

Men take 2nd; women 5th at KCAC indoor conference meet

JOANNA HOFFMAN
Spectator Staff

Success came in many different places for the McPherson track and field team in the KCAC indoor conference meet on Feb. 13 and 14.

Though not all of the team was content with the way the points ultimately shook out, the final results had the McPherson men taking second overall, and women taking fifth. Despite just missing the championship for consecutive years, many highlights were produced over the weekend.

Cameron Magnall, head track and field coach, said, "I was very happy with the large number of records and personal bests that were achieved this weekend."

Friday mostly consisted of preliminaries in both sprinting and field events with few finals happening. Art Hop, a junior in physical education, opened the meet for the 'Dogs by launching himself to a gold medal in pole vault. Though this was his first time clearing height all of indoor season, Hop was the only competitor to clear 4.25m.

Saturday held most of the excitement for the Bulldogs. On the men's side, the main event was having a four-place sweep in both the 60m and 200m dash by the same four athletes. This sprinter powerhouse consisted of Perry Joseph, a junior in physical education, Akim Muhammad, a senior in business accounting, J' Moi Penn, a senior in business, and Josiah Oyebefun, a soph. in bio-chemistry.

Perry Joseph tied his own personal record in the 60m on the first day with 6.86 seconds, enough to give him the "A" standard mark going into nationals. Joseph also placed 2nd in the 200m. He only gave up the gold to teammate Muhammad, who broke the school record with a time of 22.42 seconds. Penn and Oyebefun again

rounded out the top four.

Later on, Muhammad continued his efforts by winning the 400m dash, collecting his second school record for the day with a time of 49.42 seconds. This was also enough to send him to nationals, as he earned an "A" standard.

The Bulldogs had other top performers on the men's side, with Chandler Dohe, a soph. in music education, placing 2nd in the high jump event. Marvin Jackson, a senior in history, and Aaron Vaughn, a junior in sociology, took 3rd and 5th respectively in the 60m hurdles, and the 4x400 relay team took second place in a thrilling race.

As for men's distance, Dixon Cooney, a sophomore in mathematics, cut down his own school record 800m run time to 1:58.70. This placed him third in conference, matching his other third place medal from Saturday in the one-mile, with a time of 4:24.80. He also led the men's 4x800 meter relay to a school record as well.

Jazmine Alexander, a senior in psychology, held big highlights for the Bulldog women as well. She qualified for nationals in the 60m with a time of 7.84 seconds, and again in the 400m dash, sprinting through at 59.51 seconds. This was also enough to break a school record for Alexander.

Arryana Barton, a senior in communication, will be the other women's bulldog joining her at nationals, gaining a "B" standard for her fourth-place triple jump mark of 11.12m. Barton was able to earn All-American status in this event by placing third at nationals last year.

Laura Gibson, a sophomore in physical education, represented the women's distance team well. She achieved her own school record in the one-mile, placing second in conference with a time of 5:24.98.

Other top performers for the women were Brooke Bush, a soph. in Bio-chemistry, earned a third place medal in the shot put and Neka Dias, a soph. in physical education placed fifth in the 60m hurdles.

Alexander, Barton, Joseph, and Muhammad will be competing at the NAIA Indoor Championships on March 5-7 in Geneva, Ohio. However, there is one "last-chance" meet that other Bulldogs will have the chance to compete in to join

their teammates. After Nationals, the team will start their outdoor season on March 12 with the Southwestern College Invite.

Photo by Miranda Clark Ulrich

Laura Gibson, a sophomore in physical education, leads the early stages of the women's mile race. Gibson earned second place in the event on Saturday, Feb. 14.



Students mingled with professionals



Photo by Joel Stockdale

Employers of various companies visit McPherson College for Auto Restoration, Professional Development day. This career-oriented day was held on Feb. 18.

Auto students interview for internships, full-time jobs

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NEWS BRIEFS

Assistant automotive technology professor resigns

Jon "Ned" Nadeau, assistant professor in automotive technology, tenders his resignation, effective at the end of the semester. Nadeau has spent the last four years in the Auto Restoration program.

The assistant professor along with his family will be returning to their native state of Maine to be with their extended family.

A search to fill the vacant position is already underway.

Barbecuing, grilling will now be approved by RD

Due to recent activities on campus, all barbecuing, grilling will now have to be approved by resident director.

Before anyone can start doing any of the afore-mentioned, he or she will need to grill at least 20 feet from all doors and windows.

Also, the barbecue and grill needs to be supervised at all times.

Finally, coals and or embers can't be disposed in trash cans.

Brownback to reduce public schools' funding**Education majors worried about job prospects**

ANDRÉ WHITE
News Editor

McPherson College education students are concerned about their future jobs as Kansas Governor, Sam Brownback, has instituted a bill ready to be voted on by the Senate- he has initiated for a \$45 million cut in public education funding- K-12 schools and public universities.

Brownback is headed toward making up for the dent to his fiscal policy with the afore-mentioned cut by March to help eliminate a \$344 million deficit, reported MSNBC.

Comparatively, McPherson College is a private institution, so the budget cut will not affect the school colossally, but will definitely have a huge effect on students looking to get into the public teaching industry and those who are looking at pursuing graduate school.

"I think a lot of school districts are really scrambling, really panicking, some of them are trying to figure out what are they going to do and how are they going to solve their problems," said Shane Kirchner, associate profes-

sor of education. "I was just talking to a student who is a future Spanish teacher and we talked that foreign language is kind of an extra; they may cut those jobs and it might be very near and dear to her if they cut those jobs and she may not have a job simply because they are not going to hire those teachers," Kirchner continued.

Gabe Padilla, junior in education, said that he never liked Brownback for many reasons. However, he noted that if the governor is trying to remove the deficit that the state is currently withholding then he has no problem with that.

"The problem I have is that I hope he doesn't cut too much into the school budget because we have already faced one huge budget cut when I was in high school and we lost a lot of jobs," Padilla said. "When it comes to jobs, I'm hoping that this doesn't affect any," Padilla also shared.

On the contrary, Jayson Thirston, a Kansas native and an employee of Fresh Ideas, thinks Brownback's actions are being misunderstood. Thirston said that everyone is under the impression that he's cutting all the

funds and he's really not and that he has made a commitment to give a certain percentage to the schools.

Thirston also noted that the issue is, Brownback has to retract the promise that the excess funding be added to whatever the schools are getting and now because of the deficit.

Jose Angulo, junior in business marketing, said that Brownback making this huge cut will definitely affect the financial aid of higher education, in the sense that the colleges and universities will not have the financial stability to assist students who cannot afford to pay full tuition.

Angulo perpetuated that even though the schools are going to assist students, America's education system is behind when compared to countries like El Salvador and others.

Angulo is a dual citizen, Salvadorian and American, even though he was born in Texas.

"The Governor cutting education funding highlights the disregards they show for education in this country," Angulo said. "Education is the key to success, so how could you cut the funding."

McPherson tennis cause racquet; open non-conference schedule

CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
Sports Editor

A new season is fast approaching for McPherson College tennis program. The new look for the team comes after the most successful season in school history. There are lots of new faces for the men and a new head coach, but the men and women's teams are reacting well to the changes.

Heading both teams into the season is head coach Justin Stuckey. The end of this season will mark his first full season as head coach. He was a head coach at Wittenberg University for five years.

Both teams come into the season with national team rankings. The women were named No. 24 in the 2015 Tennis Coaches' Preseason Poll. The men are also ranked no. 25. Regardless of these rankings, both teams are confident that they are KCAC contenders.

Stuckey has recruited plenty of new faces this year, specifically for the men's side. This year's women's squad is coming off of their first KCAC championship in school history, and is forecasted to make

another title run with Stuckey as head coach.

"We expect to compete for the KCAC tournament and reach the national tournament again this year," said Stuckey for the women. "We know we can do it, and we want to go even farther in the NAIA national tournament."

Leading the women is Brooke Vorhees, a senior in elementary education, who was named a 2014 All-American. Joining her is top players Nikki Vorhees, a junior in business; Britney Gourlay, a senior in physical education; Claire Crossman, a senior in communication; Chandler Short, a junior in physical education; and Alexandra Moore, a junior in mathematics.

The men's team was able to achieve great success in the fall portion of this season, as they had two members of the team reach the ITA National Tournament—Rafael Bulnes, a junior in business, and Joan Marc Fajula-Rodriguez, a sophomore in business administration, were both 2014 All-Americans. They reached the ITA National tournament in the fall and earned themselves a No. 5 ranking as a doubles

pair for this season. Bulnes enters the season as the 10th ranked player in the nation, but decided to redshirt the season.

Including these returning players, the Bulldogs return players from last year with Allen Darmawan, a senior in biology; Jaime Roman, a senior in physical education; Michael Irwin, a senior in business administration; and Connor Schafer, a sophomore in business administration. Darmawan and Irwin are the lone seniors on the team, while Irwin is the only Bulldog to have competed all four years within the tennis program.

"With our men's side, we could potentially have five or six freshmen in our starting lineup. All of our new players can contribute instantly, and they arrived on campus with the intent of playing now," Stuckey said. "It will be a learning experience for many of them, but I'm extremely confident with the guys we have now."

Both teams play on Feb. 28, when they travel to NCAA D-II Washburn University in Topeka. This will begin the season for both teams as they will begin the new grind of the 2015 season.

New Members of Tennis**Women**

Nadine Baquiran, jr., psychology
Deiah Curtis, fr., mathematics
Nikki Thornburg, jr., physical education

Men

Hugo Ball-Greene, fr., communication
Jose Maria Carillio Rena, fr., business management
Hector Carrillo Perales, fr., business administration
Puneet Dave, soph., business administration
Gabriel Franca, fr., physical education
Pablo Garcia, fr., business administration
Ahmed Lahlou, fr., business administration
Pedro Ribes, fr., business marketing

Intramural basketball brings out McPherson community

TERRANCE GRANT
Spectator Staff

The McPherson College Intramural basketball 3-on-3 tournament was on Sunday, Feb. 15 in the McPherson Sport Center.

Many students joined in on the tournament action. 16 teams participated in the tournament.

There were lots of intense battles that occurred throughout the entire tournament. The winning team of the championships was able to take home the cardboard

trophy.

Deon Shorter, a McPherson College alum, explained why intramurals can get so heated.

"This matters for people like us because we don't normally play basketball and we are just competitive and this brings out that nature so to speak," Shorter said.

Intramural basketball at McPherson College also includes people around the community that participate in the league as well.

Staff members around the college also participate in the league as well. Aric

Cherry, athletic communications director, is a frequent player and enjoys the chance to compete and have fun.

"It's a nice outlet for my own competitive spirit and it's a great way to stay active."

Julian Nagata, a senior in sociology, said that, "I had a lot of fun with it, basketball is a sport I really enjoy. One of my teammates got really heated during our game, but it's always fun to mess around out there with the boys."

Dusty Kitchen is in charge of the league and has now started the sign-ups for 5-on-5 intramural basketball.

To sign up for the league, captains of each team must send in a full team roster including full player names and a team name. If the person does not go to McPherson College, they must pay a \$5 fee prior to playing.

Sign ups end on Monday, Feb. 23, and the first round of games will be played on Sunday, March 1. To sign up, email Dusty Kitchen with the full team roster at kitchend@mcpherson.edu. Teams that are emailed to him will be final and cannot be changed after that date.

Bulldog basketball teams make playoff push

Women nearly upset ranked Southwestern Men hang on, fight, secure close victory

CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
Sports Editor

After playing one of the best first halves of basketball of the season against one of the top teams in the KCAC, the McPherson College women's basketball team was unable to keep pace with Southwestern College on Saturday, Feb. 14 in Winfield as the Bulldogs kept the game close but were unable to secure the victory as they fell at a score of 76 - 68.

McPherson has two home games remaining and they sit two games out of eighth place in the KCAC.

The first half saw both teams trading the lead back and forth throughout the opening 20 minutes. Nine lead changes, two ties and the largest lead being six highlighted the battle that was the first half. McPherson was able to score the last 5 points of the half to take a 4-point lead going into halftime.

McPherson came out shooting 53 percent in the first half compared to Southwestern's 37 percent, but the lead of only 4 was due to the rebounding struggles that would continue into the second half. The Bulldogs allowed 12 second-chance points in the first half, as they weren't able to score any points on second attempts.

The second half saw the good basketball from the first continue on, but the Moundbuilders of Southwestern would use an 11 - 2 run to command the lead around the nine-minute mark. The Bulldogs kept the lead within striking distance, but it would get away from them as Southwestern pushed the lead to 14 with just five minutes left. A 3-point shot from Sunny Smart, jr., guard, cut the lead to a manageable 6 points, but the game was out of reach with under 30 seconds to play.

The final statistics of the game looked to be in McPherson's favor, as they outshot SC 43 percent to 40 percent from the

field, and 36 percent from 3-point range compared to SC's 27 percent. However, they were out rebounded by nine boards and allowed 17 offensive rebounds and committed a costly 15 turnovers throughout the game. Regardless of the final outcome, the women of McPherson put on one of the most solid performances of 40 minutes of basketball of the season.

Leading the Bulldogs in points, rebounds and assists was Smart, as she put up 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the night. Bailey Brown, jr., guard, dropped 17 points and had five boards of her own. Brown also led the defensive effort for the Bulldogs as she swiped five steals for the game as well. Other contributors for the women were Megan Acklin, jr., fwd., as she scored 8 points and grabbed down five rebounds. Zatorian Abra, fr., guard, filled the stat sheet with 6 points, four rebounds and four steals as well.

The Bulldogs are nearly finished with the regular season and are currently sitting outside of the KCAC playoff picture by two games. The top eight teams in the conference will qualify for postseason play, and the McPherson women are two games behind.

They will have a chance as they play their final two games of the regular season at home. The season concludes on Saturday, Feb. 21 as they take on the team that currently holds the elusive eighth spot in the conference in Saint Mary's University. The Bulldogs will need a victory at home to give them a chance at postseason play. The game starts at 5 p.m. in the Sport Center.

Chris Crook, soph., guard, drives toward the basket.



Photo by Miranda Clark Ulrich

CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
Sports Editor

Avenging a 9 point loss from earlier in the season, the Men's Basketball team took down Southwestern at a score of 91 - 81 Saturday Feb. 14. They have nearly secured the lowest seed in the KCAC tournament as they sit comfortably at eighth in the conference.

The Bulldogs came out scorching in the first half, being led by Darius Hill, sr., fwd., and his 17 first half points. The Bulldogs led by 19 at one point after a floater from Kenny Berry, jr., guard, was successful. Southwestern remained within striking distance but the halftime score was 45 - 29 in favor of McPherson.

The Bulldogs put together a solid first half, as the team shot 52 percent from the field and 5 - 10 on 3-pointers. Southwestern could only put up 38 percent from the field and a lowly 22 percent from distance as a stingy first half defense from McPherson pestered for the Moundbuilders.

The second half was a different story as Southwestern started to put pressure on the Bulldogs by upping their offensive production and pouring in 52 second-half points. Although McPherson stretched the lead to a game high of 23 after TJ Grant, sr., guard, hit four consecutive free throws.

Southwestern College kept it interesting with a 12 - 0 run late in the half to cut the lead to 8 points with just three minutes to play. McPherson was able to hold on thanks to 6 - 8 shooting from the free throw line in those final minutes. The

final score was a 10-point victory for McPherson after they cooled down from their monster first half.

Their final shooting numbers were 49 percent compared to a very high 54 percent for SWC who played a game of streaks. The Bulldogs made up ground by shooting 55 percent from the 3-point line compared to SWC's 35 percent.

Leading the Bulldogs was Hill with his 27 points and 11 rebounds, giving him his KCAC leading 13th double-double on the season. With him was Grant, scoring 23 points and dishing out a team high of 5 assists. The only other Bulldog in double figures for scoring was DeAndre Henson, soph., guard, who scored 12 points to go along with 3 rebounds and assists.

After surviving the second half flurry from Southwestern, coach Tim Swartzendruber was pleased with his teams performance, especially knowing that the playoffs are rapidly approaching for his team.

"We shot well in the first half and were great defensively," said Swartzendruber. "We got a little rattled towards the end of the game but I'm proud of our finish. A good win indeed."

The Bulldogs will now finish the season with a pair of home games. The Bulldogs are in eighth place in the KCAC with a record of 9 - 19 overall and 5 - 11 in KCAC play. Playing the decisive games at home should be a relief for the Bulldogs, however, they are only 2 - 7 this season at home compared to a 7 - 9 record away from the Sport Center.

McPherson will finish the season against the 2nd ranked team in the KCAC with Saint Mary's University on Saturday, Feb. 21. The Bulldogs will likely need at least one victory in the last two games to completely ensure they beat out Sterling College for the last spot in the KCAC tournament.

Vaccines recommended for college students

ANDRÉ WHITE
News Editor

Vaccination can cause autism among individuals regardless of race, ethnicity or social strata. At least that is what some people think of for vaccinating children from preventable diseases.

Some parents refused and are hesitant to have their children immunized but this may not be the best answer either. Physician assistant, Ashlee Pauls, said that parents who insist that vaccination causes autism must do their research on the issue.

Being reluctant to vaccinate their children puts others at risk of chronic illnesses.

Pauls shared a story of a baby who was too young to receive the MMR vaccine and was exposed to someone who had measles. The baby contracted the disease and died. Moreover, this shows the importance of vaccination.

"Living on a college campus may expose students to potential viruses that they have never encountered before, therefore it is essential to have some protection in order to remain healthy," ShaRonda McClain, dean of students, said.

According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a proven tool for controlling and eliminating life-threatening infectious diseases and is estimated to avert between 2 and 3 million deaths each year. Despite this, immunization is an emotional issue for many parents. A vaccine-preventable disease is less common and parents have little familiarity with the effects of the illness that could take over. However, the benefits of immunization may not be considered worth the risk of adverse effects.

Dr. Kreessten Meldgaard Madsen, an epidemiologist and expert on infectious diseases at the Danish Epidemiology Science Centre in Aarhus researched the issue. He highlighted that the vaccine questioned and tested for the cause of autism was the MMR Vaccine, which is an immunization against measles, mumps and rubella. The



Photo by Laurina Hannan

A pharmacist administers a flu shot vaccine to Laurina Hannan, senior in communication and English, on Sept. 7, 2013 at Walgreens in McPherson.

academic journal further highlighted that Madsen had found no convincing scientific evidence to support a causal relationship between the MMR vaccine and the development of autism. The biological plausibility remains questionable and there is a sound body of epidemiological evidence to refute the hypothesis. The alleged link relies largely on two observations.

"There is no evidence to say the actual vaccine causes autism," Pauls said. "It just happened to be coincidental with autism

happening at the same time of vaccination."

The World Health Organization accentuates that vaccination is one of the most cost-effective health investments, with proven strategies that make it accessible to even the most hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations. It has clearly defined target groups; it can be delivered effectively through outreach activities; and vaccination does not require any major lifestyle change.

NEWS BRIEFS

Reyes promoted to associate head men's soccer coach

With head coach Doug Quint stepping down as athletic director and taking over the women's soccer program, Reyes has been promoted to associate head men's soccer coach. This promotion followed by Reyes being named Kansas' Youth Soccer Boys Coach of the year 2014.



Health Clinic to host 'Open House'

Partners in Family Care Health Clinic will be having an Open House Feb. 25 on location at Suite 106, Harter Hall.

On that Wednesday, the clinic will have snacks and a paint wall for kids.

The doors will open at 4 p.m. and the event will go until 7 p.m.

No reservations are necessary and it is a come-and-go event.

For more information call 620-242-0404 or stop by the office.



Photo by Claire Crossman

Breahna Gillespie, admissions and financial aid counselor, engages with high school students during Jump Start Kansas, a micro-grant program hosted by McPherson College on Thursday, Feb. 12.

High school students visit for Jump Start Kansas

LAURINA HANNAN
Editor-in-Chief

aged one to 14.

In his plan, he would introduce to the children healthy eating habits and active play choices. His friend's weight loss was an example of how a healthy lifestyle can be a life-changer.

Most of the students that presented learned about Jump Start Kansas through Youth Entrepreneurs, a Wichita-based program that McPherson College is a partner with. In Youth Entrepreneurs, about 30 classrooms teach entrepreneurship to high school students.

Abby Archer-Rierson, chief of staff, said, "students felt like their ideas were heard and embraced in the entrepreneurial mindset." She explained that Jump Start

Kansas is a lot like McPherson College's Horizon Fund Grant program, but geared toward high school students with grants ranging from \$25 to \$500.

When the high school students weren't giving their 15-minute presentations, they toured McPherson College campus, sat in on classroom experiences and had lunch. They also met with some McPherson College Horizon Fund Grant recipients.

"The high school students got to meet with current entrepreneurial students who are currently full-time students running catering, photography or D.J. endeavors," said Archer-Rierson. "They were impressed with the caliber and success of the current entrepreneurial students," Archer-

Rierson continued.

After Janes presented, the McPherson College staff and faculty asked questions and suggested he look to find existing programs he could partner with in Wichita to help reduce start-up costs.

Given a second chance, Janes would have researched and developed more on certain aspects of his plan.

He said, "I would really look more into preparing for questions like what they asked and looking into what they said, like partnerships or even finding the proper staff I need to have."

Janes is considering attending McPherson College to study accounting and to race with the track team.

Baseball faces No. 4 ranked Oklahoma Baptist University

CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
Sports Editor

Heading into a weekend of baseball against NAIA No. 4 ranked Oklahoma Baptist University, the Bulldogs played two separate double headers against them on Feb. 13 and 14. All four games went in favor of OBU, but new head coach Shawn Powell saw it more as a learning curve than a negative point on the season's map.

"Like we told our players after the last game, we got exposed this series in all three phases by a very good team," Powell said. "Our program can take this weekend one of two ways: we can let this be the standard for this team or we

can let this be the turning point for the season. We'll find out which one we are going to take soon enough."

Oklahoma Baptist University looked everything like the No. 4 ranked team in the NAIA, but the Bulldogs were able to be competitive with them in the second games of each double header. The first game of the weekend opened with OBU scoring 3 runs in the first inning, and then exploding in the fifth and sixth for 14 runs.

McPherson's Treyton DeVore, a freshman in business finance, pitched the first four innings and allowed seven runs total. The final score of the first game showed 17 - 1 in favor of OBU. McPherson's only run was scored by

Evan Willow, a freshman in biochemistry, double in the seventh inning.

McPherson's second game of the day was closer, but after three innings the scoreboard was 8 - 1 in favor of OBU. Dylan Fontenot, a freshman in sociology, drove in the lone run for the Bulldogs, while Jon Feaster, a sophomore in biochemistry, scored on an OBU error.

Going into day two of the double header, OBU started like they did on the first day, only even better. Matt Bryan, a junior in biology, put the Bulldogs on the board in the fifth inning with a 3-run home run for their only runs of the game. Ethan Dowling, a freshman in business, pitched the complete game for the Bulldogs. By the time it was over, the scoreboard read

19 - 3 in favor of Oklahoma Baptist.

Concluding the weekend long series, the Bulldogs played their best defensive game as the game was tied going into the fifth inning. But OBU struck with 1 run, and then putting 5 more up on the board to ensure the series sweep. Nathan Crowe, a freshman in accounting, pitched the whole game for the Bulldogs.

McPherson will stay on the road and head to Marshall, Texas this weeken for games against Wiley College on Feb. 21 and 22. They split their series earlier this season, as their lone loss against them came by 1 run. The team will continue to learn on the fly as the season is still in its earl stages and conference play still a ways off.

Softball team opens season with road trip against top competition

THOMAS POTTER
Spectator Staff

This past weekend of February 13 - 15, the McPherson College softball team made their trip to Fort Worth, Texas to kick off their season in the Cowtown Classic. The trip didn't go as well as the team had hoped as they faced defeat in all games played. However, Head Coach Ashley Spencer is pleased with her team's effort from this past weekend.

"We played some really tough teams who are highly ranked to start the season, but I thought our girls played well.

Playing these teams will help us learn as a team and will also help us prepare for conference play," Spencer said.

The Bulldogs played a total of five games while in Fort Worth which allowed numerous players to get in game experience. Throughout the weekend the Bulldogs hit the ball well, as five players were able to post a batting average of 300 or higher.

Outfielder McKenna Deckard, a senior in biology, helped lead the Bulldog offense. She had five hits on the weekend, which included two doubles and a home run. Outfielder Samantha Harrity, a junior in

business administration, also helped lead the Bulldogs offense by posting six hits and two walks in 13 at-bats.

"It's nice to have a versatile player at the top of our order who is always going to be a tough out for our opponents." Spencer said about her performance.

Along with the offense the Bulldogs also had some standouts in the field. Mariah Wedel, a senior in elementary education, Savannah Lewis, a freshman in elementary education; and Maty Gray, a freshman in criminal justice, were three of the players that Spencer pointed out as playing really well in the field. At the same time Spencer

feels her team is still learning.

"We need to make sure that we stay ready on defense and only give our opponents three outs per inning," Spencer said.

The season is just getting underway and McPherson will continue to work towards their goal of making it to the conference tournament. While the conference season is still a ways away, they must learn as the season goes on.

Bulldog softball will make their home debut at Wall Park on Friday, Feb. 20, with a double header against Midland University starting at 3pm.

Statues could take place of disposable flowers in circle drive

Recently all the bushes surrounding the circle drive were removed. The grounds crew has cleared the way for something new and fresh for the spring.

Students walking past the circle drive have recently noticed the sparseness of the scenery in this section of campus.

Instead of replacing the plants with other plants that will have to continue to be replaced every spring, why not include small statuary to fill in the flowerbeds?

The statuary that reflects our college and what we as students, professors and faculty love about McPherson College would be a nice addition to campus.

Various aspects such as our love for athletics, our seal or our continued partnership in volunteer opportunities in the community could be included.

Ideally the sculpture would be one made by a student in sculptural or metal class on campus.

By letting the students create these sculptures they more accurately reflect school spirit.

This would be a way to display our individuality and show what makes us different from bigger schools.

The school could commission a group of studio art majors to create a set of statues. That way there would be uniformity among the statues.

Ideally this opportunity could count towards the senior art show.

We could argue that this expense would be greater than the continued renewal of flowers, but the statuary will take up room that will no longer be filled with flowers.

A main expense would be upkeep on the statues themselves if they needed any. Another problem is that some may say the statues aren't as aesthetically appealing.

One plus is that the statues won't die in the winter or need extra water in the summer. The students creating them have no limits on how colorful or simple they are and a piece of student creativity would add uniqueness to our campus.

Mainly I think every school, big or small, can display flowers in the flower beds; why

not create something different that sets our school apart?

We already display student artwork around campus but should display it loud and proud on the grounds for potential students to see.

Artwork will set us apart, but also bring us together.

ART AFFICIONADO

Bailey McKinley



ON THE FLY

If you could have any super power what would it be? Why?

"To stop time and freeze everyone while I could move around."

Karsen Stuchl, jr.,
automotive restoration
technology



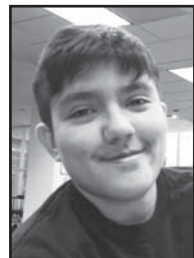
"The ability to go through walls, doors, tables or anything. You could freak people out."

Laura Puente, jr., business
administration



"I think it would be cool to be invisible. You could see what's going on with people."

Gabe Padilla, jr., mathematics



"Invisibility. You could just do whatever you want. You could be naked."

Laura Gibson, jr., physical
education & health



"Super strength, so I could protect the ones that I love."

Charles Moore, soph.,
automotive restoration
technology



"Flying and reading minds. I have always wanted to fly and I want to know what people are thinking."

Jasmine Helms, soph.,
communication

McPherson College hosts high school art exhibition

RYAN KRESKY
Spectator Staff

This year marks the 43rd Annual McPherson High School Art Exhibition. It is now displayed in Friendship Hall.

Every year the art departments of both McPherson College and McPherson High School choose one month out of the year to premiere the show.

Wayne Conyers, professor of art, said that this was a way for the college to connect with the local community and to be a service.

Conyers wanted to stress that this is not meant to be a recruiting tool for the college. "It would be different," Conyers said, "if the student was planning on going to McPherson College but it was never the intention."

The artworks were made over the course of the first semester and the month of January, with a few students premiering two or more pieces.

He said that the artwork was chosen entirely by Stacy Hall and Shawn Cordel, instructors of art at McPherson High School.

This year the exhibition started on Feb. 3 and will conclude at the end of the month.

Originally meant to premiere in November, Conyers decided to take a chance in February since the high school art department is not participating in any competitions and Hall agreed to the change.

"I had an opportunity for a show to come in so I called Stacy and asked her, 'What would you think if we did it a different month?' And she answered, 'I can't see why not,'" Conyers said.

One problem that rose during the process was obtaining student artwork from the previous semester.

By having the exhibition in February instead of November, Conyers said it allowed the students to produce more artwork within the school year instead of two months.

The exhibition consists of 68 works of art created by 42 different students. All of the works are composed of different mediums like graphite, acrylic, sculpture, photography, nickel silver, dix-gold, tempera, scratch art and linoleum print.

Photo by Ryn Kresky

A Degas impression is one of many art works on the walls of Friendship Hall during the on going Art Exhibition currently being held at the college in collaboration with McPherson High School.



Amahad Handlin
Acrylic

The Hot spot

BY: THOMAS POTTER

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF
ANDREW EHLING, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



HOW LONG WERE YOU HEAD BASEBALL COACH?

Three seasons.

WERE YOU INTERESTED IN THE JOB WHEN IT BECAME AVAILABLE?

Ehling said he did express strong interest in the position. He has always had an interest in working in the administrative side of athletics.

WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST TRANSITION FOR YOU?

"Not being on the field or being around the guys every day will be the hardest part and the biggest change for me. The transition from one sport to 14 will also be a lot more complex."

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR?

"I want to make sure that I am able to provide every student athlete with

the opportunity to succeed while at the same time providing them with a great atmosphere to help them with their character development."

DO YOU STILL PLAN ON COACHING BASEBALL?

Ehling will continue to work with the baseball program this season but after this season comes to an end he will hand off the program that he has helped grow to associate head baseball coach Shawn Powell.

WHAT HAS BASEBALL TAUGHT YOU?

"Baseball will always have a place in my heart and that will never change, but now I can take everything I've learned through baseball and school and share my knowledge with the McPherson College community."

Sci-Fi movie night opens with successful viewing

CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Sci-Fi movie night kicked off in Melhorn Hall with a showing of the original movie "Godzilla, King of Monsters!" that debuted to the American public in 1956.

The event was hosted by the PST this year and the first showing of 2015 had plenty of people from around the campus and community come out to enjoy a classic science fiction hit. The event also had plenty of free sodas, snacks and popcorn provided by PST for movie goers.

The Behavioral Science Club originally hosted the event but in order to keep the tradition going the PSA is assisting.

This is the eighth consecutive year that the college has hosted this Sci-Fi night. Marty Sigwing has been involved with all of them.

When asked what having an event like this does for the campus, Sigwing was upbeat and said "It gives us something to do on campus so we don't have to leave. Sci-fi movies can be meaningful and provide some historic value to those who watch them."

Certain Sci-Fi movies have cult followings regardless of how old they are. "Godzilla, King of Monsters!" was released in 1956 and was actually a re-release of the original Japanese film from 1954. With many anti-nuclear and American themes removed from this version, it still provides a historical context for an event that many Americans might not know much about.

A major theme from this movie was the horrifying results from the nuclear bombs used by the United States on Japan and the Pacific Islands in and after World War II.

He enjoys showing movies that are science fiction and still have historical themes present. "Movie theaters nowadays show all the current movies, but we

like to show some Sci-Fi with historical significance." Sigwing said.

Providing free movies to students is also something that he enjoys about the movie nights.

"We like to get as many students as we can to these showings. We really like the older movies too, some still have big followings of people." Sigwing said.

The Sci-Fi movie nights are held every two weeks in Melhorn Hall in room 112. This year different movie genres are being shown. The the next movie shown will be "Pay it Forward" on Wednesday, Feb 25.



Photo by Alaina Johnson

Corey Helsper, a freshman in art, makes popcorn for movie goers.

LEAD EDITORIAL

College degree takes six years rather than traditional four

College is expensive and extensive.

The average number of years a high school graduate who goes to college spends at the institution used to be around four years.

A recent study by the Education Department found when a student graduates from college they have about 18 extra credits than what is actually necessary.

The study also counted 20.3 credits that the average college student fails and has to repeat or withdraw from.

An article by Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, a writer for the Washington Post, said that students are spending around six years in college.

Her main reason for the extra two years

was the addition of required courses that colleges have for their degree plans.

Douglas-Gabriel also said the government measures "whether students graduate on time if they do it within six years, rather than four."

There are a few explanations as to why students would have to stay longer than four years.

Two main reasons that could keep students an extra two years are changing majors and failing classes.

The average number of times a college student will change their majors is three.

When they change their major, they have to change their class schedule and their degree plan.

When students change their majors they

have to start over with the prerequisite courses in the new field before they can begin the upper level courses.

If a student decides a major is not for them, starting over may mean having to stay in school longer.

The classes they have already taken may be obsolete and even hindering towards their new goals.

A lot of smaller colleges rotate their classes on a schedule of odd and even school terms.

If a student needs to take a class but it is not offered until the next fall term after they are supposed to graduate, they must stay another semester or year in order to fulfill the course requirement.

When a student fails, they have to repeat

the credit in order to graduate.

It is not cheap, and can alter the graduation track.

Most students also work at the same time as they go to school. It is sometimes the only way they can continue.

Work can be a blessing, but it can also be a distraction.

It is difficult to be a full-time student and have a job at the same time. They both require full attention and a lot of energy.

Education first. Job second.

Students spending longer at colleges for their degrees might be for the best.

It's better than never switching majors and ending up in a field they hate because they wanted to graduate in the stereotypical four years.

Technology creates rapid pace encouraging procrastination

Technology has evolved so much over the last decade.

We can text, call, FaceTime, watch movies and shows on phones. The list goes on and on.

The technology that has enhanced people's lives has also begun to erode their communication skills.

No one says "call me" anymore, they text.

People don't drive to see people or make plans to visit; they schedule a Skype session or plan to FaceTime.

There are definitely disadvantages.

People are losing their brainstorming capabilities.

They can't think for themselves anymore. They come up with a short list of ideas and then Google for more ideas.

It has become a crutch for our generation, especially in uncomfortable situations.

When people don't know what to do they

pull out their phones.

There are advantages for these inventions. Families that live far away can communicate and companies can outsource work easily and communicate effectively.

It is not, however; a substitute for a meeting with a human being.

A face-to-face conversation is always better than technology-mediated communication.

There is so much that can be misinterpreted or miscommunicated when technology is the channel through which the exchange occurs.

Technology can be a learning tool, but it can also be a distraction from the learning.

Netflix, Youtube, Google: these incredible resources all offer a wealth of entertainment and educational resources.

When these are abused, the education is pushed to the side and entertainment takes over.

Netflix.com has a company website, and on it they record over 57 million members in almost 50 countries. Those members are "enjoying more than 2 billion hours of TV shows and movies per month."

There is no limit to how much people watch. It is not the company's fault they are simply providing a service.

The people consuming the service should be more wary about how much screen time they consume.

It is easy to get lost in a new season of a series that just came out and forget that

there is a paper or a project due tomorrow.

It creates an even greater sense of procrastination and urgency. People think that they have to finish things as quickly as they can.

They are not wrong, society today says "time is money" and we need to be efficient with our time.

Technology has created this rapid pace and it's only a matter of time before it runs us ragged.

MEDIA MODERATION

Megan Hamlett



Conspiracy theory busted with logical explanation

Bob Marley, the world famous Jamaican reggae singer-songwriter, passed away far too early at the age of 36 on May 11, 1981.

His death was caused by melanoma cancer developing on his toe and spreading to the rest of his body, shutting down his brain and lungs.

Controversy arose after his death.

One is that the CIA was the one that gave him the deadly disease.

Theorists believe the CIA saw Marley becoming one of the most powerful and revolutionary males on the planet and the CIA was concerned.

His music created a mindset of revolution and nonviolence.

Marley's vision of a better, more equal and loving global system did not conform to the shadowy forces within our

government.

He was considered dangerous by advocating unity no matter what race or background, which threatened the status quo of subjugation.

The CIA, at this point, was believed to have conspired to have Marley killed. In 1976, an assassination attempt occurred right before he was scheduled to give a free "Smile Jamaica" concert.

The event was aimed at reducing tensions between warring political factions. Many believe the assassination attempt, which was at Marley's home, had CIA involvement.

He was wounded in the assault, but preceded with his concert two days later.

A week after the assassination attempt he was given the "gift" of new boots from a friend named Carl Colby. The interesting

thing about Carl Colby is he's the son of the late CIA director William Colby.

When unsuspecting Marley put the boots on, something pricked his toe. He reached inside and pulled out a piece of copper wire.

Many of his closest friends suspected that the wire contained some carcinogenic substance, since a few months later Marley suspiciously got cancer in the same toe.

Doctors advised that Marley should have an amputation done on his toe but

he turned down the medical procedure, citing religious beliefs about "not cutting the flesh."

He decided

to seek treatment, which was deemed not effective. By 1980, the cancer on his toe metastasized and Marley's health began a dramatic decline.

This conspiracy draws a lot of questionable evidence and it's hard to make a conclusion that the CIA was behind the cause of Marley's death.

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.

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.

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Career Services office begins annual professional development day

CLAIRE CROSSMAN
Spectator Staff

Professional Development Day gave students an opportunity on Wednesday, Feb. 4 to take skill-building workshops to prepare for their professional careers.

Katie Sawyer, career services director, led this first time event for the campus in Melhorn Science Hall and Miller Library.

Although the day was originally meant for Auto Restoration majors, Sawyer believes any major can benefit from these workshops.

The day started with the Rolls & Resumes workshop, where students were

getting one-on-one help creating a resume and cover letter.

"In most situations this is how the employers first look at you, so if you don't have a well-crafted resume it will be immediately discarded," Sawyer said.

The Get Noticed & Get Hired workshop began at noon. Students were able to hear what an HR director looks for in a resume, cover letter and interview. Information was also presented on how to contact employment regarding potential employment.

The event ended with Portfolio Perfection that evening. Students were shown how to create an online portfolio

that is professional and error free.

This opportunity is available to all students and beneficial to those working to get a job or internship this upcoming summer.

"I would encourage students to take advantage of this type of programming at the college," Sawyer said. "For some students, it may not seem like that big of a deal, but this is vital in making the next step to moving to that professional level."

The Career Services office is available to help students develop and update resumes, produce cover letters and prepare for interviews. This would all be beneficial experience for graduate school as well.

Katie Sawyer (right), helps students prepare for careers at Professional Development Day

Photo by Marissa Patton



Students donate time, blood for Red Cross

CLAIRE CROSSMAN
Spectator Staff

This past Tuesday, McPherson College students volunteered at the blood drive in Hoffman Student Union. According to one of the Red Cross workers, 37 students showed up to give blood, which is a decline of about 20 people from last year.

For some, giving blood is a habit that makes them feel good about helping. Giving blood is not something new for Breana Clark, a freshman in biology. She has given blood for more than four years and because of her good experiences with blood drives she continues to do so.

"It is important and such a small and easy thing to do to help, whether you are donating blood or your time," Clark said.

When it comes to volunteering at the

blood drive, it is not limited to just giving blood. Sign ups were also posted for those to help set up, clean up or be an escort to those giving blood. Emma Sheehan, a senior in psychology, stayed after to clean up and get the student union back to normal.

"Last year I passed out, so this year I chose to help out in a different way," Sheehan said.

Morgan Strnad, a junior in graphic design, volunteered to be an escort. An escort's job is to assist those who have just given blood, as a safety precaution. Strnad is one of the students who cannot give blood due to health reasons.

Students feel they've helped make a difference.

Sheehan also said "People don't realize that a blood drive isn't just about giving



Photos by Claire Crossman

Emma Sheehan, a senior in psychology, helps Red Cross employees with the blood drive.



Auto Restoration has annual career fair

LAURINA HANNAN
Editor-In-Chief

Automotive restoration students took advantage of automotive industry business recruiters visited campus by networking and interviewing Feb. 17 and 18.

Some of this career fair intermixed with the professional development day by sharing some speakers.

The Auto Restoration Career Fair began Tuesday night with a business owner and auto restoration faculty dinner in Friendship Hall and transitioned to dessert and networking in Templeton Hall. About 50 students, professors and professionals mingled.

"This is a really good chance for our student to show the diversity they have," said Jon "Ned" Nadeau, assistant professor of technology.

In this setting, students could show the visitors some of the work the students are working on up close and personal.

Nadeau said that this is ultimately for the students so they can start mingling in the professional community.

"One of the most important aspects is to offer a way to get connected with the automotive community."

Katie Sawyer, director of career services, said, "In addition to academic work, it's always important to be working on your professional skills."

She helped organize the event.

Some of the students agree that the networking is vital for getting the job.

Travis Gleich, a junior in automotive restoration, said, "Get out there and talk to people. It's not what you know. It's who you know. At the end of the day, if you have all the skills and no job, it's worthless."

These connections with the recruiters may have helped some students during internship and full-time job interviews the next day in Friendship Hall between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Halfway through his this scheduled



Photos by Joe Stockton

Matthew Goist, Dalton Whitfield, and Matthew Edmonds, automotive restoration majors, talk to a potential employer.

interviews, Tyler Martin, a senior in automotive restoration, said, "I made a connection with the people I was interviewing with and they seemed interested."

The first of his three interviews helped him gain confidence.

"I feel more comfortable. I don't feel nervous anymore. I now feel I know what I need to say and what not to say."

Although Martin already has a summer option, he completed other interviews so that he can have more options.

Students who have questions about how to apply for jobs or have questions can

