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Siloam Springs, Ark.

Students aid community in Flint

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In the wake of the continuing contaminated water crisis in Flint, Mich., six students traveled from John Brown University to provide support and document the stories of the people in Flint.

After attending a lecture at the new Open Road exhibit at Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, photographers Ashlyn Bockstanz and Grace Nast were inspired to do a photography project outside of Siloam Springs. They wanted to share a story through their photography that people had not heard, and they thought of the crisis in Flint.

“Learning of what Flint residents have been dealing with for years is absolutely heartbreaking and infuriating,” Grace Nast wrote in an email. “Most of our peers know absolutely nothing about the crisis, and those that do don’t realize the extremity of it as well as the unjust history behind it.”

The Flint water crisis began after the city of nearly 100,000 changed its water supply from Detroit’s system to the local Flint River on April 25, 2014 in efforts to save money, according to the New York Times. Shortly after, citizens began complaining about the water’s taste, color and odor. In August and September of that year, the city issued boil-water advisories after coliform bacteria were detected in the water.

In February 2015, high levels of lead were detected in the water in the home of a Flint resident,

according to the New York Times. The Environmental Protection Agency’s “action level” for lead contamination is 15 parts per billion, and the resident’s water contained 104 parts per billion. A second test less than a month later found 397 parts per billion of lead in the water, according to the New York Times.

By September, doctors in Flint called on the city to stop using water from the Flint River after they discovered high levels of lead in children’s blood. The EPA has stated that high levels of lead can lead to serious health concerns, including brain damage. In October, Flint reconnected to the Detroit water system, and declared an emergency in December. Residents have been told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking or even showering.

In the most recent months, stories of government oversight and inappropriate protocols have come to light, further exacerbating the grief in Flint. Because of the crisis, Bockstanz, Nast and other students felt the need to help the people of Flint and share their stories.

“As artists we were really grateful to have a few other friends join us who are incredibly gifted in writing and videography. Once they joined, the trip became a reality. We all felt the need to go serve and to document the stories of the residents of Flint,” Nast wrote.

Joined by students Salina Adolph, Kelly Escarcega, Hannah Ratzlaff and Ashley Duckworth, the students left for Flint after a prayer send off on March 10. They created a Facebook page called “Flint, Michigan: Prisoners of Hope” to document their trip. In addition to



Above: Calvin, a woodworker in one of the poorest area’s of Flint, poses in his home that he has lived in for more than 60 years. Below: A mother holds a bottle filled with lead-poisoned water and a dollar bill to represent what she has spent her money on in the last two years.

working as documentarians, the students went primarily as servants.

“Our primary goal is to service ourselves to the community of Flint: to serve, to learn and to love,” according to the group’s Facebook page.

“Most of the media has focused on the political and business impact rather than the people affected,” Hannah Ratzlaff, junior history major, said. “We wanted to bring the discussion back to JBU. I think there’s tons of opportunities for students to help.”

“The more and more we talked about it, we realized how emotionally heavy it was, what we

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GRACE NAST/The Threefold Advocate

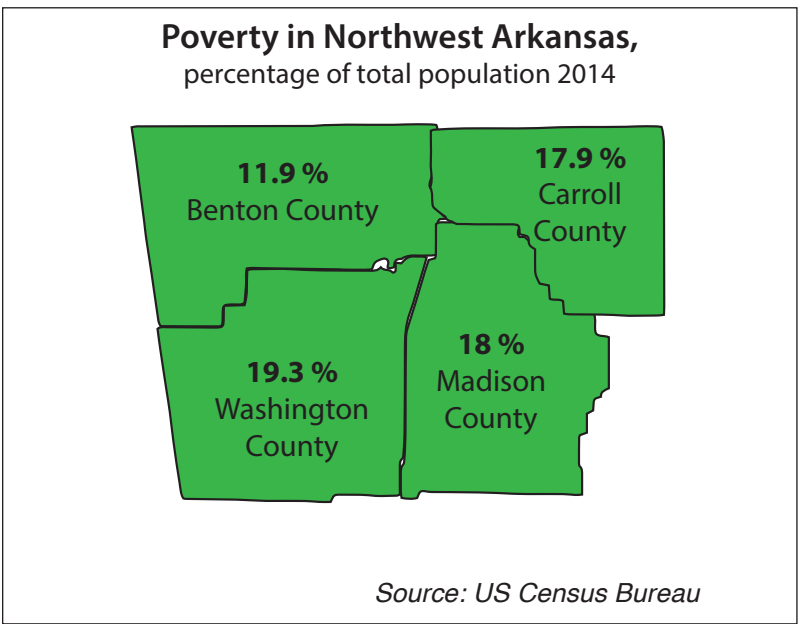
Poverty simulation returns to educate

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Students and community members will have the opportunity to consider the real-life situations that people in poverty struggle with on a day-to-day basis on the Tuesday after spring break.

John Brown University is partnering with United Way of Northwest Arkansas to host a poverty simulation in Simmons Great Hall on March 29.

“The poverty simulation is an event that will allow participants to take on the role of a family member living in poverty, and will walk them through different decisions they would have to make in that situation,” Kim Johnson, manager of the Child Pathway Out of Poverty Program for United Way of Northwest Arkansas, said. “It is a unique interactive experience that



KACIE GALLOWAY/TheThreefoldAdvocate

will allow participants to understand what it is like for both children and adults with limited resources and opportunities.”

Trisha Posey, director of the Honors Scholars Program at the

University, had the opportunity to experience the simulation last year.

“It was eye opening,” Posey said. “I really understood poverty because I’ve studied it in the past. When I experienced the simulation

I truly understood the frustration of what it’s like to manage the stress of poverty every day.”

“A lot of people don’t realize that many people living in poverty are working multiple jobs. People also don’t realize that there are a lot of people who are living right on the edge of poverty, and often living paycheck to paycheck,” Johnson said.

Posey said that some common misconceptions of poverty are that impoverished people choose poverty, that they are lazy and that they have the same opportunities as others to advance themselves economically and socially.

“One of the real benefits of the simulation is that it allows you to experience the struggle of trying to manage life in poverty and gives you a sense of the stress and the real effect of poverty on emotions,” Posey said.

Participants will be presented with choices such as going to the

dentist, paying unexpected bills or opting out of social events. For every decision made there is both a financial and emotional consequence that is tabulated during the test, according to United Way.

Posey said poverty in Northwest Arkansas is more prevalent than many people realize. “It’s hidden partly because we’re a rural community,” she said.

Johnson said that people generally know that families living in poverty can’t meet their basic needs, but it can be difficult to really understand what that means. Often, it means that families have to make choices that cause a ripple effect. “The simulation allows participants to gain a greater understanding of those struggles, allowing them to see the challenges that people in poverty face,” she said.

The program aims to challenge

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Voters question the importance of their ballot

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The majority of people in the U.S. are unsure of whether their vote matters saying that, “Voting by people like me doesn’t really affect how the government runs things,” according to a study published by Pew Research Center this month.

The article also said that, “Those not learning about the election are more likely to be young, less educated and have mixed ideological views.”

Ann Marie Pile, freshman biochemistry major who claims to be independent, said that it

is important for our generation to vote because the world is changing daily and our opinions need to be verbalized.

Young voters, ages 18 through 24, normally vote at lower rates than all other age groups, but this same age group has the most fluctuation from each election on how many people turn out to vote, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Tanis Taft, freshman English education major said that the reason she does not vote is because she does not feel like she knows enough about the candidates to vote for one of them.

“Every vote matters, but just by me voting they do not

know what I am thinking or my reasons,” Taft said of the government.

Niyah Graves, junior youth ministries major, is registered to vote but is unsure of which party to affiliate with.

“I’m not completely sure, but I think I am Democratic,” Graves said. “I agree with them but not completely.”

In states with closed primary elections, it is necessary for voters to align with either the Democratic or Republican Party. Voters who are independent or unsure of their affiliation cannot vote in primaries in the 15 closed states, and if they wish to change their affiliation, they must do so ahead of time.

Graves is not the only one who is unsure which party she aligns with most. In interviews with students on campus, four out of 10 students did not know what party they align with.

Graves said voting is important but she did not vote in the midterm and primary elections because she is from Texas and is not registered in Arkansas. While students from out of state may vote in their state’s primary election through an absentee ballot, this requires requesting an absentee ballot and sending it in several weeks ahead of time.

Caitlyn Powell, sophomore biology major, is registered to vote but is not registered with

any certain party. Powell said that people probably do not vote because they feel like their vote does not matter or that they are not up to date on politics.

Ten University students from across the political spectrum were interviewed about their opinion on why people from their generation don’t vote. Half said that people don’t because of the effort required and half said that it’s because people are misinformed or uneducated.

Fourty percent said that people feel their vote doesn’t matter. Most of the students listed different reasons

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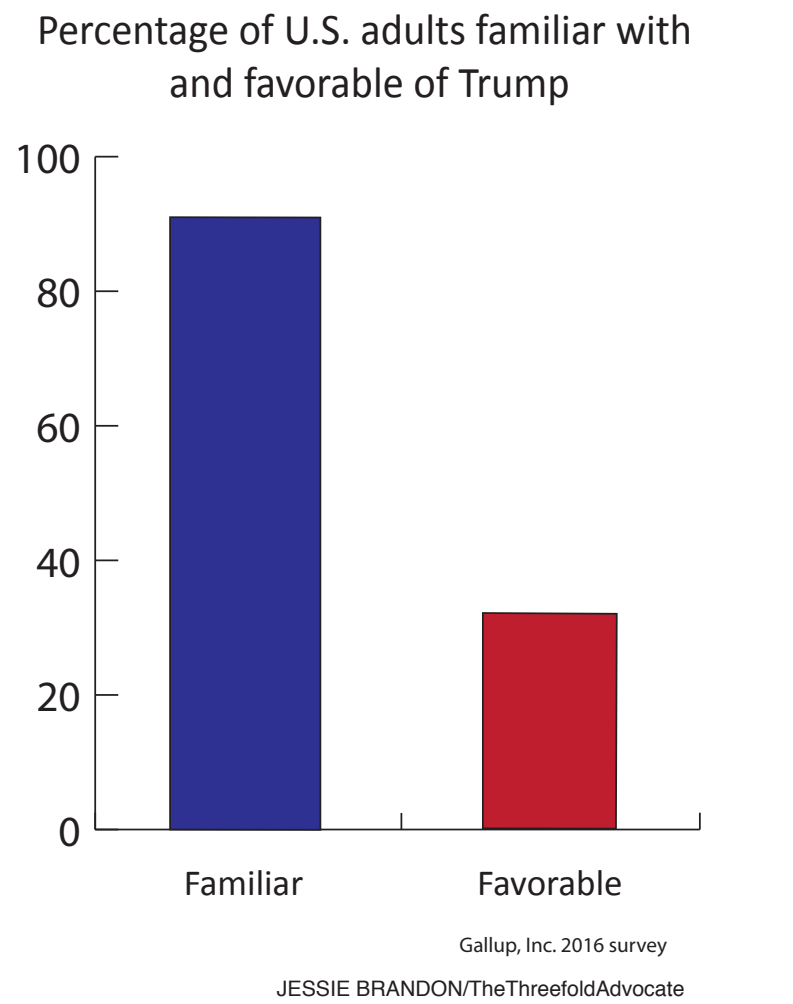
Trump supporters ask for civility

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Donald Trump supporters celebrated as the Republican presidential candidate won the state of Arkansas in the primaries earlier this month. Trump is leading presidential candidate for the Republican Party, especially now that Marco Rubio has dropped out of the race. Trump has come under heavy fire from moderates, the left and a large portion of the right. Trump's attitude and views have led many, including a significant number of John Brown University students, to condemn him as a viable possibility for the candidacy. "Donald Trump is the worst presidential candidate that we've had since I can remember," Daniel Leake, junior graphic design major, said. "His content as far as policy is nonexistent and his rhetoric is demeaning." "People aren't taking the presidential race seriously. They aren't saying 'Let's pay attention to the way our country is run and who would be sensitive to foreign nations,'" Leake added. "People are so caught up in the race that they're not even thinking about that. It's a game for them." Leake is not the only one who

speaks against Trump. Lana Bromling, junior English major, said that Trump is "reckless with his words, often running unscripted and unfiltered. That kind of careless tongue can be destructive in any kind of discourse with other nations." "Language creates culture, and his racist, angry and selfish remarks have the power to create a racist, angry and selfish culture," Bromling said of Trump's rhetoric. Trump's supporters have kicked against this generalization. Bill Stevenson, Director of International Programs at the University, said the condemnation of Trump's supporters goes against American tradition. "The United States enjoys a rich heritage of political freedom. By this I mean that we can agree to disagree on parties, candidates, etc," Stevenson said. "I would encourage all of us to claim the respect for one another during this election process. Let's not give into anything less." Stevenson said Trump was going to be a shock to America's system, which is what Trump's supporters want, Stevenson said. "He has re-written the rules and it is therefore not politics as normal. Trump supporters are fed up with political correctness, tolerance and run-of-the-mill politics. They

want huge change and they want it now," Stevenson said. Britt Wisener, a freshman undeclared student, does not support Trump, but agrees with Stevenson that things have gotten out of hand in dealing ethically with Trump's followers, citing various instances of attacking the person outright rather than the policy. "You don't attack a person for who they are, rather look at the record. Don't just say that Trump's a racist. Say it and then back it up with the things he's done in the past, and to Trump, don't just call everyone else in the Republican race a liar. Back it up," Wisener said. "If you don't remain civil, you're just going to offend everybody, and then it becomes difficult to see what's right for the country. Instead, you just become preoccupied with defending yourself," Wisener added. Josiah Sprout, sophomore construction management major, is a moderate supporter of Trump and said that while he has concerns about him, he would vote for him over any of the current Democratic candidates. Sprout said that Trump's appeal is his transparency. "Though I see why people see him as a bully, I admire his straight-forwardness," Sprout said. "He's using emotional



appeal to stir up Americans who are frustrated with the dishonest and corrupt nature of current politicians." Sprout, much like Stevenson and Wisener, said the political environment on campus is unproductive: "Hating Trump for his hate only continues the trend. The diversity here at John Brown University leads to varying political opinions, but we can discuss political issues with respect while still getting along."

Number of millennials dating online triples

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Online dating has both facilitated and complicated communications for those interested in romantic relationships. "The share of 18-24 year-olds who report having used online dating has nearly tripled in the last two years," according to a study published last month by Pew Research Center. "15 percent of American adults have used online dating sites or mobile dating apps." Raquel Luciani, who has used an online dating app, said that, "For some people it's a game, for some others it is more serious." Pew states that 62 percent of people agree that online dating allows people to find a better match, because they can get

"This generation likes choices, and there are choices available to us and that is why we go online dating."

- Raquel Luciani

to know a lot more people. "This generation likes choices, and there are choices available to us and that is why we go online dating," Luciani said. Luciani is currently in a relationship with someone she met through a dating app. "I didn't think there could

be much coming out of it, but I found someone who I can be open with, honest and could have a genuine connection, which I think is really important for any relationship, whether online or not," Luciani said. Zach Koym, who tried online dating last year, offered mixed opinions about the experience.

"Online dating is a great way to get out there and meet people," Koym said. "It is a riskier way of dating, because we are taking a risk in wanting to meet someone based on the judgments of a few details on a profile." "I don't think you can completely meet someone, because you just get a portion of their personality and just a surface connection," Koym added. "Whenever you get to go on a date with someone you meet online, they might not fulfill the expectations that you had from chatting or texting with that person." One the other hand, Luciani believes that, "we have the power to choose who we date. You will meet a person and decide if the relationship is going to go any further and if you don't like it, it's okay." Pew also reported that 45

percent of online dating users agree that online dating is more dangerous than other ways of meeting people. However, there are those who have a positive outlook and great experiences, even as they recognize the downsides. "I guess in online dating there is always this doubt and skepticism because there are things that people could be lying about, and it is hard because you can't really know someone after just a snap-judgment on the appearance of their profile," Luciani said. "But sometimes if the interests match, you can get to know that person more through conversation."

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were doing," Ratzlaff said. "It was like a weight put on us, not a burden of calling but if you wish to pursue, you have to be aware of what you're doing. You're not there to expose [the people of Flint], to exploit them for beautiful art, you know? You're there to listen to them." Ratzlaff said the group spent most of their time distributing water bottles to the community in partnership with a Flint-based organization called Mission of Hope led by Reverend Bobby Jackson. The organization seeks to "[provide] basic services to Flint's homeless, poor and mentally ill," according to its website. Mission of Hope has worked with people from all over the world in response to the water crisis in Flint. The group of students also worked with United Way and a church in Flint to distribute water bottles. They also visited a local farmer's market and an open house where government officials and EPA workers set up booths and answered questions from residents. Ratzlaff said that the environment at the open house was very politically charged and different from when they spoke to Flint residents at

the farmer's market. Salina Adolph, senior family and human services major, said that the residents were rightfully upset with the government. "According to residents, to this day, a formal apology from the local government has not been issued," Adolph said. "If Flint officials really want to resolve this crisis that they created, they need to build back the trust that they destroyed by issuing a formal apology and honestly admitting their errors, listening to the residents and collaborating with them to create a long-term solution to both the water crisis and issues of poverty in Flint." Throughout the crisis, public officials continued to report that the water in Flint was safe despite public outcries. Only after repeated evidence came to light did the city begin to alter its position. Several public officials have resigned in wake of the crisis, including the EPA regional director, Flint's director of public works and the state's environmental quality director, according to the New York Times. Nast agreed with Adolph, explaining that those in power need to acknowledge the suffering the residents are going through, and will continue to deal with as health problems develop over the coming years. "I think that no matter what, people in power should have the accountability



A local school hosted an open house for residents of Flint, Michigan to get the latest information on the water crisis. The open house hosted booths with representatives from governmental organizations.

to be honest," Nast wrote. "The residents of Flint are fighting for their lives and still waiting for the justice deserved." As of 2014, 41.6 percent of the people in Flint were below the poverty line and only half of persons aged 16 or above were employed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. "I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we felt pretty powerless actually being there," Nast wrote. "We were thanked over and over again

for 'helping,' but I was inspired and blessed by the people we met much more than I could have ever hoped to help them." "Upon our return from the trip, I felt like I could do anything," Nast wrote. "Not because we made the journey to Flint, but because we are so privileged and we take that for granted. We even have the basic right of being able to use the water that we pay for." "Almost half of the population of Flint lives in poverty due to a broken system that has failed

them for generations," Nast wrote. "They are stuck, hurt and they didn't ask for any of this, but they are resilient, and this crisis is bringing everyone together. They ask that we don't forget about them; they'll still be there when the cameras aren't." The group of students plans to host a discussion panel in Simmons Great Hall on April 13 to further share the stories of the people they met in Flint.

GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Study advises allergen exposure

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A new study found that feeding babies allergenic foods can reduce the chance of developing a food allergy later in life.

The study is a follow-up of research conducted in 2015 by the New England Journal of Medicine. It suggests that early introduction of peanuts or other allergenic foods into the diet could be the key to preventing children from developing food allergies and could provide long-lasting results.

Anna Nichols, junior English education major, has been severely allergic to peanuts since she was an infant. "I will be hospitalized if I eat peanuts," Nichols said she has been hospitalized due to peanut consumption five times.

Nichols said that introducing allergenic foods into the diet early on could prevent allergies, but for her it may not have worked considering she's been allergic since a very early age. She thinks that it is a good option for people with less severe allergies and

said that if she had the resources and time for immunotherapy, she would take advantage of it.

Austin Hudson, freshman math education major, has been allergic to peanuts since he was 3, but he only discovered he had a severe peanut allergy in 2012. "I was officially diagnosed in 2012. Before I found out I was allergic, I was able to eat peanut butter just fine. I for sure found out when my sister gave me a brownie with peanut butter chips in it--that was the worst night of my life," he said.

Eating peanuts "will cause me to die," Hudson said. "And just the smell causes headaches." Fortunately, Hudson said that avoiding peanuts is not too difficult. However, he said it is frustrating when he gets a headache because someone is eating peanut products near him and he can't do anything about it.

On the other hand, Nichols said that moving to college was a difficult shift, because she had to be more responsible for the foods she ate. "Eating in the caf has been a challenge," she said. "I almost accidentally



ASHLEY BURGER/TheThreefoldAdvocate

The John Brown University cafeteria provides food allergy awareness at each food station.

ate some peanuts in the caf the other day because the food was unlabeled. So far I haven't been hospitalized from anything at the caf, but it's difficult."

The study claims that eating foods that contain peanuts is safe after continuous introduction of allergenic foods because the immune system appears to remember and sustain its

tolerant state. "The study results have led to new draft guidance. Now, the recommendations include giving at-risk peanut-containing foods by the time children are four to six months of age," according to the study.

The study notes that early introduction would be better off than avoidance. However, while Hudson thinks that tolerance

therapy is an effective option, he has no desire to try it.

"You can do the therapy process of starting with [trace amounts] and work your way up or just completely avoid it. When you bring it back into your diet you have to eat it every day to build up the immunity. I'm not a big fan of peanut butter anymore. I just don't like it," Hudson said.

Choir prepares for Spring Concert

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As the weather warms up, John Brown University's Cathedral Choir prepares to in the new season on with their annual Spring Concert April 1. The choir has been preparing 15 songs in Latin, German and English since the beginning of the semester.

"Mr. Smith lost no time in introducing the music to us. In fact, he had even given us a couple of the pieces last semester," Amanda Neely, an alto, said of the University Choir director. "Between sectionals and class meetings, we have been rehearsing no fewer than five times per week."

The Cathedral choir is recognized for their excellence in performance. Participating students expressed the amount of work that they put into practicing.

"The hardest thing about being in this choir is the sheer amount of time that it takes to perfect our craft," Jocie Morgan, a second alto, said. "Memorizing music takes time and dedication, and some of our pieces this year are particularly challenging."

Even though the choir spends a



Submitted by JIM LOGAN

The Cathedral Choir went on tour last weekend Heartland Community Church in Wichita, Kan. They will perform in the Berry Performing Arts Center at John Brown University on April 1 at 7:30 p.m.

considerable amount of time practicing as a group, each member spends time on their own to improve their abilities.

"On average, I spend an additional two hours," outside of the five weekly rehearsals, Neely said.

Noah Franz, a second tenor, listed some of the songs that will be played, including Motet 159: "Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich den," "Agnus Dei," "Entreat me not to leave you," "A Mighty

Fortress Is Our God," "Peace Like a River" and "Lullay My Liking" are some of the songs they will be performing next month.

The pieces selected for this year are challenging not only because four out of 15 are in foreign languages, Latin and German, but also because of the techniques needed to perform them well. Morgan said that the hardest piece is "Entreat Me Not to Leave."

"The song is a hauntingly beautiful piece, but its repetition and waves of crescendos and

decescendos have been hard to keep track of, and make it hard to memorize perfectly," Morgan said. "However, we continue to get better with each practice and performance, and are enraptured by its message and melody."

Franz said that the choir's favorite piece is this difficult piece. He explained that the meaning of the piece as well as the dissonance of the chords makes this piece beautiful.

"It tells the story of Ruth leaving her pagan culture and

following Naomi into a foreign Hebrew culture," Franz said.

"Mr. Smith has a personal connection to this piece as well because his eldest son, who has lived in China for several years, is returning to the United States with a Chinese wife, who has recently turned to Christ."

The Spring Concert that will take place on April 1 in the Berry Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Lewis conference questions morality

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This year's 17th annual C.S. Lewis and Inklings Society conference plans to address the question of the sources for morality.

John Brown University will be hosting the conference from March 31 to April 2.

Devin Brown, professor of English at Asbury University, and Charlie Star, English and film professor at Kentucky Christian University, will be the keynote speakers. Special Guest Jason Fisher, editor of the book "Tolkien and the Study of his Sources," will also be in attendance to moderate the workshops, according to a university press release.

The conference started at Oral Roberts University in 2004, according to the press release.

Jonathan Himes, associate professor of English at the University and secretary of the C.S. Lewis and Inklings Society, said this is the second time the University has hosted the conference, the first time in 2006. Himes said, "I hope our



DANIEL MADRID/TheThreefoldAdvocate

JBU students and conference participants will gain a clearer picture of how the Inklings used the mythic mode of storytelling to convey profound truths."

He said, "I created the theme 'Is Man a Myth?' for our conference when our keynote speaker last year, Jerry Root, told me that my beard reminded him of Mr. Tumnus."

The character of Mr. Tumnus reminded him to phrase questions on whether human values are constructions and not innate,

similarly to this character. "In our day we are growing so estranged from old Western notions of virtue, for instance, that such views of humanity seem almost as alien to our generation; as they would to a mythic creature like a faun behind a wardrobe. I posed the question as our conference theme, inviting scholars and students to consider how Lewis and the Inklings might have addressed such a question in their writings," Himes said.

The poverty simulation will take place Tuesday, March 29 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The event is free and breakfast and lunch will be provided, but registration is required.

dispel common poverty myths. "Members of the community will leave with a better knowledge of the harsh realities of living in poverty and a desire to address the problem," Johnson said.

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students, create awareness of the difficulties that come with living in a low-income situation and

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for skipping out of voting participation.

Out of the 10 people interviewed, only two people voted in the last primary election. Zero voted in the last midterm election.

There were varying reasons for why people did not participate.

Grant Jones, freshman communication major, is a registered Republican.

Jones said he was busy with midterms while junior political science major Luke Merrick, who is a registered Republican, had issues with an error in his voting registration.

The midterm election in 2014 had the lowest turnout of votes in 70 years.

From 1940 to 2014 there was a decline of more than 20 percent.

Even though there was a decrease in the majority of the population in Arkansas, there was a 10 percent increase during the 2014 midterm election, according to PBS.

The presidential elections also have small voter turnout when it comes to young adults. From 1964 to 2012 there was a decrease of a little more than 10 percent.

It was not just young adults that are not voting; it is people from every age

group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"A better explanation may be that young people today do not feel they have much of a stake in society. Having children and owning property gives you a direct interest in how schools and hospitals are run, and whether parks and libraries are maintained. But if they settle down at all, young people are waiting ever longer to do it," according to an editorial published by economist.com.

Four out of 10 people felt that people should go out and vote because it is their right.

Jones said it is our right as citizens to vote and that Americans should use their political franchise because some people around the world do not have that right.

The general elections, which are the election for new congress members and president, will be held on November 8.

Students not from Arkansas may cast their ballot early from out of state through an absentee ballot.

End assault

Universities should take responsibility

The University of Virginia has absolved itself from responsibility in campus assaults that take place in the Greek housing system, according to an article in the Huffington Post.

The article also stated that the University received a letter from the federal government reprimanding it for its decisions.

The University of Virginia claimed the letter was inaccurate and the letter was then hidden and has just been discovered a few weeks ago by news the Washington Post.

We the Threefold Advocate believe that the University of Virginia should not have hidden the letter they received. Instead the University of Virginia should have put the letter out in the open and then discussed potential factual errors in the open.

Campus assault is a huge problem that needs to be openly discussed. One in five women have been sexually assaulted, also a study in 2015 found that 23 percent of women have has unwanted sexual contact while in college, according to CNN.

Colleges need to be transparent when discussing the decisions they have made regarding campus assault. They also need to take responsibility for what is happening on their campuses’ and with their students.

Some say that they are not responsible because the assaults are technically accruing away from school property, and within houses owned by the Greek system. However, the University of Virginia is still responsible for the Greek system.

They decide which Greek systems are allowed on campus and which are not. They also can close Greek chapters on campus.

All of this shows that the University is responsible for everything that occurs in Greek housing, since they must approve them to be on campus. Therefore, they are still responsible for what these students are doing.

The people committing the assaults are also still their students giving them even more responsibility in these crimes.

Because of the prevalence of the issue and the responsibility the University has in all facets, We the Threefold insist the University of Virginia to apologize, fully explain the contents of the letter and change their policy on the reporting of sexual assault with the Greek system.

Fight screen addiction



GARY OLIVER
CONTRIBUTOR

Question: I’m reading more and more about the potentially negative impact of digital devices and the amount of “screen time” on todays children. Is this a real problem and, if so, what can we as parents do to constructively deal with it?

Many of you who took an Intro to Psychology course in college remember the experiment where the Russian researcher Pavlov trained his dog to salivate at the sound of a bell because the dog had been trained to associate it with food.

Sadly, many of us have allowed technology to turn us into a kind of Pavlov’s dog. When our phone or iPad pings, rings or vibrates, we, hopefully, don’t salivate but we do drop everything we’re doing, even an important conversation with our kids, and answer it.

I often see moms and dads who are chatting or texting and virtually ignoring the children they are obviously caring for. There are preschoolers’ who can’t be apart from their iPad and Grandmas’ who are addicted to Candy Crush. The ever-present distractions of



KLARA JOHANNESSEN/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Technology has a large affect on society, becoming a large problem for daily interactions.

technology make it easy for us to forget what the “main thing” is and to become slaves to the tyranny of the immediate and, by default, allow that to crowd out the real relationships in our lives.

I agree with Sylvia Hart Frejd, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Wellness at Liberty University, who wrote, “We need to be intentional about confronting this ‘digital invasion’ by moving from a culture of distraction to a culture of engagement. A culture where ‘real’ relationships and conversations become more important than ‘virtual’ ones.”

So what can concerned parents do? Here are some suggestions

First, become aware of you and your family’s usage of technology. What are you modeling for you kids?

Second, when you’re with your kids pay attention to them. Be present. Stay present.

Third, establish your own digital boundaries and be an example for your kids. Limit your own “screen time” and what you allow to interrupt

your time with them.

Fourth, create digital-free spaces in your home where conversation can happen; for example the kitchen, dining room or the car.

Fifth, set aside some “media free” times for conversations, homework, games ect. for being a family.

Sixth, ask God to help you be more responsive to the voice of your son, daughter or spouse than you are to the ping, ring or vibration of a digital device.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul gives a list of things that God says is good for us to focus on. Ask God to give you creative ways to help you and your kids’ “minds dwell on these things.” Use some of your media-free time for creative conversations on what that might look like.

Oliver is the director of the Center for Healthy Relationships. He can be reached at GOliver@jbu.edu.

“Sadly, many of us have allowed technology to turn us into a kind of Pavlov’s dog.”

-Letter from the Editor- Response to ‘Letter to the Editor’ from Issue 18

It is a common practice to interview sources for their opinions on a topic in the news. This is what we call a “man on the street” style story, in which reporters interview random people for their opinions. In the article “Students share thoughts about recent political rallies,” the writer did just that. In her interviews, people expressed their honest opinions. As we do not censor people’s thoughts, they may have come across as very harsh to some readers.

As the students interviewed did attend the rallies, they are considered first hand, valid sources. None of our staff writers were able to attend the rallies, so we relied on other students for information as we very often do. With our small, unpaid staff, it is not possible to travel to all events for coverage. As for our relying on another news site for information, since we were unable to attend the event, we relied on them for some factual information—the number of people at the rally. Quoting facts does not equate to plagiarism, especially when we include where we found the information.

The article does seem to highlight only one perspective of Mr. Trump. However, efforts were made to contact known supporters, but they did not respond before the Advocate went to print. Perhaps we should have been transparent about our attempts in the article. In order to correct this mistake we have followed up our first article with one in this issue featuring interviews with some of Mr. Trump’s supporters. Despite overwhelming negative thoughts concerning Trump appearing in the Threefold recently, all have been in the form of students’ and others’ opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Threefold staff.

Kacie Galloway
Editor
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-Publication Schedule-

Dear Readers,

Due to Spring Break and Easter Monday the Threefold Advocate will not have an issue on March 24 or 31. The semester’s upcoming publication dates are as follows:

April 7
April 14
April 21

If you are interested in publishing a column in one of these issues, please contact our opinions editor, Sarah White, at WhiteSJ@jbu.edu.

Kacie Galloway
Editor

The Threefold Advocate

- advocate.jbu.edu -

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.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COLUMNISTS OR IN LETTERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLISHER, ADVISER OR STAFF.

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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.

March 17, 2016
The Threefold Advocate

Don't let fear rule your life



RACHEL CROUSE
CONTRIBUTOR

We talk about fear of snakes and fear of heights, but why doesn't anyone ever talk about the personal fear of failure? What about the fear of disappointing friends or family? How about the fear of people who look, speak, act, believe differently than us?

I would like to present an honest conversation about a fear that we as Christians have that is unnecessary, uncalled for and ultimately wrong in the light of the saving grace from God through Jesus Christ.

Recently, I read a book titled "Crash the Chatterbox" and the perspectives discussed in the book have changed my life. The book is about transforming the voices in our heads or self-talk from satanic lies that make us fear and doubt to God's truths - truth that empower us and affirm us as his created being.

When we have insecurities or the negative self-talk is ringing through loud and clear, author Steven Furtick says that our approach to fear cannot be passive and that "you must either kick fear out of your heart or it will keep you out of the places God has prepared for you."

So the fear of failure, the fear of what others think of you and the fear of disappointing others must be identified, captured and thrown out in



Courtesy of Pete Souza via WIKIMEDIA

On February 4 2016, the 64th annual National Prayer Breakfast occurred. At the event President Obama spoke about fear and our response.

order to be replaced with God's truths found in Scripture.

Relationships with others, such as parents, friends and significant others are full of fear as well. Parents at this stage in life, authority and decision-making can be a point of heated debate.

For example, a couple years ago, my father was so set against me traveling and spending time in a mission field that I dearly loved and felt called to. His reluctance to let me travel was grounded in the fear that had been cultivated by the world news; his fear was that I would be kidnapped, hurt or worse if I spent time away from the safety of home.

Eventually, in obedience to God's will, I decided to go against my father's wishes. But with his blessing, and thanks be to God, I returned safely to his arms and felt like I had done

the right thing, and finally my father knew it, too. He had to trust God with his daughter's safety and I had to trust God that he would help my father understand when I could not.

Becoming vulnerable with close friends or those you may want to date is difficult, especially if you have been hurt in this situation before.

So many circumstances factor into each person's willingness to share information about themselves, but in order to mature and grow in relationships, we must get over the fear of rejection, the fear of personal failure, and the reminder of failed past relationships. Ultimately, this is to exhibit Christ's love through our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fear in culture is definitely something Christian Americans don't talk about nearly enough.

An online article titled "Fear" by Marilynne Robinson argues that whether we think so or not, America continues to be viewed as a predominately Christian nation by the world. Robinson's thesis states two claims: "First, contemporary America is full of fear. And second, fear is not a Christian habit of mind."

The two should negate each other, but they don't. Fear and what is supposed to be the love of God coexist in America today in a big confused mess.

President Barack Obama addressed this confused mess at a the National Prayer Breakfast in February and stated, "He [Jesus] gives us the courage to reach out to others across that divide rather than push people away. He gives us the courage to go against the conventional wisdom and stand up for what's right even when it's not

popular – to stand up not just to our enemies, but sometimes stand up to our friends." The leader of our nation, whatever you may think of him, is encouraging us to do just what we are already called to do as Christians, which is to combat fear with the love of God.

Crouse is a senior majoring in digital cinema. She can be reached at CrouseR@jbu.edu.

The challenge of returning from abroad



ANNA NICHOLS
CONTRIBUTOR

For many students, the spring semester feels like it will never, ever end. With one meager break to split up not only the battery of tests, essays, readings and events, but also the semester of allergies, mud and Valentine's Day can be exhausting. But for a certain group of students, the spring semester poses a unique set of challenges.

Study abroaders, world travelers, that person you totally forgot about (oops!) because they were gone for a whole semester—whatever you want to call them—are faced with the difficulty of re-adjusting to life back on campus.

While acclimating to a new culture certainly comes with its own mountains to climb, mountains made of dusty archeological artefacts or scones depending on where you studied, many students returning from their experience abroad find that the final migration home takes the cake for discouragement and disillusionment.

I find myself in this category. Coming back feels difficult precisely because I didn't expect it to be difficult. In fact, I didn't think that much about coming back. Returning was



Submitted by LINDY MARTIN

University students traveled throughout Ireland for a semester. Nichols said that they will experience culture shock both ways, when leaving for Ireland and returning to the states.

simply the natural next step. Our collective tendency to not process that pesky coming-home portion of our adventure causes many of us to feel like we were caught unawares by how confusing coming home truly is.

Yet I think there is another reason why coming back home is difficult, and it has nothing to do with us comparing our home to our study abroad experience. As far as many students who have studied abroad think, there is no comparison between their school and their experience abroad. The two are far too different to be compared, and each can be appreciated for its own merit. Returning is so difficult because other people compare.

Don't worry, I'm not pointing any fingers. Instead, I propose

that the reason the people around us have a tendency to assume a comparison is taking place—and that they're on the losing end of it— is because those who have wandered haven't communicated our love for both home and travel well enough. So, if I may, I would like to clarify the study abroad experience for the friends, family, and peers of those who left and come back.

The arc of the study-abroad experience tends to go as follows:

First, the Pinterest phase: the anticipation of studying abroad makes it all seem too good to be true. As a result, mass pinning occurs. This fuels a bubbly excitement, which then spurs more pinning. The cycle continues.

Second, the study abroad phase: you've made it. You're here. A common misconception that both people who study abroad and those who don't make is the belief that life doesn't go on when you're separated. After the first three weeks in a foreign country, it becomes glaringly obvious that life goes on. You are not a new person because your environment is new. Yet you do grow, others grow, and your relationships change with you and without you.

And finally, the coming home phase: the mixture of culture shock and the ending of an era that you were never prepared to end causes an emotional whiplash. This is the phase I'm currently in, and many other students are in as well.

The difficulty of this phase lies in the intrusive idea that we shouldn't be feeling these things in the first place. This shouldn't be so hard. How can we feel culture shock in our own culture? Why would we want to go back to a place where we only spent a semester? Why is it so hard for us to feel content at home?

Unfortunately, these questions don't stay in the subconscious. They seep out from our friends, family and professors. Communicated through the glazed eyes of a friend regretting their decision to ask: "how was your semester," and the remarks from professors that breed comparisons between curricula is the question: "aren't we good enough for you?" This comparison hurts everyone, because it's unanswerable.

In the words of Donald Miller, a best selling Christian author, here is an alternative way of seeing your friend or family member's experience: "Everybody has to leave, everybody has to leave their home and come back so they can love it again for all new reasons." Those of us who leave don't return home with a checklist and a pen looking for everything wrong without our home once we see the wide world. We come home asking only that you continue to live with us, hug us, cry with us, laugh with us, and at least a couple of times listen to us. I, for one, am so thankful that home continues to be home.

Nichols is a junior majoring in English education. She can be reached at NicholsAK@jbu.edu.

6 LIFESTYLES

March 17, 2016
The Threefold Advocate

Director cultivates community



Residence Life Staff (from left to right) Meredith Baltz, Erin Christner, Andre’ Broquard, John Macikas, Lauren Lane, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Andrew Lehr and Denise Farine make intentional steps to encourage community on campus. Lehr tries to create an enjoyable experience for Walker residents while cultivating relationships.

HOPE LINEHAN
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Andrew Lehr has been the Resident Director of Walker for four years. In that time, he has developed relationships with students and fellow faculty alike. Lehr spent his college years at Taylor University as

a biblical literature major. He always felt that he was being called to ministry, but he soon discovered that God called him in a different direction. Lehr was a resident advisor for over two years at Taylor, and that inevitably shaped his desire to be a resident director. While he applied to several universities after college, John Brown University was one of the

only colleges that responded to his application. Previously, he had not heard of the university, but was quickly drawn in by everyone’s kindness. He accepted the position after the interview went better than he had hoped. “I think being here has been just an incredibly influential part of my life,” Lehr said. “It’s a very healing place for my wife

and I. It’s rekindled a love of mine for student development.” One of Lehr’s favorite things about working at the University is noticing how the upperclassmen have grown and how they have progressed since beginning their college journey. Lehr recalled a particular moment when he was most proud to be associated with the University. One of the students was working on a senior project when the hard drive for her computer died. It seemed that all hope was lost until the girl’s housemates came to help her late into the night to finish what needed to be done. “That’s the kind of community we want,” Lehr said. Lehr loves being able to live and work around the people that he’s serving, and while he absolutely adores the public relations, he dislikes the logistics of the job. For any events that happen in Walker, there are little things that he has to see to in order for them to be a success. Acadia Kimball, resident assistant for the Koiononia hall for Walker, can attest to Lehr’s success as a resident director. Kimball heard prior to meeting Lehr that he was funny

and overall easy to be around. When she actually met him and got to know him, she discovered just how true that was. “Those in his leadership class just absolutely love him,” Kimball said. “He’s down to earth and really easy to relate to.” Kimball also mentioned how passionate Lehr is in his job, and how connected he is with the students. Kimball said Lehr makes a point of leaving his office door open so that students can enter whenever they want. Lehr relishes the opportunity to cultivate relationships with the people in his dorm. Lehr also tries to keep the resident assistants informed of events whether or not they are Walker related. She receives several emails a day of reminders of events and suggestions on how to make Walker better for residents. Kimball also thinks he is good at getting people connected and involved in the community here at JBU. “He constantly strives to make sure that everyone feels active and comfortable, and that is what truly makes him a great resident director,” Kimball said.



Water
When it comes to watering your plant, you can kill it by over or under watering. View your plants’ instructions to see how often and how much your plant needs. Usually, once a week will suffice for most plants. But, proflowers.com suggests that you check the moisture by sticking your finger an inch deep into the dirt. If you overwatered it, include rocks the moisture or transfer your plant into a pot with holes for drainage.

Lighting
The telltale signs of a plant lacking water are if it discolors to brown or even starts leaning towards the light, stated proflowers.com. Apartmenttherapy.com states that shaded areas might be best for places that get too much sunlight. However, if the window is in the southern or western direction, full sun might be best.

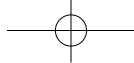
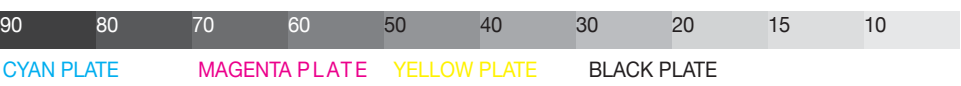


Neglect
The easiest mistake that kills your plants is unintentionally ignoring them. Honestly, taking care of your plant might be the last thing on your mind, especially considering the amount of responsibility we have as students. But, the practice of gardening can be relaxing.

Up – Keep
Repotting, trimming the plants and using fertilized soil are some ways to keep your plants healthy. If you see flowers wilting, pinching is useful for removing the top of the stem to allow new flowers to bloom, according to purewow.com.



GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate



SPRING CLEANING

Donation Directory

by MARIA VELAZQUEZ

Spring is almost here! This means its time to clean your bedroom and start to organize for the new season. If you have clothes, furniture, electrical appliances and other items you do not use anymore, donate them! Arkansas has many great places to donate.



GOODWILL

Founded in 1902 in Boston, Mass., Goodwill has been growing over the years and spreading in other countries such as Canada, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Philippines and the United States, according to the organization's website. Goodwill receives clothes, electronics, books and furniture.

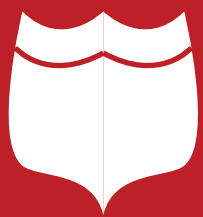
You can find a donation center here in Siloam Springs. It is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.



POTTER'S HOUSE

The Potter's House Thrift accepts donations of all kinds. There are donation centers in Siloam Springs and Fayetteville.

The newest location in Siloam Springs 2101 US-412.



SALVATION ARMY

Another great place to donate your belongings is the Salvation Army. This organization was founded in 1855 in London. The Salvation Army has stores around the world.

The organization contains multiple programs such as sport ministries, anti-trafficking, women's ministries and others.

A location is also off 412 in Siloam Springs.



THE MANNA CENTER

Churches in Siloam Springs founded The Manna Center in 1993 to provide assistance to those in need. It receives clothes, food and personal hygiene donations.

The donation center is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Manna Center not only helps people from Siloam Springs but also from the Southwestern Benton County and portions of Delaware and Adair Counties in Oklahoma, according to its website.

Lucy Hubbard, a student who has donated in the Manna Center before, said that she donated because she knows that everything goes to a good cause.



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CENTERS

You can also donate in the Northwest Arkansas Children and Women Shelter, which are located in Bentonville.

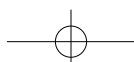
Even though the children shelter receives items mainly for children, you can donate your school and office supplies, electronics, games, pillow cases, sheets and personal hygiene items. For the women's shelter, you can donate ladies' clothes and accessories.



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Even though the Disabled American Veterans is not in Siloam Springs, it is a great place to donate and to help veterans. The United States Congress founded the organization in 1920.

"My top [donations] are probably obsolete technology such as CDs, cassette tapes and clothes," Abigail Danley, a student from Japan, Mo., said. While obsolete to her, she knows the donations make a difference.



Tennis seeks redemption at Hendrix

MAX BRYAN
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Today's matches against the Hendrix College Warriors could serve as redemption for John Brown University's tennis teams. The Golden Eagles' 2016 season opened with both the men's and women's teams competing against Hendrix in Conway, Ark. Both teams lost by a score of 7-2. Today, the Golden Eagles are returning to Conway in hopes of a different outcome. A victory against Hendrix would be a first for every member on the team. Claire Griffin, sophomore tennis player on the women's team, mentioned that the Warriors are a team the Golden Eagles have improved against over time. "We've gotten closer each time, but we have to work on our consistency and just getting better," Griffin said. Colton Cheek, senior tennis

"If we come out really quick in doubles, we'll have a better chance of winning in singles and hopefully come out with some wins."
-Colton Cheek

player on the men's team, said that the team's loss was partially attributed to it being the first match of the entire season. He also said that his team had yet to really get used to playing in a game setting. "Practicing is one thing, but really getting into that match play feel and trying to control the emotions and trying to keep everything in check is hard," Cheek said. "A lot of guys fought really

hard. I thought everyone in the lineup played really well and put a lot of time into it." The matches were structured into two different sections of play for each game. Each game, which was played in best-of-five fashion, began with three rounds of doubles followed by six rounds of singles. Taylor Russell, junior tennis player on the women's team, pointed out that one of the reasons for her team's defeat was that



Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS

Taylor Russell sends the ball across the court. The men's and women's tennis teams suffered 7-2 losses to Hendrix to open the season.

they had not gotten used to their new doubles partners. "We have much better chemistry and will be able to gel much better together in the next match," Russell said, referencing the Golden Eagles' new doubles pairs. Cheek expressed that the doubles matches are crucial to the team's success because they can get momentum going for the singles matches later in the game. "It takes a lot of stress off the guys in singles," Cheek said about the doubles matches. "If we come out really quick in doubles, we'll have a better chance of winning in singles and hopefully come out with some wins." To prepare for the matches, the Golden Eagles have been spending much of their time volleying out at the courts.

Griffin said that the nice weather has allowed for both teams to practice outside. "We've been able to be outside on the courts more," Griffin said. "The team has made a lot of progress since then." The team is confident in the strides they have made and looks to capitalize on their progress against Hendrix. Griffin said that her team plans on taking what they know about their opponent and putting it to use. "[Since] we've already played them, we already kind of know some of their strategies and weaknesses," Griffin said. "We can use that against them in the upcoming match."



Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS

Nathan Kuykendall resets after a volley. The Golden Eagles will play best-of-five matches against Hendrix College today at 2 p.m.

Star quarterback ends career with honor

MAX BRYAN
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Longtime National Football League superstar Peyton Manning announced his retirement from professional football on March 7. His formal retirement will take place on April 5, 2016. The NFL quarterback has played professionally for a total of 18 seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, and then with the Denver Broncos. His last season ended with a Super Bowl title. Manning's career is one that is brimming with accomplishments. The 21 major NFL records that Manning holds include the most passing touchdowns in an NFL career [539], most passing yards in a career [71,940] and most touchdowns in a single season [55], according to SB Nation. Students at John Brown University have fond memories of watching Manning play. Meghan Hardwick, a lifelong fan of Manning, expressed that she loved to watch him display his intellect as well as his athleticism. "I loved how so often, coaches would either step aside or ask him for advice when the other team kept

blitzing, because they knew that Manning would know how to break it," Hardwick said. "It was so fun to watch when a play had been called and he changed it at the last second because he knew what the other team was going to do." David Carlson, senior construction management major, pointed out that Manning was also the kind of player that would make his teammates better. He said that he noticed this take place on the Broncos this past year. "He led the team well and set us up really well for next year," Carlson said. "All of our running backs and wide receivers have grown through him." While his accomplishments and presence on the field are impressive, Manning is also greatly revered as a reputable person off the field. Alyssa Garza, a Broncos fan, said that she appreciates Manning's unassuming demeanor. "He is very humble," Garza said. "He doesn't let the pressure of the media get to him." Garza also pointed out that she was impressed with how Manning balanced different aspects of his life with his football career. "He balances his football



BECKY RAMIREZ/TheThreefoldAdvocate

In 18 seasons of competing in the NFL, Peyton Manning won two super bowls and holds the NFL records for most passing touchdowns in a single season, most passing yards in a career and most passing touchdowns in a career.

life, family life and religious life very well," she said. "Whenever I would go to games he would always bring his kids with him. I think that's a great thing to do as a dad." "His morals are not shady like some players we've all heard about," Hardwick said. "He is consistent in what he

believes, and I never had to dread a post-game interview, because even if he lost, he would still be classy." Carlson mentioned that, although his team is losing a star player, he was happy to see Manning finally retire. He did, however, say that he would miss Manning's presence in

the Broncos' organization. "He had a great career with the Colts, and we were lucky to get him," Carlson said. "He's done a lot for his teams, both on and off the field. I think he's a really good guy and a really good player. We'll miss him next year."

"Even if he lost, he would still be classy."
- Meghan Hardwick

Skaters connect with Siloam Springs



CLAYTON LYON/TheThreefoldAdvocate
Grant Willbanks (left) and Jonathan Coon engage the Siloam Springs community through John Brown University's Skate Park Ministry. The CAUSE ministry was founded by Josh Campbell in 2014 and currently contains 8-10 regular members.

ALIYA KUYKENDALL
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On a sunny weekend afternoon downtown, the Siloam Springs Skate Park is full of local skateboarders, flying up and down ramps or perfecting their latest tricks. It is not uncommon to spot a John Brown University student or two among the local skaters who are just as passionate about the sport.

Josh Campbell, a senior graphic design major, is one such student. Before he got into skating he traveled to various races for downhill mountain biking, but said it was a long way to travel from Siloam Springs. Campbell picked up skating because it was something he could pursue locally and now rides a custom built pro-model scooter at the skate park and also enjoys longboarding around campus.

Campbell had the idea to use his newfound passion for skating as a way to intentionally connect with the local community. Two years ago he founded Skate Park Ministry, which he said is "not a traditional CAUSE ministry." "The reason

I started it is because I would go down there and I saw this need for a positive example," Campbell said, explain that many of the skaters are high

school-aged. There are no set times that the group meets.

"The reason I started [the ministry] is because I would go down there and saw this need for a positive example."
-Josh Campbell

The group of 8-10 University skaters uses a Facebook Messenger group to stay connected and to communicate about they're headed to the park. "Every week there's at least one person down there," Campbell said. Campbell said that as a skater he automatically has a common interest with the people at the

park, and he enjoys interacting with people there that he otherwise wouldn't see. "You have to build a relationship with them and then you just kind of have to wait for them to ask the questions," Campbell

said. "We're not trying to be obvious about it." Jonathan Coon, a freshman outdoor leadership major, is a local and has been skating in the area for years. He said he was not aware that the Facebook Messenger group he is a part of is related to Skate Park Ministry, or even that the ministry exists. "I always just thought it was a group of guys that wanted to go skate. I never knew that there was a ministry intention," Coon said. He said that instead, he sees his whole life as a ministry. "I don't think there's a such thing as a secular versus a holy job," Coon said. "Because you're a Christian, you have the opportunity to share Christ. You shouldn't segment your life." "I don't go out and tell the skaters I'm a Christian. They've asked me this, just by the way I act," Coon said. "I don't do the drugs, I don't smoke, I don't drink on the weekends like they do, and they notice that about you." "We are the salt and light of the earth," Coon said, referencing Matthew 5:13-14. "I've witnessed that first-hand, how we can literally change the atmosphere without saying a word, just by the way we carry ourselves and the way that the Holy Spirit works around us."

Aaron Roper, a local from the skate park who has been skating for 11 years, whizzed from ramp to ramp on a Saturday afternoon, his curly blonde ponytail flying out behind him. Roper said he has known several University students from the skate park for two years. "They're rad as f---," Roper said with a smile of the University skaters. "I'm friends with them. I like them a lot." Roper recalled a particular time when the skaters from the University had surprised him. "It was early in January, and I was out on the streets. I was still getting by," Roper said, explaining that his skate shoes were falling apart. "I guess they all noticed, and they all pitched in and bought me a new pair of skate shoes. Nice ones." "That was really cool, and unexpected," said Roper. "They said the reason is they think I'm a cool person." Grant Willbanks, a junior graphic design major, was a part of the group that presented the shoes to Aaron. "It was so great. He said nobody has ever done that for him," said Willbanks. "His positive attitude really encourages me. Aaron is the man."

Soccer teams condition for regular season

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The beginning of spring is approaching, which means the John Brown University's soccer teams are training to get into mid-season form. Although the soccer season does not begin until fall, the men's and women's soccer teams are training as if they were preparing for a regular season match. Members of each team spoke about the value of the offseason and the role it plays in reaching the goals the teams have in place for the coming season. "Spring is a time to improve individual skills and develop each position to make the team stronger," Marco Cardona, forward for the men's soccer team, said. Both teams are coming off seasons that ended in disappointment. The men's team had the best regular season of Sooner Athletic Conference play the University has ever seen [8-1-0], but fell short in the semifinals of the SAC Conference Tournament. After finishing the regular

season at the top of the conference and then losing unexpectedly in the conference semifinals, the men's soccer team is looking to find creative ways to improve on their strengths. "The biggest challenge this year is to find creative ways to play our style of soccer to counter how opponents play us," Douglas Oliveira, defenseman, said. "We must also continue to play great defense and keep up the hard work and intensity for 90 minutes because we have a target on our back now." Cardona also highlighted the youth of last year's team, which had 14 freshmen. He said that the team gained valuable experience that they're hopeful to build on this offseason. "Because we're not in a season of competition, the team has done a good job simulating the kind of competition we will face during the season by staying focused and challenging one another in a positive way," Cardona said. "We didn't reach our goal last season, but I feel like it will happen this [coming] season." For the ladies, the season



Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS
Connor Georgopoulos dives for the ball during practice. The Golden Eagles have been holding practices in hopes of pushing farther into the playoffs than they have before.

seemed to end in an even more dramatic way than the men's. "The past two seasons we were in the championship game against the same team, except last season hurt the most," Samantha Weber, defenseman, said. The women's team lost against the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in the SAC conference last season after two

overtimes and penalty kicks. The women's soccer team have five core values that the program is rooted on: play for the glory of God, work for each other, compete for victory, don't cut corners, do not cheat the hard work and be the best player possible each day. Those core values are instilled in the members of team and motivate them to

reach their goals each season. For the coming season, Weber mentioned that the team wants to win the SAC Conference Championship and make it to the NAIA National Tournament. "Often times we are outmatched by talent, but we continually find a way to get the job done," Weber said.

10 SPOTLIGHT

March 17, 2016
The Threefold Advocate

BEST STUDY NOOKS ON CAMPUS



Admissions Building: Outside of the admissions stand numerous trees that offer good back support for your studying needs. Grab a tree and begin the grind!



Tree: Bring out your inner spider monkey as you scale a pine to find the perfect view and breeze for studying. Some of the best trees on campus are the ones with swings outside of Art East, the large pine in front of the library and a few by J. Alvin.



Hammock: With the versatility in locations, hammocks offer a perfect place to study. Don't let the urge to nap overtake you while you're snuggled in a hammock, and be sure to charge the laptop and take it with you. Good locations to set up camp are on the quad, the pines by the tennis courts and above the dogwood creek.

Walker Steps: While more open and prone to conversations with those passing by, the Walker steps are a great location to cram for midterms or exams. Soak in the vitamin D as you learn "Why College Matters to God."



100 Steps Ledge: One of my personal favorites on campus since my first year of college, this ledge offers a great view of Dogwood and Siloam. Not to mention, as you study you can enjoy greeting the brave souls that climb the steps for exercise.



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