

## McPherson Men's Basketball wins two KCAC games in a row Team matches longest winning streak of this season

CHRIS NEWELL  
*Sports Editor*

The McPherson College Men's Basketball team traveled to Salina on Saturday, Jan. 31 to battle with the Kansas Wesleyan Coyotes. With the game not being decided until the final minutes, the Bulldogs were able to pick up their second victory in a row in conference play at a score of 65 - 61, matching a season high for victories in a row.

The game opened with the teams trading baskets and no team fully establishing a sizable lead. McPherson was able to take the lead early only to give it back, but the deficit was never too large. The Bulldogs shot a low 37 percent in the first half to Kansas Wesleyan's 46 percent, but went into halftime down only 4 at a score of 27 - 31.

The second half featured much of the same from both sides with points for either team not coming easy. Following a 3-point field goal to tie the score from Kyle Lakin, jr., guard. Kansas Wesleyan used a 7 - 0 run to take the lead. This was followed immediately by McPherson with a 9 - 0 run of their own to take the lead.

McPherson traded the lead once more before taking it back and holding off the Coyotes for good. Free throws were crucial down the stretch, as both teams struggled to connect from the free throw line, as McPherson shot 11 - 19 while

KWU only shot 8 - 15. But McPherson was able to hit them in crunch time to secure a victory. The win helped improve the Bulldogs to 8 - 16 on the year; 4 - 8 in KCAC play.

The win was a close game, an area where the Bulldogs have struggled this year. So far the Bulldogs are 2 - 4 in games decided by 5 points or fewer. Coach Tim Swartzendruber was pleased with his team's performance in the pressure situation. "It was nice to win a close game," Swartzendruber said. "We had some big stops defensively and we hit some pressure free throws. This group continues to improve."

McPherson was led by two of their starters TJ Grant, sr., guard, and Darius Hill, sr., forward. Grant was the high scorer for the team with 23 points on 50 percent shooting from the field. He also had three rebounds and three assists. Hill recorded another double-double for the season with 18 points and 11 rebounds. DeAndre Henson, soph., guard, was able to contribute 8 points along with six rebounds as well.

McPherson will continue its push towards the postseason to face off with Sterling College Saturday, Feb. 7 in McPherson. Sterling College sits just one position ahead of McPherson in the KCAC standings. The Bulldogs will continue to look to improve and continue their two-game winning streak on the season as they close in on postseason play.



Photo by Miranda Clark Ulrich

TJ Grant, sr., guard, drives to the hoop past two Bethel defenders. Grant led the team with 23 points thanks to 50 percent shooting from the field.



## Students audition for 'On the Verge'



Photo by Claire Crossman

Addie Johnson, a junior in performing arts, stares at her script while auditioning for the comedy, "On the Verge."

First comedy of the year brings interest to performing arts

**2** SU celebrates Black History Month

**5** Spanish professor's art showcase culminated with reception

**7** Students traveled abroad, benefitted through experiences

**8** Spring Break has volunteer opportunities

**10** Felines foster benefits

**14** Track, field gets ready for KCAC conference

**16** Men's Basketball team matches longest winning streak

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Computer Services adds new staff member**

Mike Jose will begin working with Computer Services Feb. 23 as the system and network administrator.

Jose has experience with network administration and will be taking over Dave Gitchell's responsibilities as Gitchell prepares for retirement.

**Horizon Fund accepting applications**

Friday, Feb. 6 is the deadline to apply for the spring semester Horizon Fund.

Applicants could receive up to \$500 for entrepreneurial endeavors.

Applications are due to Abby Archer, chief of staff, by archera@mcpherson.edu.

The forms are found at [www.mcpherson.edu/entrepreneurship/horizon/](http://www.mcpherson.edu/entrepreneurship/horizon/).



Photo by André White

Morgan Quintana, a junior in physical education; Yann Kadeba, a freshman in biochemistry; and Kevin Ndongu, a junior in business administration have an African-American inspired dinner in Hoffman Student Union as part of Black History Month.

## Black History Month observed in SU

### African-American foods planned for students

ANDRÉ WHITE  
*News Editor*

As February is Black History Month, McPherson College's Black Student Union (BSU) in collaboration with Fresh Ideas set their sights on adjusting the menus to acknowledge the observance.

BSU President, Magenta Jackson, a senior in sociology contacted Fresh Ideas, via Martin Porter, director of dining services here at the college to add some traditional African-American food to the menu.

McPherson College is culturally diverse, as there are several persons from traditional black nations like Jamaica, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria,

Morocco and South Africa. Despite the fact that there are many ways of preparing African-American menus, there is no doubt that students, faculty and staff of other backgrounds will have an opportunity to celebrate Black History Month.

Porter, said that the African-American foods are always a part of the weekly menus even out of the February period. Porter said that his African-American heritage helped him eat these foods regularly.

"Not just African-type countries, but English culture, Caribbean culture; it's basically a melting pot in the south," Porter said when highlighting which countries' foods will dominate the menu.

Porter feels that the students, faculty and

staff at McPherson College won't react bizarrely to the menus being planned for Black History Month because the cafeteria has had these food already and that they enjoyed them. Additionally, he said that there are plans to make African-American food a priority on the menus during Black History Month and that this doesn't have to be just during February, but rather anytime that anyone wants to see their cultural food being prepared.

"Black History Month means celebrating my history and where I came from," Porter said.

Students and other users of the cafeteria can expect to see fried chicken and other home-style meals during the month's celebration.

# Women's basketball continues to improve

CHRIS NEWELL  
*Sports Editor*

Following their longest winning streak of the season, the McPherson College Women's Basketball team fell in defeat to Kansas Wesleyan as a lowly first half would prove to be too much to overcome for the Bulldogs in the second half of the game on Jan. 31. The Bulldogs are now 4 - 20 on the season and 3 - 9 in KCAC games.

The first half began with both teams exchanging the lead before Kansas Wesleyan used a 13 - 0 run to go up at a score of 18 - 7. The Bulldogs were forced to play catch up from that point on and were unable to achieve it, largely due to committing 15 first half turnovers.

The second half saw the Bulldogs pick up their scoring efforts, led by Bailey Brown, jr., guard, and her 18 points in the half. However, the Bulldogs were unable to slow the Coyotes on the offensive side, as they were able to hold a 20-point margin throughout the second half. McPherson shot just 37 percent to Kansas Wesleyan's 47 percent.

The women of McPherson were led by Brown, who had a game high of 21 points. Sunny Smart, soph., guard, was active on the court with totals of 11 points, seven rebounds and two steals, blocks and assists. Georgia Smart, jr., forward, tallied a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Whitney Jefferson, jr., guard, was able to contribute five points and dished out a team high of four assists on the night as well.

Thanks to her strong performance against the Coyotes of Kansas Wesleyan, Brown was selected as KCAC Offensive Player of the Week. This is the third time she has won this award this year. She is currently the leading point scorer in the KCAC, as she is scoring 17.6 points a game against KCAC opponents. A conference scoring title is definitely in reach for the junior as she looks to claim that title for the first time in her career.



Photo by Miranda Clark Ulrich

The Bulldogs look to bounce back and salvage the conference season with a showdown at the SportCenter against Sterling College on Saturday, Feb. 7. Sterling is only one spot ahead of McPherson in the standings as they look to gain ground on the rest of the KCAC.

Whitney Jefferson, jr., guard, drives by her defender towards the hoop looking to shoot or pass. Jefferson is second on the team in assists this season with 54.

## McPherson track, field prepares for indoor conference

CHRIS NEWELL  
*Sports Editor*

The McPherson Track and Field team has had three meets in preparation for their indoor conference championship meet, scheduled for Feb. 13 and 14 at Kansas State University's Ahearn Fieldhouse in Manhattan.

For the men's side, the team has been led by a solid squad of sprinters that run a range from 60 to 400 meters. The Bulldogs currently hold the top four spots in the 60 meters, led by Perry Joseph, a junior in physical education, and his national qualifying time of 6.86. Joseph is the only person in the KCAC with a time less than 7 seconds at this distance. Following him in the standings is Josiah Oybefun, a sophomore in biochemistry; J'Moi Penn, a senior in business administration; and Akim Muhammad, a junior in business

administration. Joseph has already ensured a trip back to the national meet this year with his time in the 60 meter.

The 200 meter looks nearly identical, with Penn leading the way atop the conference, followed by Joseph and Oybefun rounding out the top three. In the 400 meter, Muhammad holds first place going into the indoor conference championship, an event that he took first place in at the 2014 KCAC indoor and outdoor championships last year.

Marlon Clayton, a sophomore in communication, is in first place in the triple jump event, while he is less than a foot away from first place in the long jump event as well. Clayton qualified for the NAIA national meet last year in this event and is looking to get back in just his second year.

Clayton is also part of the McPherson Men's 4x400 team that consists of him,

Muhammad, Joseph and Jawaun Stuart, a senior in sociology. The 4x4 team is just 2 seconds off of qualifying for the national meet.

On the women's side, McPherson has also been led by their sprint squad. Led by Dajana Gliesche, a sophomore in physical education; and Jazmine Alexander, a senior in psychology; the Bulldogs have improved through the early season grind, and are still in the process of getting the whole team onto the track for the conference meet.

Alexander is in second place currently in the 60 meter, only two hundredths of a second behind first place. Behind her is her teammate Gliesche, who is third. This combo also holds the fifth and eighth positions respectively in the 200 meter. Alexander stays busy while holding the third place position in the 400 meter, being only a second away first place position.

On the distance side, Laura Gibson, a sophomore in physical education, is at the top of the leaderboards in multiple events as she is third place in the 800 meter and fourth in the mile event.

Gliesche also takes her talents elsewhere besides sprints, as she is first place in the 60 meter hurdles and second place in the long jump event. She has a national qualifying mark in the 60 meter hurdles as well.

Leading the women in the field portion of events, Brooke Bush, a sophomore in biochemistry, and Arryana Barton, a senior in communication, are third and fourth respectively in the shot put competition. Both of these women are national qualifiers in the shot put event from last year, and both are looking to return back to the national competition again this year. Barton is also an All-American triple jumper from last year as she looks to improve her marks at the championship competition to return back to the national meet.

Through three track meets, both Bulldog Track and Field teams have positioned themselves very well to take the indoor championship title.

"I'm very pleased with the progress we've made with our preparations for the KCAC Championships," said Coach Cameron Magnall. He and coaches Robert and Ermelinda Spies have been working everyday with the track program in their time before the championship meet.

All of the Bulldogs have had multiple weeks in preparation for the KCAC Indoor Conference meet on Feb. 13 and 14. Both teams also are looking for the title in the KCAC as the Men and Women finished second at the Indoor meet last year, losing out by just a few points on both sides. While both teams were able to claim the outdoor championships last year, the returning members of each side are striving towards an indoor KCAC championship as well.



Photo by Miranda Clark Ulrich

J'Moi Penn, a senior in business administration; Josiah Oybefun, a sophomore in biochemistry; and Perry Joseph, a senior in physical education, race in the 60 meter dash at the Prairie Wolf Invitational in Lincoln, Neb. on Jan. 23. All three men are at the top of the KCAC leaderboard at 60 meters.

### NEWS BRIEFS

## Health clinic relocates to Harter Hall

ALAINA JOHNSON  
*Spectator Staff*

Partners in Family Care Walk In Clinic has moved from the lobby of Dotzour Hall to Suite 106 in Harter Hall, on the corner of Simpson and Sharp streets. There has also been an alteration of the hours, now being 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The reason for the relocation is that as it began to expand, Dotzour Hall was unable to provide a big enough space for multiple exam rooms; whereas, Harter Hall has a larger space to offer services.

Despite the move, there haven't been that many changes as fulltime students at McPherson College will be able to utilize the services of the Health Clinic at no cost to them. The clinic is also open to members of the McPherson community and will accept all insurance providers. Additionally, walk-ins and appointments are accepted, albeit that all McPherson College students will receive priority.

"By having the clinic open to the public and on campus, it is even an added benefit for employees of our institution," ShaRhonda Maclin, dean of students, said.

Partners in Family Care from Moundridge is the organization that is working in tandem with McPherson College to provide health services to the campus and the community itself as a whole.

The health clinic has been seen and has always been an inexpensive option for students seeking medical attention.

"By having this service on campus, it is keeping our students in classes and working towards graduation," Maclin said.

To make an appointment at the on-campus health clinic with assistant physician Ashlee Pauls or for more information, call 620-242-0404.



Photo by Alaina Johnson

Physician assistant, Ashlee Pauls, looking directly through an otoscope during the reopening of the Partners in Family Care Walk In Clinic. It is now located in Harter Hall.

### Radiator pipe bursts in Mohler Hall classroom

Kerry Dobbins, assistant professor of history, heard the radiator pipe burst in room 212 in Mohler Hall Monday morning on Feb. 2. Classes were relocated for two days.

The pipe had burst because of cold overnight temperatures.

Maintenance staff repaired the pipe and evacuated the water.

After the carpet was shampooed and the room dehumidified, the classroom was available Wednesday, Feb. 4 morning.



# New campaign launched to increase funds

ANDRÉ WHITE  
*News Editor*

The end of October marked an opportune moment for McPherson College, as the institution launched a \$14 million comprehensive campaign called “Power the Future.” Between now and 2018, this campaign will focus on enhancing opportunities for the school’s resources.

Speaking in a press release, President Michael Schneider said, “Students are truly our focus here, our entire reason for existing disappears without them. Focusing our campaign on making our high-quality education even stronger makes complete sense. Ultimately, we’re investing in the future of McPherson College by doing so.”

Prior to kicking off the opportune campaign, McPherson College has raised \$5 million in lead gifts. Between now and 2018, the college anticipates adding another \$9 million in gifts to achieve its goals.

Steven Gustafson, vice president of advancement, said that the goal is ambitious but achievable, and that he has every confidence that alumni and friends will rise to meet the challenge. “We know that our community is passionate about their college,” Gustafson said. “This is an opportunity for them to have a significant influence on the

teaching and learning experiences of students – both now and in the future.”

The campaign has four funding priorities. First is giving to the McPherson College Fund, which directly supports student scholarships and internships, service opportunities, student activities and athletic experiences. McPherson College provided \$4 million in scholarships last year to its students based on merit and need.

Kevin Ndongo, a junior in business administration, said that one day he intends to give back to the school by helping students with costs of attending. He said that the reason is because the school is very expensive and not everyone can afford it. Moreover, Ndongo said that since there’s a myriad of opportunity at McPherson College, it would be great for students to have such an experience.

“A school that gives opportunities, the student to faculty relationship is exquisite and the in-class teaching that can be immediately and effectively practised in our day-to-day activities are just immaculate,” Ndongo said.

Program enhancement for academic departments and athletics is the next funding priority. This will focus on specialized science and laboratory equipment, additional classroom and curriculum materials, internship opportunities and an athletic success fund.

Capital projects that will benefit students and further improve campus appearance is the ultimate funding priority. Marty Sigwing, director of facilities, said that the focus of the improvements is on accessibility, appearance of the campus and student safety.

Continuing to build the college’s endowment, focusing on needs that will improve the student experience at McPherson College, is a major priority. Opportunities include endowed faculty positions, permanent student scholarships and special events, such as guest speakers or artistic endeavors.

Despite having priorities, donors have many options to choose from as they determine how they will support the campaign. While many people give money, other giving options include appreciated stocks and property, a life insurance policy or a percentage of an IRA, as well as deferred giving opportunities through charitable gift annuities or testamentary gifts.

Moreover, Schneider urges the McPherson community for their support. “We ask that you send us your good vibes,” he said, “You send us your love, you send us your prayers, and you continue to support McPherson College in all the amazing ways that you have supported her in the past.”

## Higher Learning Commission gives preliminary accreditation for McPherson

RYAN KRESKY  
*Spectator Staff*

The Institutional Assessment Committee members of McPherson College do not want to set up expectations on campus.

These expectations would be from the final report for the school’s reaccreditation.

In December of 2014, McPherson College was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission which evaluated the college’s programs and resources for reaccreditation.

The Institutional Assessment Committee and the Higher Learning Commission are separate from each other and conduct separate reports but are combined to

make the preliminary report.

The Higher Learning Commission Re-accreditation visit team spent three days from Dec. 8 to 10 evaluating the school; the members of the visit team consisted of other educators from other schools making it a peer-review study.

The school committee members gave the visit team a self-study for the report based upon their observations of the college. The self-study report gives the school a chance to give a response, to give input on the report and can also send a rejoinder if they want the HLC to reevaluate the results.

Groups and faculty helped the committee by participating in the self-study process. It also helped that students and faculty, especially the student leaders

and SGA officers, wore the MC Prep 4 HLC T-shirts and nametags, answered questions and attended the forum.

The results of the preliminary findings gave information that showed what we excelled at and some areas that could use for future improvement.

Cari Lott, academic dean and the chair of the committee, said the reason why they do not want to set up expectations for the finalized report is because in the past the visiting team would share what they found immediately after the visit.

Additionally, she said that it has now changed, so what the committee receives are preliminary results which the overview will be brought to a panel to decide whether or not the school is accredited.

Bruce Clary, vice president of academic

affairs and ex-officio of the Institutional Assessment Committee, said, “There are many steps remaining before the report is finalized.”

Lott also added that the process has now changed into an accreditation procedure called “Pathways,” which means the school will go from being evaluated every 10 years to the school sending evaluations intermittently which will lead to an HLC visit at the end of the 10th year.

She later added that the committee will know the final decision of the panel sometime in March.

Above all, the school definitely did well and students and faculty can be assured that their degrees and hard work will be and have been useful wherever they go.

# McPherson baseball team prepares for spring season

CHRIS NEWELL  
*Sports Editor*

A new year is here for the McPherson College Baseball team. The 2015 season begins as the Bulldogs play two games in Texas on Feb. 7 and 8, facing off against University of Saint Francis from Indiana and Wiley College from Texas.

Both games will be played in Marshall, Texas. McPherson begins the season with 16 freshmen on the roster, but Head Coach Andrew Ehling and the Bulldogs are ready to go.

Ehling enters his fourth season now as Head Coach of the Bulldogs Baseball

program. In 2014, the Bulldogs finished with a 16 - 32 record and 10 - 18 for the KCAC. The team had four players earn All-KCAC last year and all those players graduated.

The team is ready and Ehling expects his team ready to compete despite the large number of players moving on since last season. “We have lots of leadership gone, but I know we have a great core of guys. We have players who know how it goes, three seniors who know what to do by now.”

The three seniors on the team are Seth Davenport, C/1B, physical education; Tom Potter, 1B, communication; and

John Lauts, 1B, business administration: management.

All three of these players will need to be ready to lead the team with a large amount of newcomers. McPherson will be looking to return to the KCAC tournament as they missed out on the postseason action last year. McPherson last qualified for the KCAC championship tournament in 2013.

With the season being long and the KCAC portion of it not starting until mid-March, the Bulldogs will be forced to grow quickly as a team. Ehling says the team has been working on the basics of the game, with main focuses coming

on the fundamentals of the game and working on what the team can control.

“I’m looking for guys who can respond well to the in-game situations,” Ehling said. “As the season goes on, players will define their roles. We have to play hard and play one pitch at a time.”

Ehling said the team is not trying to look too far forwards into the season just yet, as the team is still focusing on basic skills that will help the team get through the grind of a full college season.

“We just wanna focus on the details, execute our tasks as a team, and we will be successful.”

## McPherson softball swings into new year, new beginnings

### *Second coach in school history leads young team*

THOMAS POTTER  
*Spectator Staff*

As the winter months start coming to an end, spring sports teams begin preparing for the lengthy grind of the spring season. This is no different for the McPherson College Softball team.

After falling last year in the first round of the KCAC tournament, the softball team is looking to return again this year behind a new group of young players and new Head Coach Ashley Spencer.

She replaced the only coach in McPherson College Softball history. Former coach, Mike McCormick, stepped

down after last season. He was head coach for 15 seasons, winning the conference championship in 2003. Spencer is a graduate from University of Kansas who also received her master’s in business administration from Tabor College. While at Tabor College, Spencer was a graduate assistant coach and had previously coached club softball and camps at Kansas, even playing two years as a Jayhawk.

Just like every year in college sports, players graduate which allows new young talent to join the program and have an immediate impact, which is exactly what will happen this year.

“We are a young team,” Spencer said,

“but our upperclassmen are providing great leadership for our freshmen who are always looking for guidance.”

After finishing last year’s season with a record of 16-23, this year’s softball team has the goal of returning to the conference tournament, but they will need to take it one step at a time. The team has a tough non-conference schedule to begin the season.

Spencer said, “Playing these tough teams will help us become better prepared for when we get into conference play.”

She feels the road trips will be a time that her team can take advantage of to become even closer to one another and get

to know each other better on and off the field. “Some of the best memories are made off the field as well,” Spencer said, “especially when we are at the hotel, on the bus or just out having fun away from softball.”

The McPherson College Softball team opens their season at the Cowtown Classic in Fort Worth, Texas on Feb. 13 against Our Lady of the Lake University where they will begin their long journey to getting back to the KCAC tournament where Spencer said, “All we have to do is make the tournament. At that point everyone’s record is wiped clean and anything can happen.”

# Student suggests idea for cafeteria meals not to go to waste

The cafeteria. One of the eternal struggles here on campus.

With the start of a new semester comes a new allotted amount of meals for us to use. The meals we pay for, but don't end up eating, shouldn't be wasted meals.

We should be refunded for those meals that we do not eat.

With the new policies concerning the cafeteria meals, unused meals are allowed to roll over to the next week. At the end of the semester, though, they are wasted.

At the beginning of interterm, I, as well as individuals I talked to, had more than seventy meals left over.

On average, a meal at the cafeteria costs \$7; and with at least 15 of those meals being wasted, that's about \$105 that could be refunded to individuals or credited to

their account at the end of semester.

With a possible \$105 not being used per semester, don't the students have a right to that money? If not to be able to receive the money back, then to at least know where our unused money goes.

Students that happen to work through brunch on the weekends or dinner on the weekdays, is this their fault they are missing meals?

Over the semester there are numerous reasons why students aren't able to get to the cafeteria for a meal, but they paid for those meals and deserve to have the money back or the opportunity to receive those funds in some way

An alternative idea to solve this dilemma is MAC cash.

The student would receive a meal card

and would choose the amount to put on the card, and it would be broken down to show how much money they would need to cover a certain amount of meals.

Then the students would get to use the card at the cafeteria or any affiliated eateries such as the Dog Bowl or Craft Coffee Parlor.

Depending on the students' living situation, the school could put a minimum amount the student would have to keep on the card. When school starts, the students would be allowed to add more money to the

card. However, whatever money is left on the card at the end of the year is lost.

Not only would students would get to use their money in more locations, the school would still make money by ensuring students have a "meal plan" that they are eating consistently.

## MEAL PLAN MONITOR

Bailey McKinley



## ON THE FLY

### Who is your favorite professor or teacher on campus and why?

*"Diane Fast. Since I am so far from home, she's like a mother figure to me. She's comforting."*

Karrington Sneed, fr., performing arts



*"Rod Gieselman. He finds a way to teach subjects that would otherwise be boring, in an interesting and engaging way."*

Sam Williams, sr., business administration



*"Kim Stanley. She is a great influence and a good role model. She helped me a lot throughout the courses I took with her."*

Jenny Bruton, fr., psychology



*"Ami Martinez. She relates everything back to your life."*  
Andy Fabianski, soph., automotive restoration technology



*"Becki Bowman. She will always listen to what students have to say even if their views are different from her own."*  
Caitlyn Blagrove, soph., communication



*"Ken Yohn. He's so enthusiastic about anything and everything he teaches."*  
Joel Stocksdale, sr., automotive restoration communication

# Spanish professor's art exhibit closed with reception

RYAN KRESKY  
*Spectator Staff*

An "almost reception" celebrated a non-art faculty's exhibition "Made in Colors" in Friendship Hall on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Assistant Professor of Spanish Lorena Medrano's acrylic paintings were on display for the month of January.

Medrano painted all of the works in the exhibition, showcasing vivid and colorful displays of abstract objects and images of animals with the use of acrylic paints. Most of her work is abstract with each piece of art differing from each other in the use of light and dark colors and the vibrant use of primary colors.

"I love to paint animals, but horses are my great love," Medrano said.

Her desire to paint stemmed from her passion for art, but that enthusiasm was

lost when she was 19 years old. However, it was resurrected when she came to McPherson. After coming to McPherson, she feels content to paint whatever comes to her mind, which was a major influence on her artwork in general. She also said that another influence was her home country, Venezuela.

"I love it when I work here," she said. "Since I came to McPherson, it has been a supportive atmosphere which makes me feel at peace with myself, letting myself be free to paint," Medrano said.

This reception was hosted by Wayne Conyers, professor of art, and Medrano to celebrate the exhibition after being in Friendship Hall for three weeks. The reception was in Friendship Hall from 7 to 8 p.m. There were food and drinks available for visitors so they could look at the work and be able to socialize with Medrano.



Photo by Marissa Patton

Jasmine Helms, a sophomore in communication, looks at artwork at the "Made in Colors" exhibition in Friendship Hall.

# Week shaved off of 2015 Interterm, creates stress for some

JOHANNA HOFFMAN  
*Spectator Staff*

Most McPherson College students were given the opportunity to either take a six-week Winter Break or come back to enjoy frigid January temperatures in one intense course, generally three or four hours a day, Monday through Friday.

Shortening it by a week, of course, made every class period count that much more.

This year, McPherson College decided to make interterm three weeks instead of the usual four, mainly to stay on a similar calendar schedule with nearby schools.

This change was met with various opinions by professors and students. Ultimately

to many students, three weeks felt about as equally stressful as the four weeks did in past years.

Nathan Holthus, a junior in graphic design, noticed very few changes as far as packing in more material for each period.

"My class was very project-based," Holthus said, "making two weekends difficult to get my work done to the best of my abilities."

Many professors felt the same way. Ani Martinez, professor of English, commented on the challenges of squeezing a public speaking course even tighter. Reflecting back, though Martinez felt students learned the same amount of material. The course involved less room for play than in the past.

"I had to really think outside the box to come up with activities to keep students engaged for four hours a day," Martinez said. "From my perspective, three hours are the maximum amount of time any group of people can focus on academic material."

Martinez also alluded to the problems teachers faced. From planning, to teaching effective lessons, to grading, there wasn't a lot of downtime for professors either.

"I find I'm quite exhausted entering the spring semester because interterm was so intense," Martinez said.

Despite these challenges, however, Martinez can see the importance of an intense course. She believes the opportunity to go on international trips, such as the European

tour and Ecuadorian trip, were invaluable experiences those students will never forget. She also feels interterm benefited those students who enrolled in courses they were already confident in.

Holthus echoed Martinez as he uses his interterm classes as a jumping-off point to learn more about web design.

"I feel like when I'm in a major class for interterm, the three or four weeks is more of a primer to learn on my own."

Just like any other McPherson College course, a student will get out of interterm what he or she puts into it, said Holthus. It doesn't matter as much the time frame of the class as the amount of time students are willing to devote to it.

## The Hot spot

By: KAVODERIC McINTYRE

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF LANGSTON RHYNES  
ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR AND RECRUITER



here. That's how I got my job."

**WHAT IS YOUR JOB LIKE?**

"Well I travel a lot and it can be really busy on the road. On my jobs I have the most fun going to different schools and talking to kids. They really love my energy, but it can also be stressful being limited in time and getting all of the schools visited. I do a lot of traveling to Dallas because I'm familiar with the area. I've visited my old high school and plenty more schools all over Texas. I also travel to Kansas City a lot and all over northern Kansas."

**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM WORKING AT THE COLLEGE?**

"I had to make the transition from working in a big city to living in a small town. Being from a big city like Dallas, I'm use to a lot of people and a different lifestyle. Working here has helped me become more stable and more calm. I also have more responsibilities living by myself. I've matured a lot more."

**WHAT IS YOUR GOAL WHILE WORKING HERE?**

"I really want to change the culture here and contribute to the success of the college. I want to introduce a new wave of students that want to make a difference in the world around them. I would really like to see the population reach 1,000 students."

**HOMETOWN:** Dallas, Texas

**HOW IS IT BEING AWAY FROM HOME?**

"It really helps my family financially by living on my own and taking care of myself. I'm setting my own path. But it's hard because I miss mom. We're really close and she's all I have."

**HOW DID YOU GET TO MCPHERSON?**

"When I went to school here, I was recruited to play football by two former coaches. I also had a friend here, who I saw become successful at what does. After I graduated in 2013, I moved back home to work for a year. A position opened here at the college and I applied. Everybody remembered me being so involved when I went to school

## Students can study abroad

### Yohn: Professional, personal growth abundant while gone

KAVODERIC McINTYRE  
*Campus Life Editor*

Societies are becoming more diverse each day through various lifestyles and traditions being shared across the globe. For McPherson College students, studying abroad is encouraged as a way to learn through new experiences while interacting with a foreign culture.

Ken Yohn, associate professor of history, has personally influenced students' lives by encouraging study abroad to make a difference. He has taught in France every year for the past 20 years.

"Each student that has traveled and came back told me this was one of the best decisions they made in their life," Yohn said. "Professional opportunity, professional growth and personal growth," he said are the three reasons why students should chose to study abroad.

By choosing to study abroad, students will learn a variety of professional skills in a different culture and develop their own personal traits. This program can be a trip as long as a semester or up to a full year. About two or three trips are offered every year. Recently, students have left for a semester spent in Bangkok, Thailand and Spain. Previous trips included countries such as Spain and England.

For those financially concerned, choosing to study abroad can turn out to be cheaper or just as much as paying tuition for college, while gaining the same knowledge. Financial aid is offered and similar classes can be taken ranging from theater arts and music to graphic design and more.

Many professors and advisors are actively involved in studying abroad. Herb

"Each student that has traveled and came back told me this was one of the best decisions they made in their life."

—Ken Yohn, associate professor of history

Smith, professor of philosophy and religion, will be traveling to Ethiopia for a fifth consecutive year to volunteer in the Lalibela community. Joshua Norris, assistant professor of music and choir director, just returned from choir tour that took him all over Eastern Europe. All of these professors display outstanding generosity in their lives by encouraging others.

Future trips include Columbia and Germany. If interested, contact Yohn for more information via email at yohnk@mcperson.edu



Yohn

### LEAD EDITORIAL

## Students choose six common majors in college to focus on

After high school, people have are two options: go to college or go to work.

Carly Stockwell, a writer for USA Today, said that last year around 21 million students were in college.

There is an abundance of majors to choose from, yet Stockwell said that students tend to drift toward a small group of practical majors.

These majors are broad and give students many options after graduation.

Should students just get a broad degree and learn a little about a large topic and have a shallow understanding, or should they learn in depth and create a niche in that particular area of the field?

The question is depth or breadth.

In today's economy, where jobs are hard

to find and hold on to, breadth is the better option

The article Stockwell wrote with data from College Factual and PayScale lists the top 10 majors that students around the country tend to be drawn to. These six are a few that McPherson offers.

Number one: history. Students studying history believe they will make better decisions in the future by studying what decisions were made in the past. Stockwell said that by choosing this major students could also specialize in a certain era or location.

The second major is in English and literature. The field is sometimes looked at as a venue to teaching or considered unpractical; however, Stockwell said that

the skills students learn, such as writing, reading and communicating their ideas clearly, are invaluable.

The third major is much more specific: accounting. Stockwell says for anyone who enjoys math or statistics, this major is a suiting choice. It gives them the options of working for a large company, a small company or public institution. They must be certified by their state and most people go on to masters degree.

Teacher education is the fourth major Stockwell listed in her article that is also low-paying.

This major is the one America needs more of. These are the people that are teaching the generations that will grow up to run the country and take care of our

generation.

The fifth major listed is general psychology. These students learn the ins and outs of the human brain and behavior.

The last major, chosen most often, is business administration and management.

Stockwell said these students learn to effectively run a business. Other skills they learn are leadership, management and decision making.

While all of these majors are broad, they teach students skills they will need in the future for jobs and being a citizen in the world. In today's economy where jobs are hard to come by, broad degrees may be more effective than a niche in a certain field.

## Felines create immunities, communities

Research suggests cats make people smarter, richer and healthier.

Piper Hoffman lists 14 facts in an article on Care2.com that suggest cats are simply good for our health.

They make us better people and owning a cat makes us happier individuals than not owning a cat.

Hoffman says that people who own cats are more open-minded and tend to conform less when compared to dog owners. They also tend to be smarter because of it.

Cats literally make you smarter.

Typically people who are smarter have jobs that require them to work longer hours, which goes hand in hand with making a lot of money.

Cats literally make you rich.

Hoffman also said that cats can help develop allergy immunities in small children.

If you have an indoor cat with an infant

aged child, being around cats will help develop immunity to allergies later on in life because that child will get used to having pets around.

On top of all of this, cats will inevitably get a man laid.

Men who own cats are nicer, more thoughtful and sensitive than men who own dogs, which in turn will get them more dates.

Cats are pretty much the perfect wingman for any guy.

A Swiss study shows that cats are just as affectionate as dogs, and they provide comfort which makes single women feel less lonely.

Cats are equivalent to having a boyfriend.

Ever hear of the term "crazy cat lady"? Well maybe those women are onto something.

Due to the fact that men cause intense

stress in any woman's life, women who remain single but own a cat actually tend to live longer than women who are married.

Hoffman said petting a cat is scientifically proven to have a calming effect on any person.

Having a cat snuggle up to you has certain psychological benefits such as improving your mood, helping with depression and even helping to recover from a traumatic experience.

Hoffman said they can sense health problems and will try to comfort you.

If you are still not convinced that cats are the best pet to have after reading these facts, then you must be a true dog lover and should refer to my first comment about open mindedness.

Cats are irrevocably the best possible choice when owning any type of pet and if you want to live longer, get laid and feel loved and to give love without the stress and angst.

### THE FELINE LINE

Nikki Vorhees



# Conspiracy theory busted with logical explanation

In today's world, perfect rationality is impossible. With that comes room for people to voice their opinion as to why things happen.

This is how conspiracy theories develop in society. They are defined as explanations that accuse people and organizations for causing or covering up illegal and harmful events through secret planning and deliberate action.

Most people aren't comfortable with these theories and the confusion they create. For others, conspiracy theories are intriguing.

They analyze the possibilities a conspiracy theory presents. Sometimes they consist of nonsense and people use them as means of entertainment. Or you may find that the theory is potentially credible and makes you think.

One compelling conspiracy theory is that trails left in the sky by aircrafts consist of poisonous or biological agents released as part of a covert operation by the government.

Conspiracy theorists believe these are chemicals being deliberately sprayed into our earth's atmosphere. They speculate that the release of these chemicals in the sky is affiliated with a bigger scheme involving shadowy forces within the government.

They call these white streaks chemtrails, and their purpose is to be inhaled involuntarily causing severe body injury and premature death.

On numerous occasions, dating back to 1996, federal agencies and scientists have repeatedly denied the existence of chemtrails.

There is a more logical answer to why

these white streaks exist. When hot or humid exhaust from jet engines mix with the much lower temperature of the atmosphere, water vapors contained in the jet's exhaust condenses and freezes.

This process forms a cloud very similar to the one someone's hot breath makes on a cold day.

You shouldn't be afraid to take another breath outside after reading this article because I feel this theory is a bit over-exaggerated.

Especially with an alternate and sensible explanation to the occurrence of these white streaks in the sky.

These conspiracy theories are just for amusement and an interesting read. I am, in no way, crediting these to be true or false. I am simply explaining the theories and giving my opinion on whether I believe them

I want for these to raise an eyebrow and lead you to your own investigation.

## CONSPIRACY CRACKED

Jared Whitten



# Letters to the editor

Any student, staff or faculty member can submit a letter to the editor for the Spectator.

Letters should be limited to 350 words in length. The letter must be accompanied by the signature of the authors; letters may not be sent anonymously.

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

All letters should have a point

that is constructive or contributes to the enhancement of the student body; the newspaper staff will not print libelous material.

Anyone can submit a letter to the editor at any time if time of publication isn't vital to the author.

Letters can be printed and then submitted directly to any member of the newspaper editorial staff or emailed directly to the Spectator at [hamlmeg@bulldog.mcpherson.edu](mailto:hamlmeg@bulldog.mcpherson.edu).

## Views Expressed

The viewpoints pages provides diverse views on contemporary issues to stimulate discussion and promote the shaping and progression of ideas. Editorials are the official position of the newspaper, but are not the official views of the student body, staff, administration or McPherson College. Other views are the opinions of the individual authors or artists.

# Spring Break 2015 will give students opportunities to volunteer their services

KAVODERIC MCINTYRE  
*Campus Life Editor*

In March, several students will be representing McPherson College by lending a helping hand through service to two different communities. Upholding the values of the pillars set by our founders, spring break will be spent giving back and impacting the lives of many for these concerned few.

Scholarship, participation and service are important pillars encouraged by the McPherson College community. As a member of the Church of the Brethren for 10 years, Jen Jensen, interim director of spiritual life and service, came to McPherson College a year ago. On March 15, students will have the opportunity to travel to the Lybrook Community Ministries of the native Navajo tribe in New Mexico, or to Heifer Ranch, associated with Heifer International, in Perryville, Ark.

The trip to the Lybrook Community is a chance to explore and interact with others of a different culture. Days will be spent on an Indian reservation doing various activities while learning the beliefs and practices of the Navajo tribe.

"Students will work on houses, work in thrift stores and participate in a variety of classes that range from arts and craft to getting a GED," Jensen said.

Those traveling to Arkansas, will be farming on a ranch and giving back a great deal to those in poverty, alongside with Heifer International. Heifer international was founded by Dan West because he wanted to provide relief by working to end world hunger and poverty. His company promotes hope and prosperity by feeding families in need and teaching them the skills to survive on their own.

Heifer Ranch is more than 1,000 acres and filled with several farm animals, such as cows and chickens that are used to feed families. After reproducing, the animals can be shared between other countries and communities to help more people.

Bulldog students embarking on these adventures will share the wonders of this team building experience as they learn to work with others towards a substantial cause. Jensen wants to expand the service opportunities to three or four trips offered following the presenting success of this year's trips.



Spectator file photo

# Start applying now to prepare for future

KAVODERIC MCINTYRE  
*Campus Life Editor*

Being prepared and able to plan ahead is key for those seeking a career after college. The biggest part of applying to graduate schools is the application process.

For juniors, now is the time to begin to meet any qualifications needed. Internships are a good

way to network and meet people that can help lead students to their goals. Students should prepare to take any entry level tests that may be required.

Pursuing a bachelor degree in the last year of college can be the most stressful but most exciting year of a student's college career.

"Senioritis is real," said Magenta Jackson, sr. in sociology. "Time flies by so fast that some-

times you just have to sit back and remember the ultimate goal. I learned quickly that there is always knowledge that can be taken in and applied in other areas," she said.

For students looking for more information or need help getting prepared for life after college, contact Jen Jensen, interim director of spiritual life and service, at [jensenj@mcpherson.edu](mailto:jensenj@mcpherson.edu).

## The McPherson College SPECTATOR

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Photos by Claire Crossman

## Students audition for small cast of 'On the Verge'

CLAIRE CROSSMAN  
*Spectator Staff*

Auditions for the upcoming production of "On the Verge," were Jan. 27.

Only 10 students auditioned, due to the short cast. There are only four performers needed, one male and three females. Unlike a traditional audition in privacy, auditions were held in front of one another in the open.

This was also not a "cold read" and everyone was given the script to rehearse two hours prior to the audition.

Freshman Logan Schrag has gotten every lead role that he auditioned for, including the lone male role in "On the Verge." Although he is a business major, Schrag has a theater scholarship.

In this show, he will be playing six different roles.

"I think it will be a good opportunity

for me to explore who I am as an actor," Schrag said.

Addie Johnson, a junior in theater education; Crystal Osner, a junior in performing arts; and Laurina Hannan, a senior in communication and English; will be on stage with Schrag for the play.

"On the Verge" will be performed in Mingenback Theatre Feb. 27 and 28 and March 6 and 7.

Tyler Henning (left), a junior in automotive restoration management, reads a part for Madam Nhu, which will be played by a male as part of his audition for "On the Verge." Logan Schrag (above), a freshman in business, also auditions for the same part. Jd Bowman (right), associate professor of theater, hosts the auditions. He is directing the play.

