the softball team is working to fix many areas of needed improvement.

"We need to work on hit-



Photo by Benjamin Denton

Katie Logan, fr., Clay Center, tosses a ball to her partner during warm-up before a scrimmage against Sterling.

ting and bunt situations," Florian said.

Luthye said working as a team needs improvement.

"We don't have a big problem with it, but on the field we sometimes let

emotions get in the way," Luthye said.

Sorensen agreed with the idea, stating that the team needs to work on attitude and communication.

As the Bulldogs head

into this season, there are many things that they expect to see.

"We have better pitching and I think our outfield might be stronger," Sorensen said.

Florian hopes to increase the team's record.

"I expect us to come together as a team and win a lot more games," Florian said.

When it comes down to it, the girls are most excited to show that they are a better team than last year.

"We just want to put a good name for ourselves out there this year," Luthye said.

As the first regular season game draws nearer, the team is focused on its goals. The Lady Bulldogs are ready to do whatever it takes to earn their spot at the top of the conference.

"We all get along on the field and encourage each other to do better," Florian said. "We set goals each day and do our best to reach them so we can achieve in more victories."

The team scrimmaged Sterling College on Feb. 25.

Their next match will be at home on March 3. The Bulldogs will play at 5:30 p.m. as they battle Central Christian for a win. The junior varsity will play at Hutchinson on March 5, followed by the varsity's participation in the Friends Tournament on March 6 and 7.

Fall recruitment well underway

Coaches search for players to complement, strengthen teams

KRISTEN KIRKMAN
News Editor

With the new sustainability plan in the works, recruitment is particularly important this year.

Men's soccer coach Doug Quint seems to have covered the most ground while searching for his recruits, traveling to Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas.

He has signed seven players so far, with the intention of finding 10 quality players for next season. Five are incoming freshmen and two are transfers. The team loses one senior.

Quint wants "to improve our team in specific areas that need to be addressed."

For Susan Barton, the women's volleyball coach, recruiting was a skill she had to develop on the job.

"I've never recruited in my life," Barton said.

Nevertheless, she has already met her goal of eight new players and even surpassed it.

"I will be signing 10, possibly 11," she said.

Most of her new play-

ers come from northeast Kansas. The team will graduate two players.

Football coach Brian Ward's goal was to sign 25 new athletes. Ward said he is past his goal numbers and "probably going to get about 30 (new players)." The majority of the football recruits come from Kansas. The football team will lose six seniors.

Brand new cross country and track coach Joseph Eby might have the most difficulty recruiting for the fall.

"Having started three weeks ago, I am a little behind the game and have lost a few kids before I even got a chance to talk to them," Eby said.

He wants 10 new runners per gender for the team. Eby said he has had several people interested, but not signed yet.

"I have had luck in Colorado and with some community colleges and locally," Eby said. "I need numbers, period. We have talented individuals on the team, but hardly any depth at all."

Swanson headed to nationals

Track team wraps up indoor season

CARLEY SHARP
Spectator Staff

As February winds down so does the indoor track season. Last Friday, the team traveled to Missouri to participate in the Central Missouri State Classic for one last shot at earning a trip to the NAIA National Indoor Championships in Johnson City, Tenn.

Andrea Swanson, soph., was the sole Bulldog to qualify with her mark of 42 feet, 4.75 inches in the shot put. She cut it close as her qualifying throw was on her last attempt in finals. Her mark bettered her previous personal record by almost two feet.

"I am excited to go to nationals and I am hoping to get a new personal record while I am there," Swanson said.

Just coming up short for qualifying in the pole vault was Rachel Leuthold, fr., Bern. She placed second in the meet, tying her season best and school record height of 10-6.

"I think we have a really great team and coaches and am really looking forward to the outdoor season," Leuthold said.

On the men's side the best times were posted by Leterius Ray, jr., Wichita, in the 600-yard dash and Jordan King, jr., Limon, Colo., in the 60-meter hurdles. Ray finished sixth in the 600 with a time of 1-minute, 17.55 seconds and King placed sixth in the 60-meter hurdles with a

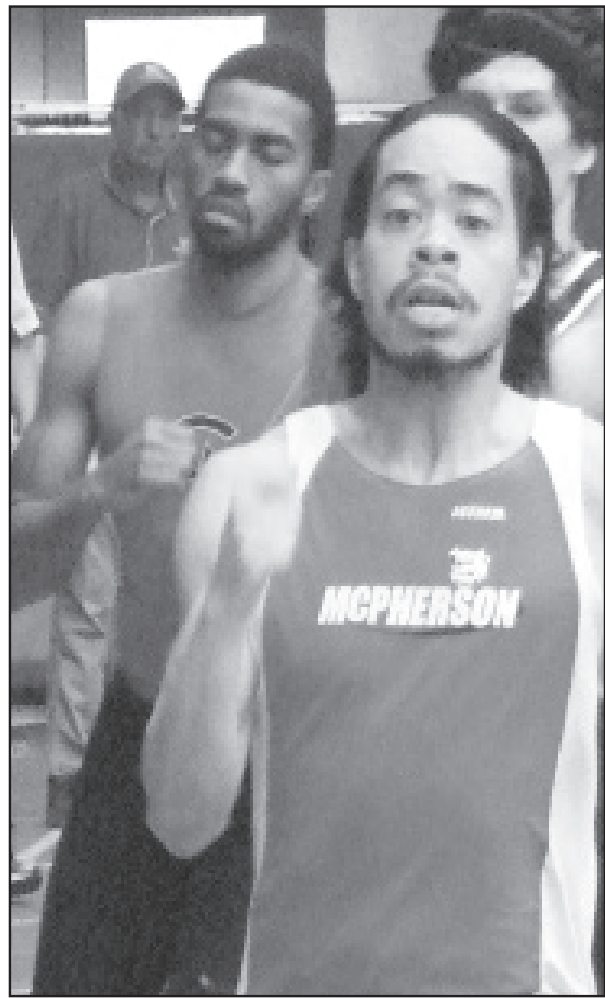


Photo by Drew Griffin

Leterius Ray, jr., Wichita, ran in the Central Missouri Classic on Friday Feb. 20.

"I think we have a really great team and coaches and am really looking forward to the outdoor season."

- Rachel Leuthold

time of 11.38 seconds.

Three men had personal and seasonal bests at the meet. David Parry, fr., Morganville, ran a 1:18.92 in the 600-yard

dash. Jesse Jackson, fr., Crete, Neb., triple jumped 38-9 3/4, placing sixth. In the shot put, Drew Griffin, jr., Rancho Cordova, Calif., threw 31-4.

New coach Joseph Eby is excited to see what his team can do.

"The last meet showed where we are and what we need to do to get better for outdoor," Eby said.

The Bulldogs open their outdoor season on March 14 on their home track in the McPherson Invitational.

Men finish weaker than they started

JAMES TUTTLE
Spectator Staff

The Bulldogs limped down the final stretch of the season, despite a strong start.

In their final six games, the Bulldogs won only one game. In four of these five losses, the Bulldogs lost by double digit deficits.

"We played the top teams in the conference at the end of the season," said head coach Tim Swartzendruber. "We were not healthy at the end of the season."

In their final win against Bethany College on Feb. 14, the Bulldogs led the entire way, burying the Swedes by 16 points, 88-72, behind 22 points scored by Mike Reece, jr., San Antonio, Texas. The Bulldogs shot a scorching 63 percent from the field as well as 78 percent from the free-throw line.

The Bulldogs then traveled to Salina to face one of the top teams in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, Kansas Wesleyan University on Feb. 19. The Bulldogs seemed to be a different team than on Feb. 14, as they only shot 33.3 percent from the field.

Mark Johnson, sr., Healy, and Charles Moore, jr., San Antonio, Texas led the Bulldogs with a mere 13 points apiece. The final score was 63-78.

In their final regular season game, the Bulldogs faced Southwestern College. In the first meeting between these two teams on Jan. 22, the Bulldogs dominated the Mound-builders, winning by a 26-point margin.

On Feb. 21, Southwestern came out on top by a final score of 61-72. Swartzendruber said the main difference between the two games was that McPherson shot "lights out" at home, but shot



Photo by Kyle Toland

Mark Johnson, sr., Healy, sets up for a shot while Kansas Wesleyan players try to stop him.

poorly at Southwestern.

The Bulldogs finished the regular season tied for sixth in the KCAC and avoided the play-in game with an 8-10 conference record. However, the Bulldogs faced the University of Saint Mary in the quarterfinal round, a team that had defeated them twice during the regular season.

Even though the Bulldogs would keep the game close, a seven minute scoreless stretch would put the game out of reach. Despite 16 points from Reece and 13 points from both Dwayne Thomas, jr., Houston, and Brandon Cameron, sr., Hutchinson, the Bulldogs came out on the short end of a 71-85 fi-

nal score.

"We had a really bad stretch in the second half," Swartzendruber said.

The Bulldogs finished the season with a 14-14 record, despite a 5-3 non-conference record.

"In past years, McPherson has not fared as well outside of the conference," Swartzendruber said.

In the pre-season, the Bulldogs were picked to finish last in the conference. They ended tied for sixth and played well considering they had few returners from last year.

"To have a completely new team and do as well as we did was definitely a tribute to our players," Swartzendruber said.

Students find faculty approachable

SHANNON WILLIAMS
Spectator Staff

McPherson College staff, faculty and administration work hard to appear approachable to all students.

"I try to keep my door open as much as possible, I try to sit at different tables during lunchtime," said Kelli Johnson, personal counselor. "I enjoy greeting people in the morning or whenever they come into the Student Union."

Johnson realizes the importance of not only being approachable, but being non-judgmental as well.

"I also am willing to talk with students in a way that lets them know they will not be judged by me no matter what they are going through or laughing about or needing," Johnson said. "It isn't my position to judge, just be here for everyone and help them access what they need to be successful."

While college employees work hard to appear approachable to students, they realize that different students have different perceptions of what being approachable is.

"I like to think that I am very approachable," said Ken Yohn, associate professor of history. "I think the majority of my students feel that they can readily talk to me about instructional and non-instructional issues."

Students need to see campus staff, faculty and administration as approachable for a variety of reasons that will affect college experiences.

"I believe all college employees' primary role is to serve the needs of the students and that means being available to them," said Laura Eells, provost and dean of the faculty. "I don't think I need to seem to be approachable, I need to be approachable. The only way to solve problems and miscommunications is by talking about them. If a person is not approachable, the communication cannot occur."

The college staff, faculty and administration encourage students to visit their offices and talk to them one-on-one.

"I will never judge what someone says," said Tom Hurst, director of campus ministry. "I will offer my



College librarian Susan Taylor shows books to students Breanna Crawford, jr. McPherson, and Angelina Fiorenzi, sr. Bishop, Texas during the Young Adult Literature class Taylor teaches

opinions, make suggestions and listen. I really do want to be a staff member who is viewed as always available for students for whatever reason."

Being approachable to students is in any college employee's job description, which is why staff,

faculty and administration at McPherson College enjoy it when students stop by their office to chat.

"I feel that staff on campus is easy to talk to and quite helpful and professors are very personable and always available," said Dustin Whitney,

soph., Enid, Okla.

Danna Gordon, jr., Newton, said she's grateful for the small college approachability that is not available at many larger institutions.

"I've been to a larger university where it was nearly impossible to talk

to professors, and if I did go talk to the professors, they didn't even know my name," Gordon said. "At McPherson, everyone on campus knows you and is truly concerned about your well-being."

Stimulus: Obama helps students afford college

from Page 1

percent refundable.

This new tax credit expands beyond the previous credit by covering eligible expenses that are beyond tuition and textbook fees. It also expands income caps to \$80,000 for those who file singly and

\$160,000 for those who file jointly.

"Students' parents and independent students will be able to qualify for the tax credit," Netherton said. "This tax credit will help families offset college expense incurred during 2009."

So, while the stimulus package does not have any direct assistance for private liberal arts schools such as McPherson College, the effects of the bill may increase enrollment, which in turn increases funding for the college.

Improv, Safer Sex Night, dodgeball get students involved



Robby Tobias jr. Conrad, Iowa; Stephanie Johannes, Salina, and Jessy Wisdom, soph., Salina, participate in the crowd for Aaron Krebs and the performers of Mission IMPROVable. The company, which began touring in 1999, came to the college from Chicago. Their performance is similar to the show "Whose Line is it Anyways?"



Photo by Chris Plooster



Photo by Adrielle Harvey

Above: Tim Kurkowski, soph., Mounds, Okla., and Travis Eason, soph., Tulsa, Okla., play in the dodgeball tournament on Feb. 22.

Left: Lamonte Rothrock, dean of students, and Kelli Johnson, personal counselor, dress up and present questions for Safer Sex Night,

Sustainability plan to have possible modifications

AUDREY SECKER
Sports Editor

The faculty's plan for sustainability was delivered electronically to the trustees on Feb. 17, 2009.

"I think there are a number of positive, constructive proposals that would improve the plan adopted by the Board in December," said President Ron Hovis.

Hovis received an electronic copy of the proposal on Feb. 13.

The faculty's proposal came in to counter the plan proposed by the trustees on Dec. 1, 2008.

The faculty feel very strongly about saving jobs and majors.

"I feel most strongly about the loss of foreign language because we lose not only the major but also

really the minor because we can only offer 12 hours a semester and it would have to be Spanish one, two, three and four," said Kim Stanley, professor of English and communication.

Stanley continued, "That means that we could never offer anything except Spanish one, two, three, and four and a minor has to have a minimum of 18 hours for it to be reputable. And so it means really that we lose foreign language. It seems to me that it is at the heart of liberal arts and at the heart of the Brethren ideas of reaching out to the world."

Despite the faculty plan saving as much money as the Board's plan, Hovis said it fails to set long-term goals.

"We are all concerned

about saving jobs and majors wherever possible," Hovis said. "The faculty plan does not generate as much ongoing expenses reduction as the trustee's plan. The Board's plan identified changes that are intended to generate ongoing increases in revenue or decreases in expense. A significant part of the savings in the faculty plan is either one-time or short term in nature."

The trustees will meet the first weekend in March to discuss the two plans and to vote on a final plan.

"It is my expectation that (the Board) will modify the plan they adopted in December by incorporating in whole or in part, a number of the proposals in the faculty document," Hovis said.

Severance: Staff, faculty seek alternative jobs

from Page 1

Trustees to work in a collaborative manner with the faculty and staff to determine the necessary course of action. In response to the initiative, the faculty has since drafted a very thoughtful and well-crafted proposal to present to the Board at their March meeting. After exhausting all possibilities, a last resort would have been the elimination of senior faculty, the core of the institution. There is something to be said for age and experience, something you cannot put a price tag on, and that is wisdom."

Trimmell said he was not given the opportunity to determine his own course of action when the Board responded to the faculty proposal.

"The deadline was the end of January in spite of a faculty proposal to postpone the deadline for two weeks, which would have allowed for a greater understanding of direction in the decision-making process. Due to the un-

certainty of the situation, I chose to reluctantly take the severance package."

Trimmell is unsure of his plans at the end of this year, but is seeking employment elsewhere. Wright owns a nutrition and physical fitness center, Quick Gym, in downtown McPherson, and is planning on working full time in those businesses.

"Over the years, I have stressed to my students and athletes many things, but several stand out: model your Christian faith through living and service,

treating others with dignity and respect," Trimmell said. "As Barnabas was to Paul, be an encourager to others. You have freedom of choice, but not freedom of consequences."

Wright encourages "students to do two things."

"One, sit down and keep a journal and find out what their passion is and then pursue them with some written goals," he said. "To accomplish their maximum potential, they have to have written goals."

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