Jenny Reddeen
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The University announced an anonymous donor has committed $5 million to the 2013-2014 academic year or Whenever Students must pay a total cost of $30,090 to attend the University next year, a 4.45 percent increase over this year’s amount. The graduate and degree completion programs will receive a 4 percent increase. The breakdown includes a $940 increase in tuition, $960 increase in room and board, and a $20 increase in fees. The increase in room and board can be mostly attributed to the newly appointed food service provider, Creative Dining Services, whose improvement plans for the Kresge Dining Hall will be partially funded from students’ wallets.

Despite the increase, the University remains positive toward its offering. A recent press release noted it was the lowest percentage increase in 25 years. ’John Brown University continues to manage one of the best values in higher education,’ said Don Crandall, vice president for enrollment management. ’JBU’s increased percentage of [the] gifts.”

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Tuition costs break $30,000 mark

Laura Roller
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After a five-month search for a new food service provider, the decision came down to the few members of the presidential cabinet who sat at the conference table Feb. 6 and pondered the choice between two “excellent candidates,” said Kim Hadley, vice president for finance and administration. The members resembled to select seconds as the decision was such a difficult one.

Last week, Creative Dining Services rose above the other seven candidates for the contract and was selected as the new food service provider for John Brown University, beginning in June 2013. “The JBU community is nationally recognized as a leader in providing nutritious products and programs,” said Nick Saccaro, vice president of operations for Creative Dining. “We couldn’t be more excited to have this opportunity to serve.

The University sent a five-member team of task force members to other schools that used Creative Dining and other providers. They interviewed school administration, food service directors, chefs, staff and current students at each school. And of course, they ate and ate some more.

They observed several changes students can expect to result of Creative Dining’s upcoming partnership with the University. “By leveraging the space and available dining stations, your resident dining program will step up to the next level,” said Creative Dining in a summary of their proposal.

They plan to integrate concepts such as Taqueria Mexican Street Food, Emma & Charlie’s Pizza, and Globe International Offerings, each with special-of-the-day offerings, in addition to their regular menu.

They also plan to better highlight the “action station” of the new food service provider. Creative Dining said the food was comparable and better than what they would find at local restaurants, and that student satisfaction increased after the transition.

When University representatives visited these other schools, they also noticed the food that meets nutritional needs, such as gluten-free items, were available and clearly marked.

Administration is working with Creative Dining to make changes to the Kresge Dining Hall to better meet the needs of students. They discussed adding a new beverage station to relieve the congestion. The change was recommended to the University by all eight candidates in their proposals. They may also add another food serving station to address the concern of long lines during busy times.

Students can anticipate “pace changes” or other special events that are designed to “engage them in fun, community-building activities,” according to Creative Dining’s proposal.

The California Café will look a little different in the fall. Instead of Freshies, Pennsylvania’s organic, cold- blended beverages will be available. They also plan to add Decker’s Sandwiches, an upscale, made-to-order deli concept including gourmet salads and fresh-baked breads. Creative Dining recommends expanding the grill offerings and providing more snack options. The Café will also serve the main entry of the day from the cafeteria.

Not only will Creative Dining be serving food in the Kresge Dining Hall and the California Café, they will also be responsible for the catering needs on campus.

With the changes in food service, students can expect a “moderate increase” in board costs, said Nick Saccaro, vice president of operations for Creative Dining.

See TUITION on page 3

University announces new food provider
Men gather to step up and be courageous in God

Nichole Coates
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ARAMARK was one of the eight providers used by JBU for over 15 years. The University took part in two interviews: a group interview with a panel of faculty members and an individual interview with an admissions counselor. During the interviews, the admissions counselors expressed more of their personal story and their desire to come to the University.

“I love scholarship weekends,” said Senior John Rutledge, an honors business major and to attend Monday’s mixer for upperclassmen share their excitement about being a part of the executive council, program itself. “We want students involved! It’s informative, and there are benefits.”

“We want students involved!” said the department offered building management, civil, electrical, environmental and construction management or civil engineering students. “Any upperclassmen can give constructive advice to give others. That’s what we’re finding out,” Elmore said.

Elmore said that most students have no idea of how God intends them to live. of manhood that many of today’s men have no idea of how God intends them to live. “A lot of the guys in our culture are confused about how to become men.” Elmore said.

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Students learn how to develop strengths

Laura Roller News Editor lrolle@jbu.edu

Since 2008, every student who has registered to take the Gateway course at John Brown University has been strongly encouraged to take the StrengthsFinder assessment. The 30-minute, computerized test taps into students’ strengths by focusing on particular strengths traits and talents, and displays a list of each person’s top five strengths. That is only the beginning of the strengths philosophy. It involves discovering and applying one’s strengths, which the Gallup Organization, the company that developed the test, refers to as StrengthsQuest.

The tool is based on the concept of positive psychology developed in 2006 by Martin Seligman. It’s based on the question “What would your life be like if you didn’t have to fight every day to get by?”

The test is free, and all the students who have taken it since a few years ago have had their own strengths assessed by the Gallup Organization according to data collected by the University. On the other hand, less than 3.8 percent of all students have the themes of self-awareness, Significance, or Arranger. Each of these themes are used to form the current University catalog.

Even before StrengthsQuest was recently implemented in the Gateway course, Mandy Moore, now the director of the assessment program, recorded the assessment in a class during her first year of teaching, because she had so much interest in use in businesses.

Moore said, at the beginning of the semester, only one or two students knew anything about the assessment tool that really embraced the strengths philosophy. They were the students who had taken the assessment university-wide, who were a small part of the core group of people developing the tool because of her experience.

When the conversation turned to the interview training happening in Arizona to get certified as StrengthsQuest by the Gallup Organization, her fellow students and the interview training hired an expert to come to the class and the best way to use the tool at John Brown University.

The Gateway classes and their corresponding Friday sessions seemed like a natural, perfect place to implement the Gateway course, with a few students, including Mandy Moore, with their corresponding Friday sessions seemed like a natural, perfect place to implement the Gateway course, with a few students, including Mandy Moore, describing it well. “It was precise. The accuracy was something I hadn’t experienced before. I get this when I was two, but it was more accurate that anything I would have used to describe myself,” he said.

“Can it have a significant impact on retention and helping students thrive in college?” —Mandy Moore

For us, the University has used StrengthsQuest in Gateway classes, with a few

STUDENTS OF STRENGTHS

BELIEVE

ADAPTABLE

DEVELOP

RESPONSIBLE

RESTORATIVE

RENEWAL

INPUT

20% KAIA UERDOWID/GETTY Images The Threshold Advocate

TUTTTON continued from Page 1

The final result will be larger rooms and suites, all new wood and tile floors, more atmosphere, and more soundproof walls.

happy about it,” she said. “Any increase is a bonus, but it certainly helps keep JBU running at the level we need to be.”

The announcement Wednesday also stated the University award- ed $100 million in scholarships this year and has added an additional 13 percent to the endowment as of the 2013-2014 academic year.

“The administration, faculty and students have put together the best effort to build the line on the cost of attending college,” said Kim Hadley, vice president for finance and administration. “I think we have made an extraordinary effort to help build and maintain the university’s endowment.”

JACOY continued from Page 1

J. Alvin capacity will be cut in half when the four buildings are complete. The filmmakers were planning to use the building to reflect the loss of capacity, the townshouses will be merely shadows.

The residents who attended the announcement that common showers would be replaced with individual shower stalls were being met with boos.

“I was excited. I really wanted to be able to stay in the university hall,” said former J. Alvin resident Connor Gooderl. “When I came back from a trip and found out what was happening, I was very upset.”

The successor has not even been named.

Out of the Bubble

Tribune楔子: resigns at age 85

Gavin T. Davis has resigned as president of Bethel College, because he said he feels that he could not continue to serve in the church’s community.

The successor has not even been named.

February 14, 2013

The Threshold Advocate

Pink Panther to strike! The Threefold Advocate Again on Feb. 15, and Feb. 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the JBU art gallery. Tickets are recommended.

The Threefold Advocate

Bret F. Moore, editor bmoore@jbu.edu
Non-traditional students

John Brown University’s Fall 2012 enrollment for traditional undergraduate programs was 1,317. Non-traditional students over the age of 30 make up less than one percent of that population. College enrollment for non-traditional students is not static. There are shared statistical analysis information regarding non-traditional students on campus. Non-traditional students on campus are full-time or part-time students. Due to responsibilities of families and jobs, many non-traditional students are full-time students, they are not part of the campus community. We at the Threefold Advocate believe there is a solution for better communication between traditional and non-traditional students, but it requires students to meet somewhere in the middle.

The University notification for events is the Here and Now. Student organization events are not the responsibility of the University to advertise. Uninformed students may not know about events, information at building exits, outside of dorms and close to campus lines. There is so much happenings on campus that students express themselves differently by what they dress and what they say and what they do. The one thing that almost every student has in common is that they proclaim to believe in Jesus Christ. Students express themselves in their own ways, and what they say and what they do. The one thing that almost every student has in common is what is appropriate and what is not.

Explore outside the bubble

Olivia Rollene

Walking on the John Brown University campus, one can see a large variety of individuals. Everyone is involved in different activities, whether that is sports, writing for the paper or singing in the choir. Students express themselves differently by what they dress and what they say and what they do. The one thing that almost every student has in common is what they proclaim to believe in Jesus Christ.

Being a Christian is not a requirement to come to JBU, even though it is a group Christian faith. Faith is something that is internalized into every class.

I am honest to say that I love about JBU. The atmosphere of the school and the people that inhabit it. Almost everywhere that I look, people are ready with a smile and a "Hello. How are you?" Every professor works to integrate faith into the classroom, and they spend quality time with each student. I have made incredible friends. I truly believe that this is where God has placed me in this point in my life. However, I hesitate when I see students that become wrapped up in the Christian community and lose sight of everyone else on campus lines. There is so much more out there! God has given it to us, so why not explore it? Christ called us to be in the world but not of the world. But what happens when you separate yourself so much that you cannot even be the light and shine it to others. How about you? I challenge you to break that habit of being with everyone you know. Learn about the lives of every single one of others.

Open your mind and be the opportunities that God gives you. They are not always going to be there. You must be ready to take care of and protect yourself. You are not allowed to be so wrapped up in being with everyone you know. I challenge you to break that habit of being with everyone you know. Learn about the lives of every single one of others.

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Karen Sosa

As much as I would like to label it the best Valentine's Day because I'm single, the best Valentine's Day I've ever had was last year. Valentine's Day celebrates many kinds of relationships—friendships, dating, marriage, and even family. I believe it can make someone feel special and loved. One of my goals is to spend this year doing just that. I wake up every Valentine's day to do this, not just for myself but for being inspired by the love of others. How do you feel when someone loves you? Jesus said, "The greatest of these is love." Love is unconditional and showing with actions that one is loved. So Happy Valentine's Day, and know that you are loved!

Abby Fennema

Valentine’s Day brings more than mush

Begging to get to know someone

Abby Fennema

Bargain buyer “pops some tags” thrift store shopping

Abby Fennema

Karen Sosa

Karen Sosa is a junior majoring in early childhood education. She can be reached at mgetep9@jbu.edu.

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Student changes the definition of dating

Abby Fennema

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Students change the definition of dating and having children in the near future. The word for that in English is “engaged.” Webster defines it as “a social relationship in which two people are committed to marry each other.” When using the phrase “dating” we should mean only you are participating in a courtship relationship with another individual. It does not mean you are living together or boyfriend/girlfriend status. While many individuals are willing to call it what it is, most of us allow fear to hold them back from being honest and saying what needs to be said. I think that no one wants to make someone who is going to just “get to know” someone too uncomfortable or intimidating. For most of the time, social engagement is completely fine with that individual. Or possibly I’m just not quite sure about the meaning of “dating” or participating in social activities with someone.

So what is so scary about all of this? Why is it so hard to be honest and call it what it is? The word “dating” is not defined as getting married.
Bowen. Dreyfus escapes from Charles LaRousse Dreyfus, who he drove to madness, the former chief inspector way and on to solve the case. Chief Inspector Jacques storyline and characters. spotlight and other low lighting version of the play uses oddball characters in "The Clouseau must chase down Through sheer dumb luck, John Brown University’s I laughed along with the A.J. Miller A: We’re releasing a live record in April. We shot live DVD and filmed a record with both songs from all the other EPs and new songs. We invited our church body I felt the feelings I feel now, with the body and the people that we’re living life with. We just simply started All Sons & Daughters by trying to write songs where you are constantly around people. You kind of have that camaraderie that goes on. I went to school here and that’s the only other time I can say that I took flag football pretty seriously. Do they still do the ERP weekend? The freshmen would come in and I’d show up and try to see all the good football players, kind of scope them out. But me, my experience here was amazing. I met my wife and made a great group of friends that we played music together with for seven years, I wouldn’t be where I am now without the things that happened here. I am very, very thankful for this kind. Q: Do you have a favorite song off the new EP? A: I think “Oh How I Need You” would have to be my favorite off there. My wife just had a baby girl. She’s 14 months old. It’s one those times when you realize the need for Christ. Not only in so many other areas of your life, but in raising a child, things become more real. It comes to be a little more intense. I need God more than ever. I have no idea what I’m doing. The thought of doing it on my own is completely paralyzing. And I think that song and the recognition of the need for him is something that kind of sums up my life right now. Q: What is next for All Sons & Daughters? A: We do EPs, and they kind of move around with the seasons of our church and where our church has been. “The Longing” has been one of those albums that’s been so fun with just the amount of energy. We have a new season that’s kind of a celebration. There are songs like “Oh How I Need You” that are songs that we haven’t done before, the foot-stomping and (dapper) kind of songs. It’s been exciting too... move forward in this journey that God is moving our people and our body. And we’ve kind of seen this progression from brokenness to the recognition of Christ and the need of Him and new and new celebrations of the goodness of Him. This record by far been my favorite one, and it’s been a lot fun. Q: You actually graduated from John Brown University. Do you have any good stories from your time here that you’d like to share? A: I skipped a lot of class. I was on probation a couple times. I was intramural champion—a lot of times—for flag football. That was one of the things, I took flag football pretty seriously. Do they still do the ERP weekend? The freshmen would come in and I’d show up and try to see all the good football players, kind of scope them out. But me, my experience here was amazing. I met my wife and made a great group of friends that we played music together with for seven years, I wouldn’t be where I am now without the things that happened here. I am very, very thankful for this kind. Q: What is next for All Sons & Daughters? A: We do EPs, and they kind of move around with the seasons of our church and where our church has been. “The Longing” has been one of those albums that’s been so fun with just the amount of energy. We have a new season that’s kind of a celebration. There are songs like “Oh How I Need You” that are songs that we haven’t done before, the foot-stomping and (dapper) kind of songs. It’s been exciting too... move forward in this journey that God is moving our people and our body. And we’ve kind of seen this progression from brokenness to the recognition of Christ and the need of Him and new and new celebrations of the goodness of Him. This record by far been my favorite one, and it’s been a lot fun. Q: You mentioned your church a lot. All Sons & Daughters actually came to be through your church. Can you tell us how that happened? A: We’re still on staff there at Journey Church in Franklin, Tenn. It’s just a very, very cool place that really wraps around community, that’s vulnerable and authentic with each other. And it’s a place both Lee and Leslie really found something that we never experienced before. It’s a lot like a college experience where you are constantly around people, you have that camaraderie that goes on. I went to school here and that’s the only other time I can say that I felt the feelings I feel now, with the body and the people that we’re living life with. We just simply started All Sons & Daughters by trying to write songs and resources our church with songs that were specifically for them. I had no idea that God was going to do some of the things He has done, and would kind of like to stay that way, to stay pleasantly surprised and continue to serve our body and just serve their journey. It’s really been good so far. Q: You actually graduated from John Brown University. Do you have any good stories from your time here that you’d like to share? A: I laughed along with the oddball characters as "The Pink Panther Stripes Again," enjoying its outlandish plot and slapstick humor. The play is based off of the film with the same name. John Brown University’s Berry Performing Arts Center is spotlight and other low lighting on a think urban set, which contrasts well with the theatrical storyline and characters. Through short monologues, Chloiseon of the French Street, played by junior Chase Pung, always steals out of ham’s way and on to solve the mystery. Chloiseon must choose the former chief inspector who she does to madness, Charles Lahouaibe Dreyfus. Dreyfus escapes from... the sanatorium and forces Dr. Frankenstein, played by freshman Steven Blindman, to create a doomsday machine. Dreyfus then threatens the world with just the amount of energy. We have a new season that’s kind of a celebration. There are songs like “Oh How I Need You” that are songs that we haven’t done before, the foot-stomping and (dapper) kind of songs. It’s been exciting too... move forward in this journey that God is moving our people and our body. And we’ve kind of seen this progression from brokenness to the recognition of Christ and the need of Him and new and new celebrations of the goodness of Him. This record by far been my favorite one, and it’s been a lot fun. Q: Do you have a favorite song off the new EP? A: I think “Oh How I Need You” would have to be my favorite off there. My wife just had a baby girl. She’s 14 months old. It’s one those times when you realize the need for Christ. Not only in so many other areas of your life, but in raising a child, things become more real. It comes to be a little more intense. I need God more than ever. I have no idea what I’m doing. The thought of doing it on my own is completely paralyzing. And I think that song and the recognition of the need for him is something that kind of sums up my life right now. Q: What is next for All Sons & Daughters? A: We’re releasing a live record in April. We shot live DVD and filmed a record with both songs from all the other EPs and new songs. We invited our church body into this recording studio and really tried to create a space that was a space where we could all together with family and sing these songs. We’ve been able to travel a lot over the last couple of years. We lead worship at home, but along all the songs at one time, we haven’t been able to do. So to sit in a room with all the people we wrote these songs for, to sing them all and for them to sing along with us, they are happy and they are excited. I really wanted to put great thought into creating something memorable, so music how few lines they had. I have memorable roles, no matter what. Chloiseon of the French Street, played by junior Chase Pung, always steals out of ham’s way and on to solve the mystery. Chloiseon must choose the former chief inspector who she does to madness, Charles Lahouaibe Dreyfus. Dreyfus escapes from... the sanatorium and forces Dr. Frankenstein, played by freshman Steven Blindman, to create a doomsday machine. Dreyfus then threatens the world with just the amount of energy. We have a new season that’s kind of a celebration. There are songs like “Oh How I Need You” that are songs that we haven’t done before, the foot-stomping and (dapper) kind of songs. 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February 14, 2013

LIFESTYLES

The Threefold Advocate

Page 7

All classifieds were taken from editions of the Threefold Advocate published in the early 90s. For more, visit JBU Archives.
The Lady Eagles play a pair of home games this week with a chance to improve their standing in the conference. Sixth-place John Brown will host fourth-place Wayland Baptist on Thursday and second-place Lubbock Christian on Saturday.

This week’s schedule gives the team a chance to break its three-game losing streak and build some momentum for the conference tournament.

“To have some success and have a chance to play for the title at the end of the season,” said head coach Jeff Sosnoperz. “If we can pull together as a team, we can get it done.”

The Lady Eagles will look to sweep the season series with WBU after winning their last contest 74-67 on Jan. 26.

“The key is to start [Wayland] early and not let them get their shot in,” said Sosnoperz. “If we can get some easy baskets and keep them off the offensive rebound, we’ll be in good position.”

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Eagles can secure first place in regular season conference championship,

Senior Guard Abdullah AliPASSions turns down a Oklahoma City defender in the Eagles win 62-59 win Saturday. With both wins by the Eagles in this week’s conference games it gives the Eagles the first first-place regular season conference championship.

AliPASSions said that “It’s a huge win for us and it gives us a lot of confidence going into the conference tournament.”

The Lady Eagles will face Wayland Baptist Thursday at 6 p.m. in Bill George Arena and Lubbock Christian Saturday at 1 p.m.

Women’s Basketball Conference Standings

1. Oklahoma City (15-0)
2. Lubbock Christian (10-2)
3. Rogers State (10-2)
4. Oklahoma Baptist (9-7)
5. Lewis-Clark (8-4)
6. Oklahoma City (5-8)
7. Saint Gregory’s (3-9)
8. MACU (3-9)
9. USAO (1-11)

Men’s Basketball National Rankings

1. Columbia (Mo.)
2. Lee (Tenn.)
3. Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)
4. John Brown (Ark.)
5. Lewis-Clark State (Idaho)
6. Williamston (N.C.)
7. Cal State San Marcos
8. SAGU (Texas)
9. Finlandia (Ala.)
10. Oklahoma Baptist

Junior Guard Jaree Shippen drops into a defender in the Lady Eagles 62-59 win Saturday on the road at No. 1 Oklahoma City.

Eagles are in sixth place in conference going into a Thursday showdown with fifth-place Wayland Baptist. The Eagles are 1.5 games out of fourth.
Abby Fenema
Staff Writer

Dakota Whitworth knows how to take a beating in new hobby

Whitworth, a senior international business major, has a tough hobby. A year ago she took up the sport of boxing and has not looked back since.

She started out as an invitation for a self-defense class that turned into a full-fledged hobby. The workout was the major draw for Whitworth. She “wanted to get into a full fledged hobby. The workout was the major draw for Whitworth. She “wanted to get

Students learn basic volleyball skills at a volleyball clinic hosted by the volleyball team.

The Lady Golden Eagles Volleyball team hosted a skills improvement clinic this Saturday to raise money for their upcoming mission trip to Croix, Haiti.

Forty-six children, aged eight to 18, attended. Stacie Johnson, head volleyball coach, called the clinic “a huge success.”

The clinic focused on sharpening fundamental techniques.

“We have held clinics before and they have been very successful. It is a fun time for the players and those who attend the clinic,” Johnson said.

Heather Witham, assistant volleyball coach, added, “I really like to see kids build confidence in their sport.”

The clinic is only one of several fundraising efforts currently in the works for the team’s trip to Haiti, which will take place this summer.

The team’s other money-raising ideas include a Valentine’s Day fundraiser and a student volleyball tournament.

“We’re doing hands-on stuff. We’re not just relying on the money to come pouring in,” said Witham.

The team will be working with Bethel Baptist Ministries to put on a sports clinic and a Vacation Bible school. Both

Dakota Whitworth strikes a punching bag while in training for boxing. Whitworth took up boxing after watching an MMA fight with her trainer. It has been a year since Whitworth took up the sport as a full-fledged hobby.

“Working out at the [JBU] gym is fine and all but can get boring,” she said. “After watching the match, I was intrigued. Whitworth said, “That was about the time I switched into the boxing class.”

The class provides Whitworth with a whole body workout. Cardio, physical endurance and arm strength are a large focus of the class.

The good workout comes with a price. She has taken a hit or two in the process.

It is “shocking and exciting” getting beat up a little bit, said Whitworth. “I’m not used to getting beat up on a regular basis. You have to learn how to break through that and not let the attack stop you from defending yourself.”

Whitworth took one knock that left her with a good story.

“I don’t even remember driving to the gym that day. I just remember waking up on my bedroom floor. After watching the match, I was intrigued. Whitworth said, “That was about the time I switched into the boxing class.”

They bought me McDonalds, but I could think was, ‘What am I doing here?’ I guess I just kept repeating that to myself.”

Whitworth down, but she began to acting loopy,” said Whitworth. “Then I got out of the ring, and I was very confused. Those in the gym tried to sit me down, but I refused.”

She took a hard hit that day, which resulted in a concussion. “I guess we were in the ring, and we were getting good hits that day, but I felt out of the ring, and I was acting loopy,” said Whitworth. “These in the gym tried to sit me down, but I refused.”

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Witham and Johnson said they were “excited” about the mission trip.

Sophomore Kendra Ammons, defensive specialist, agreed. “I think it’ll be really good for our team to get a bigger perspective, to know that the world isn’t just about volleyball,” Ammons said.

Junior Staci Williamson outside hitter, appreciates what pre-season missions trips do for the team’s camaraderie.

“Even though it’s the beginning of the year, we’re not focused on ourselves, we’re focused on serving,” she said.

The attitude of service in missions carries over to the upcoming clinic, Witham said.

“We’re really trying to reach out to the community. Sports create a huge platform all over the world.”

Williamson spoke of her own inspiration to teach kids about volleyball. “When we were growing up, [coaches] came into our lives. It’s just a way to give back.”

“And it’s a lot of fun.”

Ammons added.

Students are encouraged to pray for the volleyball team as they begin their fundraising efforts. There will also be a way to donate online on the team’s homepage soon.

“We really want it to be God’s way,” said Witham. “I want to see our team grow closer in the Lord through all of this.”

Whitworth agreed. The one thing she learned from her boxing experience is “you don’t have to be mean to be a fighter.”

Hannah Wright
Staff Writer

Student takes a beating in new hobby

Whitworth took up boxing after watching an MMA fight with her trainer. It has been a year since Whitworth took up the sport as a full-fledged hobby.

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Today is the day we have been waiting for. Today is the day all of the planning and the dreaming and the dreading come to an epic climax as we realize that we may once again watch our favorite television program without commercials for engagement rings or walk into Walmart without gagging at the number of pink teddy bears. Today is Valentine’s Day or as some like to call it, Single Awareness Day.

In the Christian culture of this small private school, it is easy to exaggerate the number of people who will be on a date tonight with someone special, and it is also easy to forget that 60 percent of students on campus declare they do not even have a “someone special.”

So, for those thriving—or anguishing—in that 60 percent, there are two choices. One, you can spend the night in sweats with a tub of Ben & Jerry’s mourning the lack of romance in your life. Or two, you can take the following ideas and celebrate love the way it should be celebrated.

If Jesus is the Bridegroom and the church is his bride, then you are caught up in a love story far greater than any Hallmark movie. Set some special time aside tonight to worship the One who loves you unconditionally. Find a quiet place, grab his Word, and spend some time reading the greatest love story of all time.

It is so easy to get caught up in the prospects of your dating life that you forget what a great group of people already surrounds you and pours into your life. Show them the love by planning a special night with memories that will last forever. Cook them dinner, go to the rock-climbing gym or try something new and spontaneous. Just do not forget to tell them how much they mean to you.

Instead of becoming more aware of your singleness, be aware of those nearby that really need some TLC. That could mean visiting the nursing home or spending some time at the Genesis House. It could mean giving someone a ride or paying for the next table’s meal. Find a way where you can serve and love someone in need today.

Tonight would be a perfectly acceptable time to show yourself some lovin’. Use it to catch up on some much needed sleep. Go shopping and splurge on that sweater you have been wanting. Or, prepare your favorite meal for dinner—even if it is Lucky Charms cereal. Watch your favorite movie in your favorite pajamas with your favorite candy. Celebrate being you!

Not to be rude, but… when is the last time you called your mom? Whether you are BFFs with the family or you try to avoid those awkward phone calls altogether, take some time tonight to show your family you love them. Maybe set up a Skype chat or send them a card through the mail. Whatever you decide, I am sure it will make their day.

By: Jenny Redfern

#1 Love God

#2 Love your family

#3 Love your friends

#4 Love the unloved

#5 Love yourself