

The

Threefold Advocate

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JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY’S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Jenny Redfern
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Obama reassumes presidency

The country re-elected President Barack Obama Tuesday night, according to projections by television networks. After a close race, Ohio’s final count gave Obama the 18 electoral votes to surpass the needed 270.

At press time the electoral votes tallied 303 to 206.

Exit polls stated that minorities, women and moderate voters backed Obama, including strong support from the Hispanic population, CNN reported.

Shortly after the projection, Obama personally tweeted, “We’re all in this together. That’s how we campaigned, and that’s who we are. Thank you.”

The John Brown University community, whose majority proved to be strongly conservative in the mock election results last week, received the news in a variety of ways.

Several found the results disappointing, yet expected.

“Obama’s last four years have not shown any real change or promise,” said senior Braden Paterson. “As a young American, I want to feel confident that we have a leader who is going to keep our country moving forward.”

Others were excited about the selection and looked forward to the next four years.

“I am so glad that the people of the United States have spoken and chosen someone who stands for equality, healthcare, women, the underprivileged, those that the Bible commands us as Christians to be concerned about, and who understands the place of the U.S. from a global perspective,” said senior Matthias Roberts.

Yet, despite or in light of the outcome, many students remain hopeful.

Senior Brian Franz tweeted, “Our country is still strong, we have to remember that. It’s just four more years. Truth and time walk hand in hand.”

Campus rocks the vote in mock election

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Before the majority of the United States voted for its next president on Nov. 6, the community at John Brown University voiced its consensus about the race. As part of the Residence Life staff’s election programming, students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to vote in a mock election held Nov. 1-2.

After students dropped a slip of paper with a candidate’s preprinted name into the ballot box, they received a YOVO stamp on their hand – “You Only Vote Once.”

Gov. Mitt Romney won the unofficial vote, with a 72.3 percent majority. President Barack Obama followed with 15.2 percent, and Libertarian Gary Johnson, former governor of New Mexico, trailed close behind with 12.5 percent of the vote. Approximately 300 people voted in the election.

Junior Heather Adams, one of the resident assistant organizers, said about six students wrote in names of other third party candidates. She also related that many students said they were simply voting for the lesser of two evils.

Adams said that overall she wished even more people would have voted. In the end, she was surprised by how close Obama and Johnson were in the numbers.

“This election demonstrates that our campus is not completely Republican,” she said.

The mock election helped to

raise political awareness on campus, Adams said. It demonstrated who the majority of people here would go for, but it also encouraged people to participate in voting in presidential and local elections.

Bryan Cole, townhouse resident director, took part in the execution of the event. He said mostly students participated, although some professors added their opinions to the mix.

“We hoped for even more participation,” he said. “I hope that we do this again in the future, and if we did I would suggest encouraging more faculty and staff to take part.”

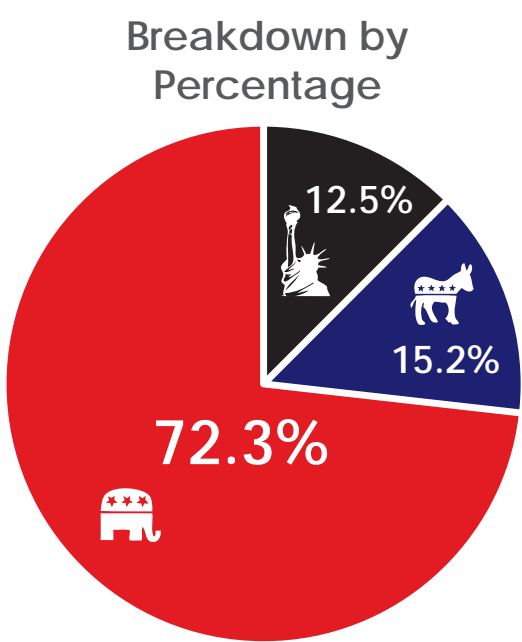
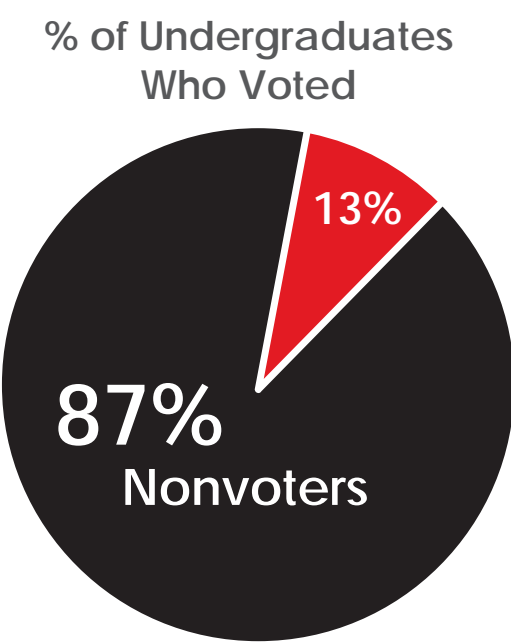
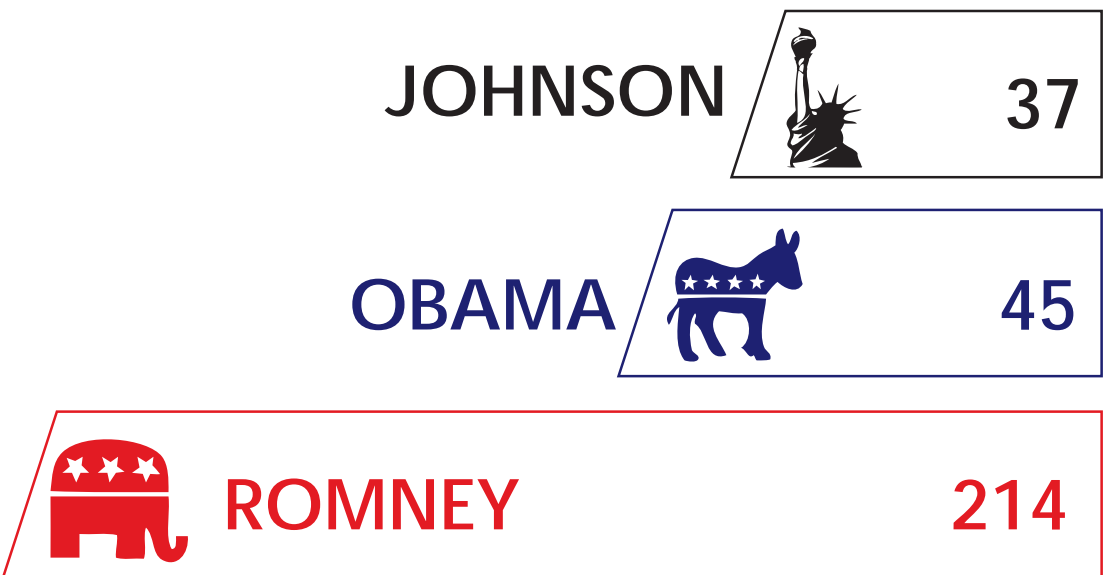
Cole said he noticed a distinct difference in students’ attitudes between Wednesday and Thursday after the faith and politics chapel. While some on the first day said voting did not matter, a few came back the next day recognizing their responsibility to vote.

Other students did not seem to know who to vote for, Cole said, but the resident assistants sitting at the table would encourage them to check the candidates’ websites to help make their decision. Some took that admonition seriously and came back the next day.

Also on Wednesday, Cole sensed some pushback from students about why the University even held a mock election. While he said he could not quite gauge why students reacted that way, Cole said some seemed to think that the conclusion was set and thus that the process was pointless.

See **MOCK** on page 2

Breakdown by Number of Votes



KARA UNDERWOOD/The Threefold Advocate

Construction temporarily diverts University traffic



J PABLO GARCIA/The Threefold Advocate

Construction on Simmons Great Hall and the Northslope Apartments progresses as the construction crew brings in steel for the structure of the cafeteria addition. A portion of the road on West Valley Drive from Berry Performing Arts Center to Bell Science Hall will be closed at the beginning of next week.

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Construction continues on Simmons Great Hall and the Northslope Apartments as the semester passes quickly by.

The construction crew began delivering the steel to form the walls of the cafeteria addition on Monday.

Next Monday through Thursday, several large pieces of steel will arrive on campus. As a result, a portion of West Valley Drive will be closed from University St. to Bell Science Hall. Students will still be able to access the Mabee and Chapman parking lots from the entrance by the flagpoles.

“We are all waiting for those big pieces to get here,” said Steve Beers, vice president for student development. “Once the steel goes up you get to a sense of the volume of the building.”

While they wait, the University, architect and construction crew continue making smaller decisions about the interior. Every last detail

from doors to interior window blinds to loading docks must be planned.

The crew on the Northslope Apartments is still working to lay the foundation. For the past two weeks, they have been getting utilities to the building such as electric, sewer, water and gas. They also delivered rebar to put in the footing for the concrete foundation.

“It’s still foundational stuff, running pipes to the building, putting the foundation in,” Beers said. “They will probably start laying blocks for the basement soon. There is a basement apartment that will eventually be built, so they’ll have to put blocks down there.”

This late in the semester, townhouse residents are used to the noise from nearby construction. Junior Leah Engstrom said the construction starts about 6 a.m. every morning.

“At first it was annoying, but by now I am used to it,” she said. “They start the jackhammers early in the morning. Our walls literally shake.”

Book shares stories of Walton recipients

Abby Fennema
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Ron Johnson, director of the Walton International Scholarship Program at John Brown University, recently authored “Our Story,” a book that recounts the story of the program and its effects on the students involved.

The book project began about a year ago. Johnson contacted over 200 alumni, the previous presidents

of the University and others involved in the program. Johnson said he could collect an infinite amount of stories, yet he realized he has done “all [he] can do for this particular book.”

A variety of stories fill the pages of the book. Johnson wrote of the struggles the students face and how they overcome them.

“I sought to tell the story of a successful program,” Johnson said. “The history and investment of the Walton family and of JBU and other schools, the important

story of faith and what it was like to come to America and return home.”

Among the many stories is Johnson’s own. He spent 15 years overseas on the mission field before accepting his position at the University. The University and the students he was in charge of became his new mission.

“I always remember telling former president Lee Balzer, if I came on with the Walton program I would treat the Walton students like I would in the mission field. I

would invest in their lives. [This investment] has given me a real love for the kids,” Johnson said.

His favorite story came from a 1991 graduate, Fryda Guerro.

Within her first few weeks of attending the University, she took a trip to Walmart. She was struggling to adjust and walked into the store with tears in her eyes. An older gentleman, dressed in a dirty hat and dirty shoes, caught a glimpse of the sadness the painted her face.

He approached her and asked if she would like go to Hardy’s across the street to share a cup of coffee. Guerro sat down with the man and shared her story. As she was speaking, she happened to glance down at his shirt and caught notice that he was wearing a badge with the name “Sam” engraved upon it.

“Are you Sam Walton?” Guerro asked. The man responded saying that indeed he was.

“You are the richest man in the world! You are the one that changed my life!” Guerro exclaimed.

Johnson adores this story. He said this is just the kind of man Sam Walton was.

“He was more concerned about her well-being than her noticing he was Sam Walton,” Johnson added.

Carli Castillo, a current University senior, is another student whose story is written in the pages of the book. She is a living example of the effects of the

Walton Scholarship.

When Castillo walks into a room, she immediately lights it up. She can usually be found by her contagious laugh. Joy defines Castillo.

The scholarship helped shape her life, Castillo said.

“When I got here I really loved the Christian environment,” she said. “Back at home we don’t have these opportunities. This [experience] has helped me to grow spiritually a lot. I can see the difference between who I was three years ago and who I am today.”

Castillo is proud to be a part of the generations of Walton scholars.

“It’s an honor,” she said, beaming. “This opportunity doesn’t come every day. I feel so proud to be called a Walton.”

Johnson intends to share his book with alumni and those associated with the program. He hopes the pages will bring alumni back to the days they spent on campus and the experiences they had in the States.

Johnson had several copies of the book printed last weekend. There will be a limited amount of copies in the University bookstore, which manager Jeff Bowles said should be available soon and will be sold on consignment.

An e-book is in process as well. Johnson hopes it will make the text more accessible for the alumni in other countries.



SERGIO ARGUELLOA/The Threefold Advocate

Four Walton scholarship students visit with Ron Johnson in his office, chatting about his upcoming book.

Jones elected to city board seat

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Scott Jones won his bid for position five of the Siloam Springs Board of Directors on Tuesday night. Jones, an adjunct professor at John Brown University, earned 60.6 percent of the vote. The incumbent Ken Wiles received 39.3 percent.

More than 3,500 residents in the city voted, according to the Benton County election results webpage.

Jones will serve on the

board for four years. He will also continue running Fratelli’s Wood-Fired Pizzeria downtown and teaching classes at the University.

Jones said he was happy to get the opportunity to work with the city and the board of directors.

“I want to help keep Siloam the great place it is to live,” Jones said. “I would like to change some things that I see need changing in order to do that.”

While the county will not certify the election’s results for two-to-three weeks, Jones

said on Tuesday the count was probably settled.

Jones will begin his duties on the board in January. He said the only initial change he could see in his life is that he will now be busy on Tuesday nights for the board meetings.

“As people get to know me and start recognizing me, I’m sure they will start sharing lots of opinions with me,” Jones said.

He added there was not anything about his new job that worried him.

Wiles could not be reached for comment.

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Learn more about the Soderquist Fellowship at the info & pizza session this Mon. Nov. 12 at 5 PM in SBC 241/242.

Klotz teaches community development through business

Kelsey Gulliver
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Students enrolled in the Principles of Community Development class at John Brown University are learning, firsthand, about the ups and downs of creating a business in October and November..

“There is a lot of talk today on micro-loans,” Ed Klotz, professor of biblical studies, said.

Both secular and religious non-

profits now focus on helping those from other countries develop a marketable skill and turn it into a profitable business.

“They usually help set up businesses to thrive locally,” he added.

To supplement his students’ learning in the classroom, Klotz decided several years ago to begin assigning a group business project. It produces a simulation experience. Students divide into small groups of their choice, are loaned \$25 and instructed to develop a short term business plan.

The goal is for students to enhance their communication and interpersonal skills while learning more about competition and the business world.

“Students should be making a profit,” Klotz explained.

A few of the projects students initiated this year include Pumpkin Grams, a note with candy students could pay to be delivered the week of Halloween; Recyclify, which collected and then resold gently

used clothing items on campus; and Iron Sharpens Iron.

Senior Haley Gilbert is part of a group that will be walking around campus with a jar of M&Ms and asking people to guess how many are inside. The cost to participate is 25 cents, and the winner receives the whole jar.

“We’re keeping it as simple as we could while still hoping to get a good profit from it,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert also emphasized the

importance of creativity, saying those solutions often end up becoming the most effective.

After each group has completed their project and presented their results to the class, the total sum will be donated to an organization or person of the student’s choice.

This class selected Sheila West. West is a current student who will return to South Sudan after graduation to serve as a nurse specializing in women’s health.

MOCK continued from Page 1

pointless.

He pointed out to those students that they could theoretically make the difference.

“When there are only 300 participants, every vote really does count,” Cole said. “There are those states which always vote one way

or the other – but it is still our responsibility to vote.”

He added that the number of politically informed students who interacted with him in more depth was an encouragement for him.

“I’m glad we portrayed the results in a way which shows the spread of opinions on campus,” Cole said. “I’m not surprised by the results, but I’m glad to see the diversity of opinion.”



J PABLO GARCIA/The Threefold Advocate

Professor Ed Klotz sits in his office, reading one of his books. Klotz, a professor in the Bible division, primarily teaches classes relating to the intercultural studies major.

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Companies’ partnerships reap benefits for students

The Top 20

1. Walmart
2. Tyson
3. Hallmark
4. Rockfish Interactive
5. Nabholtz Construction
6. NWA area public schools
7. Procter and Gamble
8. Nestlé
9. DelMonte Foods
10. Cintas
11. Dayspring Cards
12. Cobb-Vantress
13. Allen’s Canning
14. Simmons Foods
15. Arvest Bank
16. LA-Z-BOY
17. KNWA News
18. Rockline Industries
19. Crafton Tull
20. ACUMENBRANDS

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Earlier this semester, the John Brown University career development center reported that 99 percent of the graduating class of 2011 were employed or in graduate school.

The University’s work does not stop there. It continues to take further steps to ensure students are prepared as possible for post-graduation employment.

As part of its strategic plan, the University is formalizing partnerships with several corporations in northwest Arkansas. Now in year two of a three-year process, Chris Confer, director of career development, is working with the Cabinet to narrow the field down to 20 organizations.

These organizations meet three requirements, Confer said. One, they are for-profit organizations. Two, they are located in

northwest Arkansas. And three, they collectively represent every major offered at the University.

“At the base level, for every single one of them, we need to be interacting with them where they are not necessarily hiring—because we couldn’t dictate that to them—but at least interviewing our students on a regular basis for jobs and internships,” Confer said. “And ideally, our students would be obtaining some of those here and there.”

Currently, Confer is working with the corporations to make sure they acknowledge the partnership and to explore what that could look like for each. These conversations work to move past the base level of providing interviews for jobs and internships.

As a result of conversations with Cintas, a company that provides everything from uniforms and apparel to first aid and safety, students from Gaining Opportunities for All our Lives, a student human resource

club, were provided a chance to tour the facility and talk to the management about Cintas’ business.

Mandy Moore, associate professor of business, believes partnerships with these companies are “mutually beneficial for students, faculty, alumni and the partnering company.” As a professor in the College of Business, Moore said she is always looking for people to serve as guest speakers and final project evaluators.

“I find that students benefit from this interaction because they see they need to understand the content we are studying not only for the exam, but also for their career,” she said. “This stuff we are learning matters in the real world.”

Senior Brian Franz has already experienced real world connection in his classes. He said hearing students share their internship experiences allowed him to see what those businesses are like on the other side.

“It builds on your network around here and you can point to things you are learning in your text and connect them to real businesses in your area,” he said.

Others, like senior Joe Randall, think these partnerships mainly benefit students planning on staying in the area.

“I wouldn’t get internships here because I’d probably get internships at home in Colorado where I spend most of my time when I’m not at school,” he said.

Yet both agreed the partnerships provided many opportunities.

“My goal with SIFE last semester was to get more connected and maybe score an internship for my last summer, but I never really got that experience,” Franz said. “So the fact that [JBU] is doing a project specifically devoted to these things would make it even easier and more accessible for students to take advantage of these opportunities.”

Christians interpret parables through mediums of artwork

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The John Brown University art department will reveal the art gallery “Picturing the Parables” this evening.

This collection, put together through Christians in the Visual Arts, represents a variety of artists and mediums including

traditional painting and color pencil. It will remain at the University until the end of the semester.

The works depict the artists’ interpretations of biblical parables.

Charles Peer, professor of visual arts, places an emphasis on the word “interpretations.”

“Parables are so open to interpretation,” said Peer. “They don’t give you the facts. These visual artists are doing the same thing. They give us visual insights that really dig deep for truth.”

“This is more than an opportunity to see beautiful work,” he added. “It’s an opportunity to study and hear what resonates with the artist and see if it does the same to you as well.”

Though the gallery focuses on the Jesus’ parables, there is no exact target market. Peer thinks that the “fresh, contemporary feel” to the pieces will especially reach out to younger audiences.

Students are already getting excited for the exhibit.

Becca Masters, a senior digital arts major, enjoys going to the different art galleries on campus.

“It is good to see a lot of excellent art work and be with friends,” she said. “It’s like an art building party with great

food.”

Masters is particularly anticipating this gallery, though, because she wants to learn more about familiar parables through a new medium. The artists, their styles and medium choices will all communicate something different and original.

Art majors are not the only ones excited for the coming art exhibit.

Chase Sloan, a junior majoring in family and human services, said he “usually doesn’t go to the art events on campus, but this time is different.”

Sloan wants to experience the biblical piecework because it gives him inspiration for personal creativity.

The pieces Sloan particularly wants to see are the Parable of the Sower, because he personally connects with the storyline, and the Parable of the Lost Son, because he wants to see “what real artists can do” to convey the emotions of the return of the prodigal son to his family.

The opening reception will begin at 6 p.m. and last an hour and a half.

For more information, contact Jeannie Abbot at jabbot@jbu.edu or contact the visual arts office at 479-524-8561.



Submitted by: CHARLES PEER

“Parable of the Sower,” by Lisa Snow Lady will appear in the gallery. The gallery opening will take place Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. The gallery will remain at the University until the end of the semester.

Genesis construction underway



ABBY CHESTNUT/The Threefold Advocate

Construction conitnues on the new location for the Gensis House. This is the first location the ministry serving the homeless owned. The project is expected to be done by the end of November.

Out of the Bubble

Europe’s oldest town found
aljazeera.com Nov. 6

Archeologists have recently uncovered a prehistoric town in eastern Bulgaria., dating to 4500 B.C. This is more than a millenium older than Greek civilizations.

Leading professor and arche-logist Vasil Nikolov said the settlement had a population of up to 350 people who produced and traded salt from nearby mines.

British PM suggests safe passage for Syrian president

cnn.com Nov. 6

The prime minister of the Unted Kingdom has brought up the issue of a safe passage out of the country for the president of Syria if it would help end the civil war. Cameron, the PM, is not advocating asylum or immunity.

In the Bubble

Student musical plays

“You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown” plays its last weekend on Nov. 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Berry Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$3 for students.

\$3 movie night

Elevate is sponsoring a trip to the movies at Siloam Springs 6 on Nov. 9.

This begins at 6 p.m. and continues until midnight.

Tickets are reduced to \$3 per person. For more information, contact Kelcie O’Donnell at ODonnellK@jbu.edu.

Duo pianists visit campus

Pianists William Phenister and Brian Lee will come to campus as a part of an artist series on Nov. 15 and will perform from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Berry Performing Arts Center.

For more information, contact Jan Lauderdale at jlauerdale@jbu.edu.

Election night excitement

OUR PRODUCTION PROCESS DURING ELECTION RESULTS

As we write this, it is early on a Tuesday night and our Threefold Advocate staff is hard at work laying out these articles, photos and headlines for our readers. That is normal hat for us at John Brown University. But on this night, our normal is being stretched. This is not a typical Tuesday evening – it is Election Night. Rather than having only our core staff of seven-to-eight people, the Political Communication class and guests have joined the party. An EagleBreak crew stoped by as well. We know our country’s political system is crazy. We are a democratic republic in which the popular vote does not truly determine the end result. And that is never more obvious than on this night every four years. It is a big night for America – presidential elections always are. But it is also a big night for our staff and for the majority of the University community. For many of us, this is the first election in which we could vote. All five TVs in the newsroom are turned on, though only one—alternating between stations—is blaring the pundits’ opinions. The TVs convey our main source of information—and it can be confusing. Every news agency we are tuned to is working its hardest at projecting the winner of each state as the polls there close. On-screen graphics contrast this year with 2008. They also initially showed projections of races too close to call. Students and professors expressed surprise when Fox News called the election before CNN did. But after all is said and done, President Barack Obama is named president once again. Another election has come and gone. The question is whether it will create a change in our country. One way or the other, some things will still stay the same. Next Tuesday, our staff will return to our office to do our work again. But the office will be quieter, and the nation will not be under as much stress. So goes the world.

Support our sports teams

THE THREEFOLD’S VIEW ON SPORT TRADITIONS AND ATTENDANCE

One night of the year, approximately 2,600 people crowd into the Bill George Arena decked out in blue and gold with toilet paper in their hands. As the ball falls through the hoop for the first time of the season, rolls of toilet paper fly through the air as the fans go crazy. But a good number of these fans will have left before the final whistle blows and these kinds of numbers will not be seen for the rest of the season. The TP Game is nationally recognized as one of the greatest college traditions ever, but it is only one of many athletic traditions here on campus. The volleyball team begins home games by throwing candy into the stands and ‘Volley Bros’ come crazily dressed while trying desperately to distract the other team. The fans stand for the Silent Set Point, quietly holding one finger up in the air. The first volleyball game of every year the Rugby Club team impersonates women as part of their week-long initiation. Special ‘pink’ games are held every year by the volleyball team and the women’s basketball team to support Breast Cancer Awareness. The men’s basketball team memorizes the school’s fight song and sings along after every win. The men’s soccer team applauds their fans at the end of each game, win or lose, to thank them for attending. They also set off a canon at each goal made for the Golden Eagles. Homecoming, the greatest athletic tradition in collegiate history, hosts Alumni games for the men’s soccer and basketball games as well as JBU’s Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee Club teams. There is no shortage of ways for students to get involved and participate in Golden Eagles Athletics.

The Threefold Advocate

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STAFF

The Threefold Advocate invites you to submit a signed letter to the editor. We ask that you keep your comments to fewer than 300 words, and we reserve the right to edit for space and appropriate content. The writer's phone number, classification and hometown must be provided. E-mail or mail letters by 6 p.m. on Monday.

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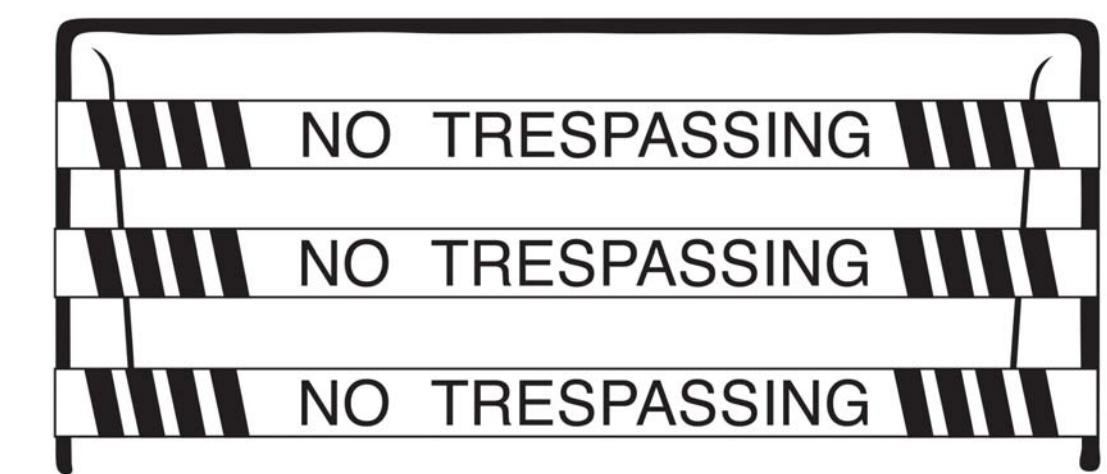
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The Threefold Advocate would like to clarify that editorials, those pieces in the column above this paragraph, are the opinion of the editorial board. They are therefore not attributed to individual writers. The writings to the right, with mug shots and pithy headlines, are columns. Each is the sole opinion of the mug shot’s owner. On occasion, readers wishing to respond to an article or to express a viewpoint will write a letter to the editor. The opinion pages serve as a community bulletin board and are meant to continue the dialogue about various issues relevant to the JBU community. Please write. We want your input.

New Tradition...

“Soccer Tape Game”



Support JBU Men’s Soccer Team in the Conference Final. Friday at 2pm.

*It’s the first time in long long time that JBU is hosting the SAC soccer final.

J PABLO GARCIA / The Threefold Advocate



witter feed:

JBU reactions on election night

Sarah Beth Hooks: “I’m so pumped right now. Literally. I’m like jumping and clapping my hands watching election coverage”

Braden Patterson: “We have the House of Representatives to provide equal representation. Representation by size shouldn’t affect Presidential race.”

Matt Dye: “Way to go Romney, you’re winning conservative, suburban, Republicans... too bad swing states don’t have your demographic of voters”

Erick Roebuck: “I love this election! Twitter in one tab. Facebook in another. My fav pol site in another. Deliteful info overload!”

Anali Reyes: “According to my Latino friends, it looks like Mitt may be ‘self-deporting’ himself from the election. Interesting choice of words.”

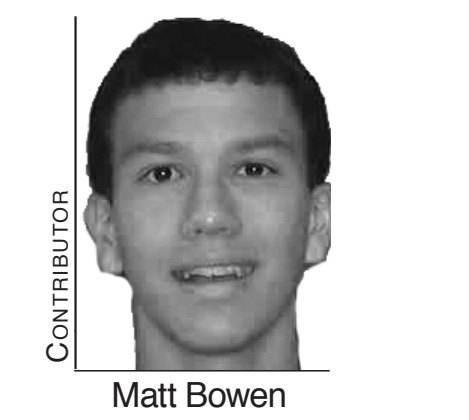
Chelsea Bartlett: “election coverage > paper due tomorrow. #election2012”

Brian Franz: “Once you go black, you can’t go back”

Andrew Goff: “If #election was decided by amount of land owned by voters, Romney would win by a landslide. #farmersrule”

Molly Abbey: “the electoral college absolutely baffles me”

Looking back and thinking forward on election



Matt Bowen

Congratulations voters! You have survived the arduous year or so of campaign commercials, political scandals and “binders full of women!” The votes are cast and we all await nervously the winner of who is to be the new Head of State, Commander in Chief, the Big Kahuna, Head Honcho, or whatever you will call the elected leader of the greatest country in the world—The President of the United States of America.

Look back with me, if you will, to everything we’ve been through with all these campaigns.

Anyone remember Herman Cain? You know, the republican candidate that was president of the National Restaurant Association and wanted to impose the same tax rate for both middle class and higher-class families? And, unfortunately, accused of sexual harassment by former employees of his company?

“I am suspending my presidential campaign,” he said at an event in Atlanta, “because of the continued

distraction, the continued hurt... on me, on my family...”

Herman Cain regrettably dropped out of the presidential race Dec. 3 only after a few months of campaigning.

But Rick Santorum and Rick Perry, two other G.O.P candidates, were going strong with both men fighting for conservatism and states rights and, eventually, each other. You see another war had begun—and it wasn’t on Obamacare but on the noble subject of who was more conservative.

The war was, thankfully, short lived. Rick Perry dropped out Jan. 1, a month after the debate ensued.

In an article in the Huffington Post, Rick Perry dropped out because there was “no viable path forward in the contest” and that he knew “when to make a strategic retreat.” His exit speaks for itself.

Which left Santorum to fight Newt Gingrich and current presidential candidate Mitt Romney. But due to Santorum’s daughter Bella’s, condition—a rare disease called Trisomy 18—and an unfortunate lack of support from his own state, he opted out of the race. The odds

were, apparently, not in his favor.

Only a month later Gingrich left the race as well. The reasons weren’t specified, but one could figure that it could have been Romney’s dominance over the Republican Party. And who could blame him? I mean, look at that hair! Who wouldn’t be intimidated?

And then the real campaigning began.

With Romney a shoe in for the Republicans, and Obama an obvious winner for the Democrats, the real racing ensued.

You know the rest of the story. When it comes to Romney we all asked questions like: “Is Romney too rich for this?” “Does he understand us middle class and poor people?” “Why won’t he show us his tax returns? What does he have to hide?” And, of course, “He isn’t one of us! He has a bank account in some posh European country, actually likes equestrian sports and has been wealthy his entire life! How can we trust this guy?”

Fortunately for him he’s become just a little more lovable since those days.

Then you have the opposite side, “Look what Obama has done to our economy! There are millions of

homeless, jobless people and he’s been no help! How can we trust him for a second term?” And, “What’s all this mess with healthcare and Medicare? Why is he changing everything?”

And now we’re here. Hundreds of ads, a few debates and too many scandals later, Election Day has come. Well done voters, you’ve hung in there and now it’s time to cash in your time for some democracy. You deserve it.

But let me ask a question: Was it worth it? Was it worth the back talk and the disrespect? Is becoming president worth being called a sexual harasser? Is it worth the millions upon millions of dollars PAC’s, Super PAC’s and just plain old donors have given to their respective candidate? Was it worth the stress, sickness and sadness? At the end of the day, was all of this campaigning really worth it?

To the future president of the United States of America: I pray for your sanity. Lord knows you have more on your plate than my measly student loans. And I pray, more than anything, that you would seek from the one and only God to give you wisdom to get this country back on track. Amen.

Bowen is a freshman majoring in journalism. He can be reached at bowenmj@jbu.edu

Recap and recycle



Trey Sanchez

Since that one semester when we had to take Gateway, we are all told about why college matters to God.

A whole book about it was drilled into our minds, whether we were learning about Islamic art or Harry Potter.

Regardless, we had to sit through our Gateway with glazed eyes like zombies, waiting to move on to classes for our majors. Yet, one chapter should stand out to every student in the book concerning the beauty in nature.

Unfortunately, some students may not have read for the class at all or just don’t remember.

For a short recap, we are all given the taste of a review during our science classes. If we come from Christian high schools we get the double treatment, all about learning to be good stewards of the planet and not driving a big car.

However, after the constant brain washing, we should stop and think about the subject for a moment.

As Christians, it is important to recycle and consider the environment in our daily activities. Just how ironic is it that our own Christian university preaches about good stewardship; yet, it has not been zero landfill until the last few years?

But good news, John Brown University is now fulfilling the responsibility of preserving God’s creation.

However, JBU being zero-landfill doesn’t mean that

the University is being good stewards of the environment; the true solution rests on the shoulders of the student body.

JBU being zero-landfill actually means that JBU separates what can be recycled from the waste.

Too often, I look down at trashcan and see that a majority of the contents could have been recycled.

Through the efforts the facility services and Steve Brankle the University is zero landfill, which means every student, either day or resident, has the opportunity to recycle with the bins that are placed in every dorm and in every other building on campus.

As a campus, I feel like we often disregard the idea of recycling unless we are in the Walker Student Center and are suddenly forced to separate recyclable materials like a tedious task. Other times, students treat the recycling bin in their rooms as a convenient, cheap trash can.

The point I am trying to get at is that the student body must come to action.

JBU’s zero landfill policy has absolutely no purpose if the student body does not take advantage of it.

Oh and by the way JBU, I am an active member of the zero-project Enactus team.

Sanchez is a sophomore majoring in international business. He can be reached at sanchezf@jbu.edu

Adventures Abroad

Lessons learned and lessons shared from the Middle East



Tyler Ryan

My hopes are for people to read this and have something to reflect on. Reflection has been a valuable discipline that I have struggled to learn while abroad and a practice I encourage you to shape as a part of your daily lives.

However, this short piece will not focus on the value of reflection.

What I am going to share is some of my travel experiences. Up until now I have had the privilege of living a mile from where Jesus was born, visit a Jewish service in a synagogue, praying with Jews at the Western Wall, making friends with Jews, Muslims, Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians, and abundantly more exciting experiences.

Perhaps my favorite undertaking thus far has been the pleasure to dine with the opposition.

By this I mean living for a week with a Palestinian family, part of the people group American media stereotype as terrorists. That experience has opened my eyes to see that those we have been fed to believe are the enemies by the media are actually welcoming and loving human beings.

By the time you read this I will most likely be in Morocco, but I am presently in Cordoba, Spain. If you are

anything like I was before coming here, you are probably ignorant of the rich culture and history that resides within this flourishing city.

Some of you may not even know that from around 711 to1492 Muslims controlled much of Spain, which was then called Al-Andalus. It was not until the last stronghold in Granada was surrendered in 1492 to Queen Isabella that we have what we understand to be Spain today.

Furthermore, the fall of Al-Andalus, among other internal important factors, was due to the Crusades.

Today I visited the ruins of the palace of a Caliphate of Al-Andalus, Abd-ar-Rahman the third. The architecture and defense positioning of his palace are brilliant.

After a weeklong stay in Morocco, I will be traveling to Istanbul, Turkey. As one of the biggest players in not only the Middle East, but also the Islamic world today, Turkey will hopefully hold many adventures and life changing experiences for my fellow team members and I.

I could go on about what I have done this semester, but I want to take this opportunity to share the value of my experiences. If you want to know more about my specific adventures please feel free to ask me when I return.

Why did I share about

the history of Al-Andalus? Because, similar to the way I shared about how American media portrays Palestinians in the Middle East, most of us are clueless to the truths that are out there waiting to be uncovered.

A quote my friend shared with me from Aristotle claims, “To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false, while to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true; so that he who says of anything that it is, or that it is not, will say either what is true or what is false.”

There are some things we are just simply ignorant about, but we have to be careful for some things people say are truth are simply not true. I challenge us all to look through the lens of the other before we assume something to be truth.”

before we assume something to be truth.

I continue to keep you all in my prayers and I ask you do the same for us here as we try and understand the complexities of this fast changing world.

Ryan is a sophomore majoring in intercultural studies. He is studying abroad in the Middle East this semester.

Family connects deeply with China, people

Laura Roller
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Randall Waldron’s family motto, “When we have a chance to travel, we take it,” has led them to the other side of the world and back. Waldron is the newest economics and international business professor at John Brown University.

This passion for international travel began as a side interest. Several years ago, Waldron and his wife, Lisa, got involved with a group at his church as part of International Students, Inc. The group sought to reach out to international students by meeting their needs and helping them adjust to American culture.

Shortly after, Waldron helped form the East Asia Institute at the University of South Dakota, which was designed to recruit graduate students, especially from China.

This began a series of Asian trips for Waldron and eventually his family.

His first trip was during spring break of 2002. Waldron traveled with a group from a Christian university where he served as faculty adviser.

“I went to check it out for a week. I came back saying I wanted to do it again,” Waldron said.

To facilitate his desire to return to China, Waldron sought a grant from the Fulbright Program, a program designed to increase cultural understanding between Americans and people from other countries. He succeeded, earning the ability to spend the 2006-2007 academic year in the capitol and teach at Beijing Jiaotong University.

This time he brought his wife and their three daughters, Kathryn, Marianna and Olivia, along. They had the opportunity to

watch the Bird’s Nest being built for the 2008 Olympics, see the Great Wall of China and learn some Chinese, among many other adventures.

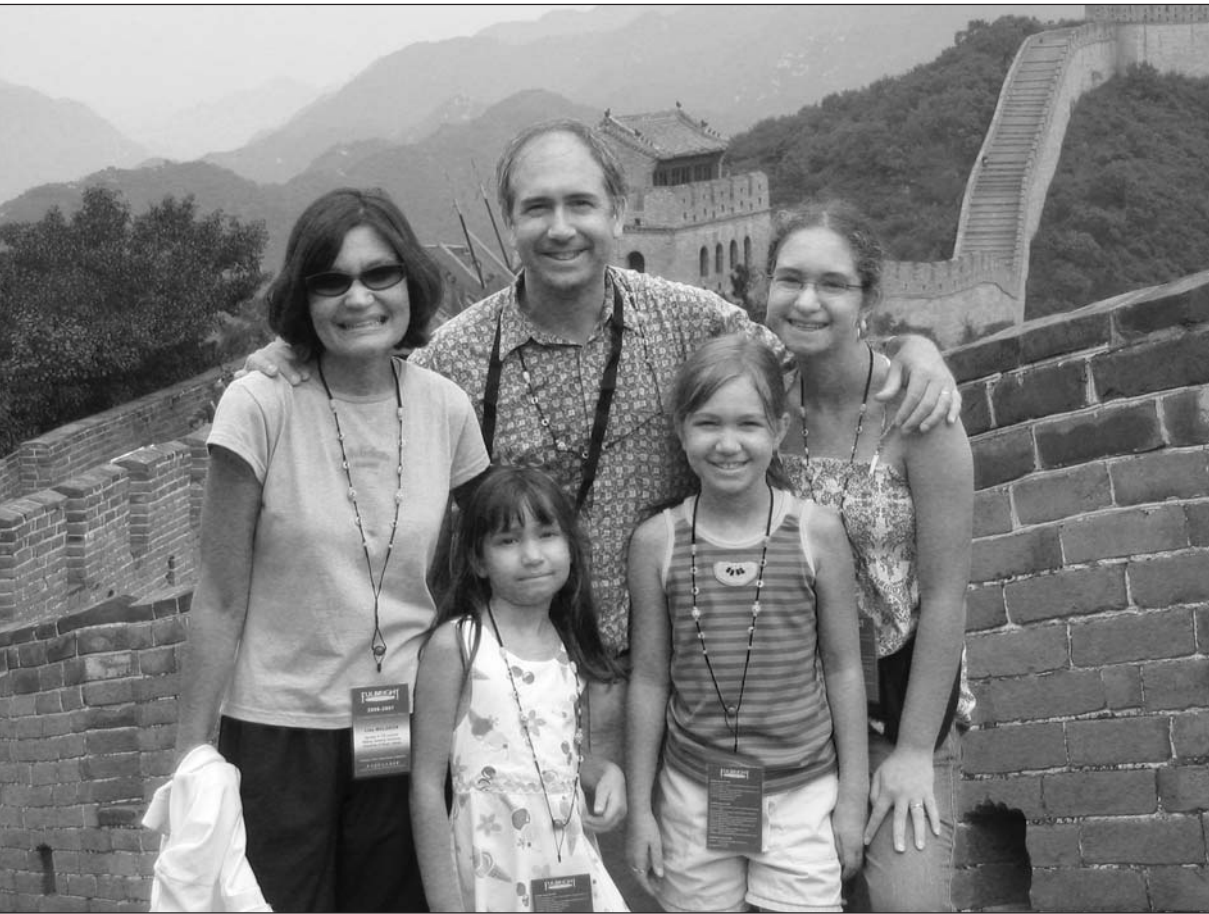
Olivia and Marianna, who were ages 7 and 10 respectively, said since they were home educated not much changed with school; they just incorporated Chinese learning into their education.

Lisa said the girls’ biggest “adventure” was Marianna’s 14-day hospital stay in Beijing after her ruptured appendix went undetected for nearly five days.

The family returned a third time in spring 2011, when Waldron took a leave absence to spend a semester teaching in a remote part of southwest China at Honghe College. He and his family were among the 15 or so Americans in a city of a quarter million.

“We wanted to know the interior of China more. The big cities and colleges are flooded with foreigners, especially Americans. We were looking for a cultural experience where we could see a different part of China and really be able to make a difference,” said Waldron.

The girls giggled as they described the Chinese peoples’ reactions to their American looks.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Professor Randall Waldon poses for a picture on the Great Wall of China. From left stand his wife Lisa and his daughters Kathryn, Marianna and Olivia. His family spent 2006-2007 school year in China where Waldron fulfilled a Fulbright fellowship.

“I have a wider worldview. I kind of contrast everything now. I think about how things would be different in the other place.”

-Marianna Waldron

Marianna’s blonde hair constantly drew attention. Olivia said she was roller skating one time and a couple scooped her up, snapped a picture with her, and set her down again.

“Picture taking was so

interesting,” said Marianna. “One day I had more than 16 photos

with complete strangers.”

Olivia, now 13, said she ate many different kinds of food in China and that “food here doesn’t bother me.”

Marianna, currently 15, agreed that her China experience made

her see the world differently.

“I have a wider worldview,” she said. “I kind of contrast everything now. I think about how things would be different in the other place.”

Waldron said their time in China had a huge impact on the family. “We probably wouldn’t be at JBU without that international experience,” he said.

Kathryn, now 20, is a junior studying economics and international relations at Wheaton College. When she went off to college, Waldron began thinking of the benefits of teaching at a Christian college and began exploring options.

Waldron looked at many job listings on the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities website.

“Only one school, JBU, was looking for both someone to do economics and develop international programming,” he said. “It sounded good. I wasn’t sure, but I sent a letter of inquiry.”

The choice was not an easy one. The kids had grown up in South Dakota, and Waldron had tenure, retirement and reputation at the University of South Dakota, where he had taught for 18 years. But the opportunities for Asian travel were disappearing and Waldron and his

wife wanted to return to the South, so John Brown University looked like a good opportunity.

After several months of silence, Waldron was asked to interview in March of 2012. His family came with him. They visited again to search for houses after he was accepted for the position this summer.


“It was a major family move, so we wanted to involve everyone,” he said.

Lisa said their habit of travelling prepared them for the move. “We are always up for the next adventure and open to new things, whether China or Arkansas,” she said.

Waldron said his passion for international travel and learning was the main draw of the University for him.


“For a small school, JBU already has a wealth of international activity,” said Waldron.

While the University is strong in both Europe and Latin America, Waldron is tasked with building the Asian programs. He is excited about travelling to Guatemala on the spring break trip, because it will be his first time in that country.



Plumstone

CONTRIBUTOR



Samuel Dinger

to replicate my grandfather’s biscuits, begin to improvise. I remember a recipe from a different cookbook, “A Cowboy in the Kitchen” by Grady Spears, for sourdough biscuits and gamble that maybe it would work to use sourdough starter instead of buttermilk. (I have in my kitchen about six sourdough starters for “Amish Friendship Bread” and if you’ve ever made it, you know that it multiplies about as fast as a feral sow—leaving me little choice but to cram the stuff into whatever recipe gives me a funny look.) I don’t have buttermilk. And I don’t have vinegar.

I convince myself that it will work and begin to sift the dry ingredients together through an old tin sifter with flowers painted on it. I pour in the butter and then add the sourdough starter—which is just made from milk, flour and sugar anyhow, only fermented—and fold it together—gently as you would touch a newborn’s soft spot. I feel the sticky dough begin to clump around my fingers and remember hating the feeling when I was little. I used to wonder how Papa could ignore it so—grabbing bowls and utensils and opening the refrigerator with lobey biscuit-dough fingers and leaving floury handprints all over the kitchen.

The mixture comes up a little dry so I add milk, mix again and turn it out onto my floured countertop. The recipe gives explicit instruction to knead the dough for three minutes, but I ignore it. James Beard can’t have known better than Papa, how to make biscuits. I poke at James Beard as though he’s back from the dead, standing next to me in my kitchen: “You don’t want tough biscuits, do you?” I roll out the dough and dance each cut biscuit through a plate of melted butter before placing it on the baking sheet.

The biscuits turn out okay. And my friends and family gathered around the table offer some good criticism. They taste well enough, but are a little flat and dry. I’m sure this is due to the lower fat and moisture content in the sourdough mixture versus that of milk. I have plans for another batch later this week—with lots of changes to make. In that batch I’ll add more milk, I’ll be more careful with the measurements and I think I’ll use cold butter in the dough instead of melted butter. But if you think for a minute that I’m going to knead those biscuits for three whole minutes, you’ve got another thing coming.



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EXP. Dec 31, 2012

Want to make biscuits like Sam’s?
Read his extended column online-
recipe included- at advocate.jbu.edu.

A peek behind the curtains

By: Kendra Chester

“So much diligent work goes into two hours of performance to suspend the disbelief of the audience for a short time.”

—David Burney



STEPHANIE WILLIS/Threefold Advocate

Technology

JBU Event Crew

Number of microphones: 10
 Sound effects: 11
 Lighting gel sheets: 18
 9-volt batteries: 249
 Cost: \$5,643
 Biggest challenge: fast pace
 Juice boxes consumed: 6 cases
 Total hours: 606

Hair & Makeup

David Burney, assistant director of financial aid

Bobby pins used: 25+ for each female character
 Makeup sponges: 200+
 Hairspray: 216 ounces
 Favorite character: Lucy
 Quote: “Wigs are fun.”
 Fun fact: also helped choreograph the production



ASHLEY ELKINS/Threefold Advocate



ASHLEY ELKINS/Threefold Advocate

Set Design:

Jonathan Raikes, senior

Saw cuts: 200
 Pounds of screws: 20
 Gallons of paint: 8
 Favorite piece: Schroeder's piano
 Most challenging part: time management
 Quote: “If the reused materials from the plywood and the 2X4's were to be combined, we saved just over three trees.”
 Total hours: 200+

Costumes:

Kirsten Pearson, wife of Cross Country Coach Matt Pearson

Shows at the University: 4
 Costumes: One completely built, rest found at the University's costume storage (including old Golden Eagle mascot costume) and thrift stores.
 Favorite costume: Woodstock
 Quote: “I thought it was going to be more of a challenge, but it has come together. It has been the most fun to try to put together.”
 Total hours: 80+



STEPHANIE WILLIS/Threefold Advocate

Basketball starts on high note

Sidney Van Wyk
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The John Brown Golden Eagles have begun the 2012-2013 season with a three game winning streak and are No.17 nationally. Head Coach Clark Sheehy said while the team has three victories already, they did not play well in the first half of either game. He also said they need to work on their defensive presence. Sophomore Jared Johnson,

an important part of the Eagle’s defensive efforts, tore his ACL and will be out for the rest of the season. “Others will need to step up and play a bigger role,” said Sheehy about how the team is playing without the big man. JBU allowed Hillsdale Baptist to shoot 50 percent in the first half of the TP game though they managed to hold them at 20 percent in the second half. Sheehy said this year’s recruits will be instrumental in reaching the team’s goals. Freshman Kent High, the

leading scorer against Hillsdale Baptist (Okla.), and fellow freshman Collin Hart, the leading scorer against Central Baptist (Ark.), are two of this year’s seven new players. Sheehy described this year’s recruits as a very diverse group, which brings a lot of potential and have already been performing well in the off-season. “They are still trying to get used to how we play,” said Sheehy. He continued by stating the performances from this year’s seniors Abel Galliguez, Coleson

Rakestraw and E.J. McWoods is necessary. “We need their experience and toughness, especially for the new guys,” said Sheehy. Sheehy said the team will also be looking to sophomore Max Hopfartner, JBU’s overall leading scorer. He also leads in rebounds and blocks. The preseason will be nothing compared to the level of competition the Golden Eagles will face once conference play begins in January. Oklahoma Baptist is No.2 in the NAIA while Rogers

State (Ark.), is No. 5. The University of Science and Arts of Oklaohoma is looking to be a competitive team as well this season and have a solid win over a NCAA school under their belt. “We are probably the best league in the country,” said Sheehy. “In the past few years five national championship teams and four runner-ups have come out of our conference.” The Golden Eagles will play their next game tonight against Bacone (Okla.) in the Bill George Arena at 7 p.m.



LAUREN ADDINGTON/The Threefold Advocate

The toliet paper falls as Hillsdale and John Brown players look on in the 32nd annual Toilet Paper Game. John Brown won the game 65-48 and are 3-0 on the season so far. The Eagles are ranked 17th in the nation.

Lady Eagles’ season comes to close

Jon Skinner
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A thrilling win in the opening round of the SAC tournament earned the Lady Eagles their shot at the No. 7 team in the country. They fell just short of the upset. Oklahoma City defeated JBU 1-0 in the second round of the SAC tournament, ending the Lady Eagles season. “Oklahoma City played better yesterday than they did the first time that we played them,” said head coach Scott Marksberry. “We did what we needed ... to get a result. The bounce just didn’t go our way.” Oklahoma City’s lone goal came from junior forward Meghan McMahon in the 76th minute. McMahon leads the Stars with 24 goals this season, sixth best in the NAIA.

“She’s a dangerous player ... she plays well and she’s a finisher,” said Marksberry. “She had two good chances ... and she put one away.” Oklahoma City will play for the SAC championship tonight against Oklahoma Baptist. In the first round the Eagles played rival Rogers State (Ark.). The teams played even through two overtime periods before the Lady Eagles won in the shootout, 4-3. Sophomore defenseman Rachel Harris converted JBU’s sixth and final penalty kick to put the pressure on junior Hillcats defender Mikella Schexnider to make her shot. The Eagles clinched the win when her shot missed the net. “The girls were ecstatic,” said Marksberry. “I was just relieved the penalty kicks were over. I can’t stand penalty kicks.” The Eagles were able to get to the shootout thanks to the play of freshman goalkeeper Kristen

Morency, who had 11 saves, and senior midfielder Cheyenne Padgett, who scored the Eagles’ lone regulation goal in the 42nd minute. “The second half of that game was the best I’ve seen Kristen play,” said Marksberry. “She made two really big, high level saves in the game.” Morency finished the season ranked in the top 50 in the NAIA in goals per game, allowing an average of only 1.05 in her freshman season. The Lady Eagles were able to shut down a physical and aggressive Rogers State team. Marksberry said the team had a special game plan for RSU, playing in a new formation for the first time all year. Rogers State plays with a sweeper, a defender who stays back and sends the ball deep instead of looking for a pass. The Lady Eagles countered with what Marksberry called a ‘shadow,’ having a player pressuring the sweeper at all times, even on offense.

“It frustrated them,” said Marksberry. “It was unlike anything I’ve ever seen before.” Despite the loss, Coach Miglarese had nothing but positive things to say about the Lady Eagles season. “As young as our team is, I don’t think any of us knew what to expect,” said Marksberry. “Whatever anyone did expect, we exceeded those expectations. The girls played better together than we would have on paper.” The Lady Eagles finished the season with a 10-5-1 record overall and a 5-4-1 record against conference opponents. The Lady Eagles will lose seniors Faith Thurman and Cheyenne Padgett to graduation this year. Thurman was out all season with medical issues. “She handled that with such class,” said Marksberry. Instead, she stepped into the role of goalkeeper’s

coach for Morency and junior Alysyan Burgbacher. “Our goalkeepers were better at the end of the year than the beginning of the year,” Markberry said. “A lot of that had to do with Faith’s work with them.” Padgett was a leader of the team, according to Marksberry, and also played a key role in the offense. “Cheyenne was the engine of our team. She scored goals at big times over the course of the season,” he said. “Everything went through her on the attack. When Cheyenne was having good games our team was having good games.” Marksberry still expects more depth and experience on next year’s team, however. “The most important thing going forward is that we continue to build the culture ... that we really started to create this year and that the girls continue to buy in,” he said.

Women open with split

Sidney Van Wyk
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The Lady Eagles basketball team is 1-1 to start the 2012-2013 season. “I think we’re looking good and playing to get better,” said Head Coach Jeff Soderquist. “We have lots of players back and a good recruiting class.” Soderquist said he hopes freshman Abbie Warren can help replace graduate Chelsea Garrison in the middle. Freshman Brooke Barker, a transfer, and freshman Tristan Carrasquillo have both played well in the preseason. Freshman Hunter Glouse, who rounds out this year’s recruiting class, is recovering from tearing her ACL during her senior year.

“She’s got to get some mobility but she will be a great help to us,” said Soderquist. Soderquist also said the team will be looking to Anna Parish, “the lone senior right now”. Last year, Parish averaged eight points and five rebounds a game. The team has three junior and three sophomore returners as well, all of whom Soderquist said have been making large contributions in the fall. Junior Sierra Shipley played well last year as a sophomore and Soderquist said he wants a similar performance this year. Last year Shipley averaged 11.3 points, 3.7 rebounds and 1.6 assists a game and was the only one of her teammates who scored in the double digits on Tuesday against Lyons (Ark.). The Lady Eagles lost against Lyons 68-65. JBU will have to face much

tougher teams in conference play. For exmaple, Lubbock Christian (Texas) is currently No.1 in the nation and Rogers State sits a No.8 for their last season in the NAIA. Last year’s national champion, Oklahoma City is also part of the Sooner Athletic Conference along with St. Gregory’s (Texas), Wayland Baptist (Texas) and Oklahoma Baptist. Soderquist predicts these will all be competitive teams this season. “Out of the last 32 years we have won 16 championships,” said Soderquist. “I think our conference has always been known as the toughest conference in the nation.” The Lady Eagles will play their next game on the road against Kansas Wesleyan tomorrow at 2 p.m.

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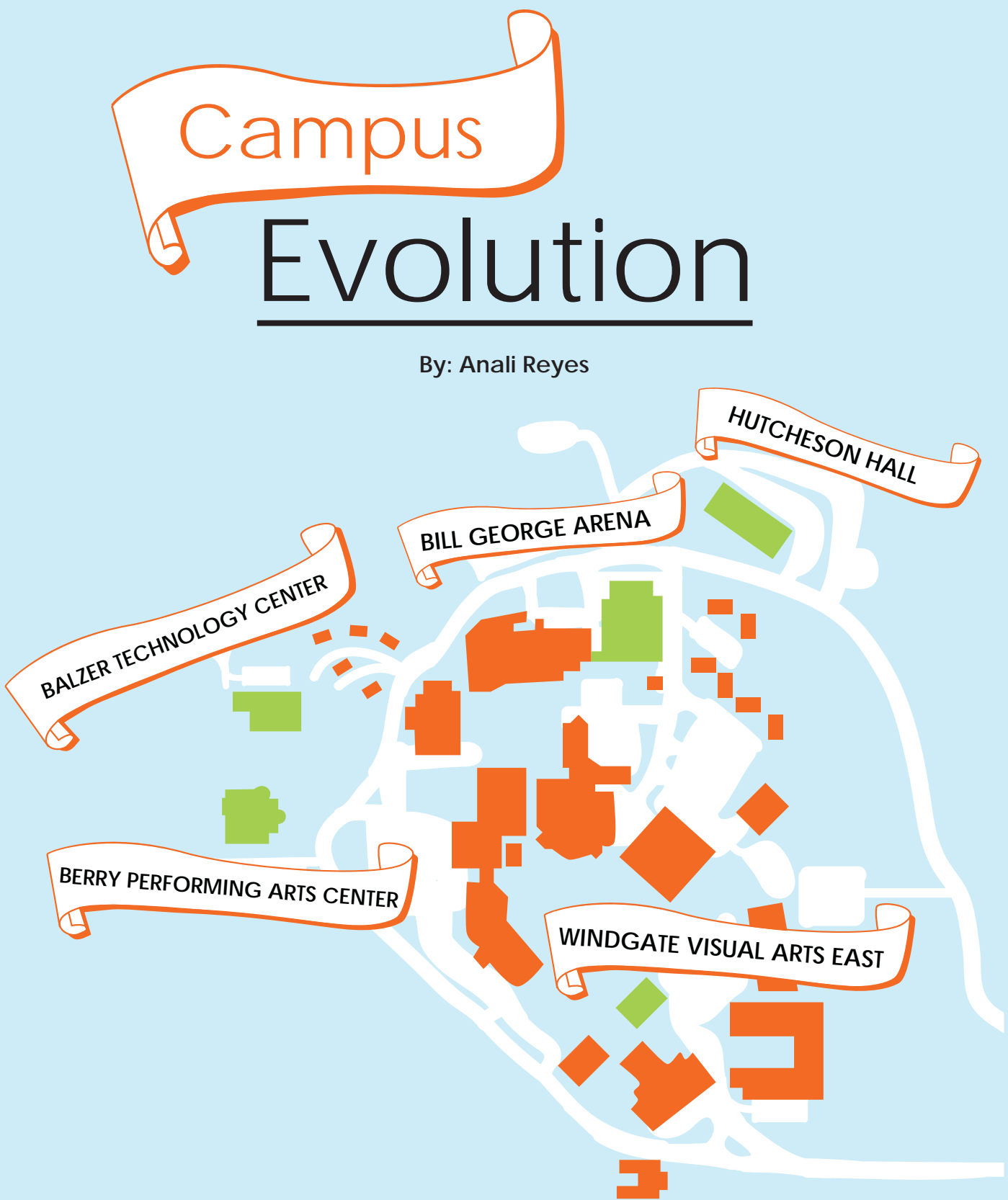
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The constant hassle of having to dodge the construction around campus can get annoying. During the last four years the University has physically evolved with additions of major buildings made possible by projects like Keeping the Faith Campaign.

However, freshman engineering major Zach Lee says it is all change is worth it in the end if it means that it will unify the campus while strengthening the name of John Brown University.

Though new Lee is new to the college experience, he is eager to get his hands dirty with the latest top of the line equipment, all found within the four walls of the Balzer Technology Center.

Before settling on John Brown University, the Kentucky native toured many other schools. His number one goal was to find a Christian school with a strong engineering program that would give him the skills he needs for the future. It was through an alumni recommendation that he heard of a small school in Arkansas and decided to check it out.

"I toured a lot of schools before coming [here], including state schools that were larger than but not as advanced as us," Lee explained. "For our small size, it's really great to get to work in a nice building that has all the new technology."

The \$11 million project included an anonymous lead gift of \$8 million that help build the new home of the engineering and construction management majors. It is one of many new additions senior Aubrey Cole has witnessed in the last four years.

Goodbye North, hello Hutch

When Cole enrolled in 2009, she said the campus did not have a lot of construction going like it does now. At the time Cole was a freshman living in east wing of Hutcheson Hall, or what was back then known as "North Hall."

According to a past press release, North Hall was completed in two phases, the first one being completed in 2004 when it opened up its doors to students. Fast forward four years to the second phase which finished the west wing due to a generous gift from Bill and Dee Hutcheson.

In the same press release André Broquard, dean of students and director of residence life, said though the dorm

received a new name, Hutcheson Hall would continue to be "a great place of belonging, fun, challenge and support."

While the campus has evolved and favorite hall has received a name change Cole says she has no hurt feelings by the way the campus is expanding.

"I think the growth of the campus is great," she expressed. "Every facility that has been built since I have been here has been constructed out of necessity for students."

From cinderblock to limestone

Freshman Julia Smith said she also does not oppose the University expanding to fit the need of a growing campus.

"I think keeping tradition is great especially when it comes to preserving things like architectural integrity," she said. "Though the construction can get a little bit annoying sometimes, the school does it to maintain the campus unity."

She said she had visited the campus many times and remembers being blown away by the beauty of the campus. Now as an English major, Smith says she spends most of her time in the Cathedral of the Ozarks, where all but one of her classes takes place.

As part of the Keeping the Faith Campaign, the Cathedral group, composed of the cathedral and both art buildings, received a facelift to update the outside surfaces. In 2007, the project ended after each building traded in the dark cinderblock look for John Brown Sr.'s vision of a limestone covering.

Lights, camera, action!

It was the same campaign that made it possible for senior Becca Ridings to display her theatrical talents on a larger stage when the Bery Performing Arts Center opened for the 2010 fall semester.

Before the 500-seat auditorium was available, Ridings remembers performing in the much smaller Jones Recital Hall. Though the plays felt more intimate because of the small size of the theater, Ridings said it was odd transitioning from a large high school with a strong theatrical program to the small stage the University had to offer.

With the addition of the BPAC, Ridings says she has seen the department grow

and become more able to take on advanced plays such as last semester's "The Three Musketeers."

"It feels great to perform in front of a larger crowd in a building that has all the requirements as far as technology needed to put on a good show," she said.

A multipurpose court

The campus also welcomes a new gymnasium, the Bill George Arena, in Fall 2010. The arena has served not only to host indoor games, but also to welcome speakers such as evangelist Franklin Graham and TOMS Shoes founder Blake Mycoskie.

Before the addition of the arena, senior Megan Tabor remembers working the concession stand in the old Murray Sells Gym. She recalled how the stand was located in the far corner of the gym, right beside the bleachers.

"The problem with that was if there was a line of people waiting to get their food then we could not see what was going on during the game," she said.

Now the new arena has not one but two concession stands, which helps alleviate the traffic.

Lending a helping hand

Tabor also said that apart from the building, she has seen the school change by making everyday activities simpler for those who are handicapped.

"There is definitely more capability and handicap features in the new gym, such as elevators and types of handles, something the old gym did not have to offer."

In her four years, Ridings has also seen how the school has transformed into a zero landfill campus. Going green was something she noticed when she first arrived at the school after spending time in Europe.

"[Europeans] do a lot for as far as their green energy. I was surprised when I got to campus how little we did compared to them."

Since then more than 50 percent of the University's trash is recycled, and the rest is compacted and incinerated with no emission. According to a press release, the school has also become more green by conserving water, electricity and gas, which all help in reducing the carbon footprint.