Faculty requests data from admin.

BY SHELBY ROGERS

In a unique turn of events, members of the faculty are requesting information from the WKU administration.

The Budget and Finance committee reported in the most recent faculty senate agenda that it’s looking into two major issues: WKU’s self-insurance program and proposed compensation for faculty.

Andrew West, chairman of the Budget and Finance committee, said these requests come in anticipation of larger issues. He said he hopes to address concerns people have brought up through email and in-person discussions.

“Most of these concerns have stemmed from public communications through the faculty staff email listserv,” West noted.

Associate professor of history and former faculty regent Patricia Minter said she completely agreed with the committee’s information request.

“I think it’s excellent. I think that transparency is of utmost importance at a public university, and with a self-funded insurance program that is in essence amounted to a wage cut for the employees of the university, I think stakeholders at the university have every right to know what the state of our self-insurance plan is,” Minter said.

“Either of their families could’ve been ripped apart by a simple traffic stop. Either of their families could’ve been deported. You really were scared for your parents,” Valadez Rodriguez said. “We heard stories about people being pulled over without licenses and going to jail… from jail they’d be deported. You really were exposed anywhere.”

Students use air waves to broadcast Spanish speaking program

Students use air waves to broadcast Spanish speaking program

HABLAÍENSPONDO

Students use air waves to broadcast Spanish speaking program

WHAT YOU SHOULD BE READING TODAY

> DEBATE: Republican gubernatorial candidates to debate at WKU
> > BG EATS: Thai Express a sweet experience of national fare

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> DEBATE: Republican gubernatorial candidates to debate at WKU
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F or more than a decade, the American dream wasn’t even a tangible thought for Mexican immigrants and WKU students Carlos Zavaleta and Alejandro Valadez Rodriguez.

Zavaleta immigrated to Nashville with his family at age 18, while Valadez Rodriguez moved to Franklin, Tennessee when she was 19.

They would live their prepubescent and teenage lives with the thought of deportation forever in their minds.

Neither of their families could’ve been ripped apart by a simple traffic stop.

“I was scared for my parents,” Valadez Rodriguez said. “We heard stories about people being pulled over without licenses and going to jail… from jail they’d be deported. You really were exposed anywhere.”

The fear of deportation subsided in June 2012, when President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency.

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PHOTO, PAGE A6

F E R D O N I S

Student workers to get paid for snow week

By TANNY COLE

Student workers worrying about making their rent payment can rest easy.

WKU will pay student workers for hours not worked due to a university policy stating that all employees were to work during severe weather closures.

However, Human Resources Director Tony Glisson, who first sent word that students would be getting paid, soon faced potential problems in funding these payments.

“The question was ‘could we use federal financial aid money to pay for hours not worked?’” Glisson said.

The answer is still ‘maybe.’

Cindy Byrumette, the director of Student Financial Assistance, first raised the funding concern.

After looking into the legalities of federal work study, Burnette concluded that federal funding could only be used if the storm was declared a disaster worthy of an official state of emergency.

That contingency makes the situation appear simple.

Glisson declared a state of emergency in Kentucky last week. However, the federal law wasn’t looking for a declaration from a governor.

“Federal regulations say we can’t use those funds if the hurricane worked unless it’s deemed a disaster by the President of the United States,” Byrumette said.

WKU receives federal funding for student work studies, and it uses those funds along with institutional/financial aid money to pay its student workers.

Since President Barack Obama has yet to declare the Kentucky storm a state of emergency, WKU has no guarantee of federal support in funding last week’s student pay.

The caveat changed the debate from whether or not WKU would receive federal funds to whether or not WKU needed to be willing to front the full cost of paying students for last week’s scheduled hours.

SEE STUDENT PAY PAGE A2

F O R E M O R E T H A N A D E C A D E, T H E A M E R I C A N D R E A M W A N ’ T E V E N A T A N G E L E R E A L T H O U G H T F O R M E X I C A N I M M I G R A N T S A N D W K U S T U D E N T S C a r l o s Z a v a l e t a a n d A l e j a n d r o V a l a d e z R o d r í g u e z. Z a v a l e t a i m m i g r a t e d t o N a s h v i l l e w i t h h i s f a m i l y a t a g e 1 8 , w h i l e V a l a d e z R o d r í g u e z m o v e d t o F r a n k f i n d l e e m i s s i o n. T h e m i s s i o n w h e n s h e w a s 1 9 . T h e y w o u l d l i v e t h e i r p r e - p u b e s c e n t a n d t e e n a g e l i v e s w i t h t h e t h o u g h t o f d e p o r t a t i o n f o r e v e r i n t h e i r m i n d s . N i t e r o f t h e i r f a m i l i e s c o u l d ’ v e b e r e p l i c a t e d a p a r t b y a s i m p l e t r a f f i c s t o p . ‘ I w a s s c a r r e d f o r m y p a r e n t s , ’ V a l a d e z R o d r í g u e z s a i d . ‘ W e h e a r d s t o r i e s a b o u t p e o p l e b e i n g p u l l e d o v e r w i t h o u t l i c e n s e s a n d g o i n g t o j a i l … f r o m j a i l t h e y ’ d b e d e p o r t e d . Y o u r e r e a l l y w e r e e x p o s e d a n y w h e r e . ’ T h e h a r r e s t o f d e p o r t a t i o n s u b s i d e d i n J u n e 2 0 1 2 , w h e n P r e s i d e n t B a r a c k O b a m a D E B A T E : R e p u b l i c a n g u b e r n a t o r i a l c a n d i d a t e s t o d e b a t e a t W K U . G B E A T S : T h a i E x p r e s s a s w e e t e x p e r i e n c e o f n a t i o n a l f a r e . C a r l o s Z a v a l e t a c o n t r i b u t e s a u d i o l e v e l s o n t h e s o u n d b o a r d a t t h e W C T T V ’ s s t u d i o s i n B o w l i n g G r e e n , o n S u n d a y , F e b . 2 2 .
The university made the decision to allow them to be paid for hours that they would have been scheduled to work that week,” Burnette said. WKU currently has 1,970 student workers employed.

For many, such as Los Angeles senior Wilson Solares, leaving that week’s pay could have caused financial hardship. Solares works in the Technology Resource Center, and he was still unsure Wednesday afternoon whether he would be paid for the missed work.

“We get paid every two weeks, so getting reduced by half, we would have to reduce our groceries just to pay our rent, phone bills and things like that,” he said. "We have faculty groups who are concerned about such a young plan."

The university reported in January that the self-funded insurance plan had reserves of roughly $345,000, according to university documents. The finance committee specifically requested that Minter give the board more information regarding health insurance “enrollment, budget and the potential for future economic impact on WKU and employee contributions,” as well as any other sources, “as soon as possible,” the report said.

Minter said some faculty saw the self-insurance plan as a way to put raises pay toward new insurance programs. Weaker said the questions first came before the senate regarding the program.

“An general it’s a new model of insurance where the most of the costs come out of employees’ pay envelopes upfront but before the employer has to kick in. It’s de- ductible before help,” West said. "Some people have medical needs right out of the gate… some wondered in this a de-facto pay cut, or maybe it’s not?”

The university is currently a junior enrolled in WKU’s dental hygiene program. DACA allows undocumented workers living in the United States who applied for and received protection through DACA. DACA recipients are in the United States to meet the criteria to apply for DACA and DAPA. If the court of appeal makes an appeal to the Texas court ruling. The appeal process may take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, according to university documents. WKU won’t know until student work hours have been filed the exact amount the financial assistance of- for Parents of Americans (DAPA). Both programs were set to take effect on Feb. 17, roughly 90 days after being announced. Without the district court’s approval, the expansion would’ve allowed an estimated 4.4 million undocumented persons currently in the United States to meet the criteria to apply for DACA and DAPA.

Vazquez and Valadez Rodriguez are currently a junior in the computer science program. It’s the same for Zavaleta, who is a senior in the computer science program.

...In general it’s a new model of in- surance, allowing the board to discuss things in their will- ingness to share things,” he said. “We have faculty groups who are concerned about such a young plan."

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WKU to host Republican gubernatorial debate

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

While the majority of WKU's campus was dealing with flood-related issues, Student Government Association Senator Hunter Peay, who is the vice-chair for WKU’s College Republicans, said he believes the debate offers an opportunity for WKU students to get involved in politics.

"Any point that a young person can be introduced to the political process, I think, is good," Workman said.

When the debate occurs in April, Lasley said he wants to discuss that the candidates be aware of the state of stagnant funding for higher education.

"Over the last couple years, we have a lot more candidates coming here to visit Bowling Green, and I think the debate highlights the importance of this area," Lasley said.

Workman attributed the increased prominence of Bowling Green in the work of Sens. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell in the past few years.

"Even if you don't get involved in the political process, it's good to become familiar with the candidates as soon as possible," Peay said in an email interview.

During this upcoming election, Workman said he hopes WKU students will get out and engage in the political process, including attending the debate.

"Even if you don't get involved in campaigns at all, you're at least aware of the political process," Workman said.

The candidates are Matt Bevin, James Comer, Hal Heiner and Will T. Scott, who will square off in a debate taking place at Downing Student Union on April 28.

By BYTTER PROCHAZKA
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

Before they can square off against the Democratic candidate in the general election, the four major Republican candidates have to convince one another that they have the right stuff for the job.

"As students at a state university and members of the conservative movement especially in our community, the opportunity to participate in the political process is great," Workman said.

Senior Dalton Workman, the public relations chair for WKU's College Republicans, said he believes the debate offers an opportunity for WKU students to get involved in politics.

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FISHY BUSINESS: ADMINISTRATION NEEDS NEW BAIT

Checking Up: Conscious choices for better living

According to the Center for Disease Control, more than one in three (37.8 million) of the adults in the United States are obese. In 2013, Kentucky was ranked fifth in self-reported obesity statistics with several states trailing behind.

When seeking refuge from this degrading health concern that has touched almost half of our society, it is imperative to look at what we are putting into our bodies. Although obesity can be genetic, it is caused from not taking the proper nutrition into our bodies. We can begin to solve this epidemic by starting right here at WKU.

The most well known healthy options offered on campus are Subway and The Fresh Food Company. These two selections, although offering healthy choices, lack diverse ways to accomplish staying healthy. The most well known healthy options offered on campus are Subway and The Fresh Food Company. These two selections, although offering healthy choices, lack diverse ways to accomplish staying healthy.

When the nutrition choices on campus seem slim, there are many more ways to accomplish staying healthy. Almost every food place on campus offers healthier alternatives to the things that are already on their menus. For example, Chick-Fil-A offers a grilled chicken sandwich option that is found on the menu.

My first guess would be the “fishers of men” example, going to extreme lengths to increase the number of students attending WKU. My second guess would be edging closer for profit, casting their hooks deep into the sea of alumni and Commonwealth community—just yearning for a bite.

The problem, though, lies in the bait. A university with ongoing construction for new installations, prof-it driven goals, a handful of buildings falling apart and a perimeter so reliant on reliance increases for funding doesn’t exactly seem too tasty. The saying goes “teach a man to fish, you’ll feed him for a lifetime.” This is an all call for someone to buy the administration a new tackle box—their tools could use a tune-up before their next trip.

CAMPUS FOOD IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

For instance, the relatively new “phishing” that relates to an influx of spam emails, similar to the bombardment all of those “free toner announcements.

Last year, the relatively new “phishing” that relates to an influx of spam emails, similar to the bombardment all of those “free toner announcements.

If the only things that students put their hands on are unhealthy food found on campus is to lesson the amount of money you have. Doing so will save you money, which can be used to purchase healthier dorm-friendly food.

Eating chicken is a simple change you can make to decrease the amount of calories you’re consuming. Another alternative in avoiding unhealthy food found on campus is to lesson the amount of money you have. Doing so will save you money, which can be used to purchase healthier dorm-friendly food from the grocery.

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Based Cole: WKU students are on confessions, but they sure do love on me. You chose this school. Show some school pride. —402 PM - 25 Feb 2015

Kayla Macl: History Prof wrote out a new syllabus. He added "Snowmaggedon" to the week we were out of classes. #wku — 11:24 PM - 23 Feb 2015

Embark on a journey to WKU and enjoy the campus while there. Be sure to check out our events and activities happening throughout the week. From concerts, lectures, and workshops to sports games and gallery openings, there's something for everyone at WKU.

Have an opinion? Tweet us @wkuherald or find us on Facebook at WKUHerald as well. Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

VOTE YOUR OPINION

OPEN Poll: WKU’s professors are:

- 40% Spicy (1766 votes)
- 30% Gardner (695 votes)
- 20% Phillips (593 votes)
- 10% Ley (192 votes)

Click here to cast your vote.

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Down 1 Geometric art style. 2 Frees (of). 3 Like the word “waitress,” briefly. 4 Gummy bear ingredient. 5 Susan of “L.A. Law.” 6 Small bills. 7 Oven-safe brand. 8 Stand in a painting class. 9 East Lansing sch. 10 Nonreligious sort. 11 Mall directory words. 12 Bombing missions. 13 Sings like Ella. 18 Shriniken Asian sea. 22 Broadband initials. 23 Harry and __, “Home Alone” bad guys. 27 Ground breakers. 28 Plenty. 29 Fesses up. 30 Document sealed by King John in 1215. 31 Petty peeves. 35 Salt (away). 36 “Not ___ deal.” 38 Boston NbAer. 40 Islamic prayer leader. 41 Notable periods. 44 Thrive. 46 In some respects. 48 That guy. 56 “Not ___ deal.” 59 Well-kept. 60 Computer giant. 61 Norway’s most populous city. 63 NBC comedy staple. 65 Some Bronx trains.

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Downtown BG is looking for experienced servers. If you would like working in a fine dining environment apply in person at 410 E. Main Street, Downtown BG.

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THE FUN PAGE

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SUDOKU

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YOU MADE IT!
Khin Maung Nyunt, 77, is a political refugee from Burma. Nyunt was a captain in the Burmese Army. However, he soon joined the ranks of the growing numbers of protestors in Burma in the 1960s after believing the military was brainwashing him. He was thrown in military prison for three years without trial.

After being released, Nyunt fled Burma in 1972 for Thailand, where he became an English teacher. He and his wife moved to the United States 10 years ago and became a part of the Foster Grandparent program, a program that provides volunteers age 55 and over with opportunities to serve their community.

He volunteers at the Migrant Head Start Child Care program in Bowling Green. He assists teacher Critina Neighbor in the classroom. The children refer to Nyunt as 'Grandpa Jimmy.'

On top of this, Nyunt also focuses his time on taking care of his wife, who recently had both hips replaced. The couple also recently discovered she has glaucoma and needs eye surgery, but due to the recent snow storm, had to push back the appointment.

Khin Maung Nyunt sits outside during Kathina, the offering of the robes to Buddhist monks, marking the end of the rainy season in Burma, on Nov. 1, 2014 at the Buddhist Temple in Bowling Green. “Burma was once the rice bowl of Southeast Asia,” Nyunt said. “I was brain washed by the dictator that the military was saving the people, but then day by day I noticed the poor condition of the people.”
Part-time faculty proclaims rich passion for theater

BY ANNA LAWSON
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

Even since she saw her first Broadway show, “The Phantom of the Opera,” when she was four-years-old, Elise Iannuzzi knew she wanted to be on a stage. She said, “I've never gotten stage fright even at a young age, she was never nervous of a stage.”

Ever since she saw her first Broadway show, “The Phantom of the Opera,” Iannuzzi auditioned for BG OnStage. “Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. Van Meter Hall, said he has known Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. “She was always someone who was passionate about being in theater,” he said. “You have to have a certain mentality when you do theater. You have to enjoy it. There isn't enough money to do it for any other reason.”

Five years after seeing “Phantom of the Opera,” Iannuzzi auditioned for her first show, “Annie” and got the part of one of the orphans. She said even at a young age, she was never nervous of a stage. “I’ve never gotten stage fright”

“It’s buzz,” anticipation of a larger venue. “Almost immediately after we nailed it, it was like crazy, as it undoubtedly will come a long way since then, having come along way since then, having lived in New York, directed plays and been an extra in “The Avengers,” “The Amazing Spider-Man” and “Lone & Order: SVU.” Now, she is back at WKU teaching theater. Jeff Smith, the technical director at Van Meter Hall, said he has known Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. “She was always someone who was passionate about being in theater,” he said. “You have to have a certain mentality when you do theater. You have to enjoy it. There isn’t enough money to do it for any other reason.”

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“The IANNUZZI PAGE B2

Thailand Express: a sweet experience of national fare

BY JOHN GREEN
BG EATS:

Thai Express: a sweet experience of national fare

Thai Express is an inexpensive-looking restaurant that serves really appetizing Thai fare. Rather than taking orders at the counter, Thai Express now acts as a sit-down restaurant. Their temporary Styrofoam plates have been replaced with more sturdy china. Lest that take away the fast food appeal, the restaurant keeps the booths and tables bare, and contemporary pop music still hums in the background.

That ubiquitous national chain, Pad Thai, was available in several different permutations. Opting for the vegetarian version might have seemed like a better bet. The meat was not missed. The restaurant has a selection of the usual, a stir-fry of rice noodles, bubble teas— a pearl tea mixed with milk with tapioca pearls. Hums in the background.

“The IANNUZZI PAGE B2

Part-time faculty proclaims rich passion for theater

BY ANNA LAWSON
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Ever since she saw her first Broadway show, “The Phantom of the Opera,” Iannuzzi auditioned for BG OnStage. “Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. Van Meter Hall, said he has known Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. “She was always someone who was passionate about being in theater,” he said. “You have to have a certain mentality when you do theater. You have to enjoy it. There isn’t enough money to do it for any other reason.”

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“It’s buzz,” anticipation of a larger venue. “Almost immediately after we nailed it, it was like crazy, as it undoubtedly will come a long way since then, having come along way since then, having lived in New York, directed plays and been an extra in “The Avengers,” “The Amazing Spider-Man” and “Lone & Order: SVU.” Now, she is back at WKU teaching theater. Jeff Smith, the technical director at Van Meter Hall, said he has known Iannuzzi since she was in junior high. “She was always someone who was passionate about being in theater,” he said. “You have to have a certain mentality when you do theater. You have to enjoy it. There isn’t enough money to do it for any other reason.”

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“The IANNUZZI PAGE B2

Thailand Express: a sweet experience of national fare

BY JOHN GREEN
BG EATS:

Thai Express: a sweet experience of national fare

Thai Express is an inexpensive-looking restaurant that serves really appetizing Thai fare. Rather than taking orders at the counter, Thai Express now acts as a sit-down restaurant. Their temporary Styrofoam plates have been replaced with more sturdy china. Lest that take away the fast food appeal, the restaurant keeps the booths and tables bare, and contemporary pop music still hums in the background.

That ubiquitous national chain, Pad Thai, was available in several different permutations. Opting for the vegetarian version might have seemed like a better bet. The meat was not missed. The restaurant has a selection of the usual, a stir-fry of rice noodles, bubble teas— a pearl tea mixed with milk with tapioca pearls. Hums in the background.

The restaurant provides a sweet experience of national fare. It is housed in a former fast food restaurant, Thai Express. A sweet experience of national fare. It is housed in a former fast food restaurant, Thai Express. Their temporary operation has been replaced with more sturdy china.

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Economics professor remembered for dedication

BY ANNA LAWSON

Dick Cantwell called the Hill home for nearly 20 years before he retired, nearly as long as many of the students that currently attend WKU have been alive. He did more than simply teach his students about economics— he was a mentor and friend. Cantwell passed away on March 75 after battling cancer.

"It's very hard to talk about that, no doubt," said Robert Pulsinelli, an economics professor and Cantwell's colleague of nearly 50 years. "A very noisy guy—never saw him asleep. We were natural friends, and he had a very laid-back way of looking WKU.

Pulsinelli remembered an instance in life that WKU has the ability to bring speaking about the faculty and students alike, as they are natural friends, and he had a very laid-back way of looking at the university setting. I know she is thrilled that she can guide it to where it should be."

Iannuzzi was also hired at WKU as a Theatre Appreciation instructor this semester, and it is one of her goals as a theater professor. "I can direct," she said. "I can act. I can write. I can work with kids. But this isn't a completely different monster. It's my first big project as a director."

Her mother sees that she enjoys teaching both college students as well as younger children, "I am just so proud of her," Stuart said. "She loves being involved with youth theater and involved in the university setting. I know she is thrilled to be teaching."
New club forms to discuss Arab relations

BY JESSICA VOORENES
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

A new model, the Model Arab League (MAL), began its campaign to engage students with an opportunity to learn about diplomacy in the Middle East.

Co-founder junior Chris McKenna started the club after he discovered the MAL at a Model United Nations, except they discussed the Middle East, he said.

The emotional rollercoaster reminded viewers of the early 1960s and 1970s.

The film will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Massa Media Technology Hall auditions located on the lower level.

The MAL club will form a mock delegation for the Southeast Conference this year, McKenna said.

The club is set to attend the Southeast Regional Model Arab League conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina over spring break, where members will engage in conversation and competition.

The club's faculty advisor David DiMeo, associate professor of Arabic, said the conference will give out an award for best delegate to the best of his knowledge.

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Outdoor Leadership Program helps students develop survival skills

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

Most classes incorporate group projects into their curriculum. Only one blindfolds the entire class as a part of the lesson plan.

Chloe Carr, a sophomore from Harrisburg, Illinois and a student in the Outdoor Leadership Program, said she enjoys the course because it is a direct approach to learning wilderness skills. “There are a lot of hard, physical skills that are taught in these classes,” she said. “I enjoy the hands-on approach.”

The Outdoor Leadership Program has existed since 1991, as part of the Recreation Administration School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport.

Its first course was a Wilderness Stewardship course that ran for 4-14 days in the field. Then in 2006, an Outdoor Leadership Program minor was created, which included a professional immersion semester, where students spent around 30 days engaged in wilderness activities. UofL has existed since 1991, as part of the Recreation Administration School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport. Its first course was a Wilderness Stewardship course that ran for 4-14 days in the field. Then in 2006, an Outdoor Leadership Program minor was created, which included a professional immersion semester, where students spent around 30 days engaged in wilderness activities.

The program for the minor is highly competitive, with only 12 students admitted each semester, to form a cohort.

Leadership Program minor was created, which included a professional immersion semester, where students spent around 30 days engaged in wilderness activities.

“By completing this program, I hope to feel more confident in my abilities as not only an outdoor leader, but a sure decision maker in everyday life,” she said. “Also, we cook and are forced to be creative in our backcountry cooking. This is a huge motivator to learn to cook well-for me, things other than rabbit and rice.” As for being blindfolded, Carr said it also teaches skills that are useful in other areas of life, such as cooking skills.

In pairs, the students set up camping stoves and cooked inventive meals from a mystery ingredient which had been assigned beforehand by professor Steve Spencer and associate professor Tammie Stenger-Ramsey. The professors serve “falafel scramble” to Bowling Green junior Jacob Gaddie and sophomore Rebecca Woodburn during field training in Chuck Crume Nature Park in Bowling Green, on Tuesday, Feb. 24. In pairs, the students set up camping stoves and cooked inventive meals from a mystery ingredient which had been assigned beforehand by professor Steve Spencer and associate professor Tammie Stenger-Ramsey.

Students keep a journal and participate in daily debriefings. They also take part in peer review. Classes are held in Diddle Arena, and students take regular field trips that can last anywhere from an hour to a full day. Steve Spencer, one of the instructors for the Outdoor Leadership Program, said the program fulfills many uses. ”Leadership Training is for folks doing outdoor REC positions but teaches life skills that benefit all,” he said. Tammie Stenger-Ramsey, another instructor for the Outdoor Leadership Program, said the class benefits students because they are out in nature as they are learning life skills.

“Well, one of the things a lot of research has been done lately on is the importance of nature in people’s well-being and the connection to the natural environment,” she said. “There’s been a lot of research that has shown that having regular interactions with nature is good for your psyche, your physical development, your cognitive processing, your social interaction, and is just an all-around good thing.”

Carr said it also teaches that skills are useful in other areas of life, such as cooking skills.

“She said. “Also, we cook and are forced to be creative in our backcountry cooking. This is a huge motivator to learn to cook well for me, things other than rabbit and rice.” As for being blindfolded, Carr said the activity was an experience she won’t be forgetting soon. “The first day of class, I didn’t know who anyone was, but we played a name game,” Carr said. “Immediately afterwards, we were tied together—all of us—with climbing rope, some of us blindfolded or a leg tied up, and sent out outdoors instructor for over 20 years.

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For Carr’s group, the trust exercise served its purpose. “It was a trust and team building exercise, demonstrating that you are only as strong as the weakest in your group,” she said. “It worked. I was one of the blindfolded victims. However, we did it in less than 20 minutes, which I think is impressive.”

PHOTOS BY LEANORA BENKATO

TOP: Lexington junior Zac Burton serves “falafel scramble” to Bowling Green junior Jacob Gaddie and sophomore Rebecca Woodburn during field training in Chuck Crume Nature Park in Bowling Green, on Tuesday, Feb. 24. In pairs, the students set up camping stoves and cooked inventive meals from a mystery ingredient which had been assigned beforehand by professor Steve Spencer and associate professor Tammie Stenger-Ramsey.

ABOVE: Sophomores and juniors in the Outdoor Leadership Program hike from the WKU campus through Chuck Crume Park off Nashville Road in Bowling Green, on Tuesday, Feb. 24, to practice for an upcoming six-day camping trip.

LEFT: The Outdoor Leadership Program sets up temporary camp in Chuck Crume Nature Park off Nashville Road in Bowling Green in preparation for the upcoming six-day camping trip led by Professor Steve Spencer and Associate Professor Tammie Stenger-Ramsey. The professors demonstrated on-site hand washing and food disposal techniques as part of a leave-no-trace curriculum. Tuesday’s run-through is part of the course’s “see one, do one, teach one” curriculum, and prepares the students to react in the field. “You never know what can happen once you get out there,” said Spencer, who has been an outdoors instructor for over 20 years.
It’s business as usual for the Lady Topper Basketball team as they sit in first place in the Conference USA in their inaugural season in the conference. After being named C-USA Preseason Player of the Year and an All-Conference selection, Chaity Gooch and fellow senior All-Conference selection ALEXIS GOVAN have led the Lady Toppers to a 23-4 overall and 12-2 league record.

The Illustrated Man: TRENCY JACKSON’s path through adversity

"I wasn’t talking, some things wrong with him," Price said. "He’s the type of person if you’re having a bad day, he’s going to want to be around because he’s going to make you laugh. He’s going to do something. It can be the most serious things sometimes." The trio will play their final home game for WKU Feb. 28 and graduate in May, a goal that seemed far away for Jackson a short time ago. After high school, Denney enrolled into Northwest Florida State College, where he spent his freshman season leading his JUCO school in the NJCAA national title game. A year later, Jackson transferred to Texas A&M University with high expectations of playing Division I basketball. The dream was short lived, as Jackson was deemed academically ineligible after starting the first 11 games, Jackson moved back to Mississippi.

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Two years ago. That was around the time Trency Jackson lost count of the number of tattoos he has collected. His canvas, the entire front side of his body, is etched in ink with things that he holds close to his heart. The words “God’s Child” and “Dream Chaser” race across the senior guard’s 6-foot-2 frame. Just above the phrases, a portrait of Jesus and Mother Mary headline his forearms and biceps like painted angels running across the walls of a church.

Jackson’s Catholic faith has remained a constant in the young man’s life, when other things have not. From a boy living in Jackson, Mississippi without a father, to a college sophomore leaving Texas Tech University, due to academic ineligibility, Jackson has “kept pushing.”

"I was scrambling," Jackson said after being dismissed from TCU. "I didn’t know what I was going to do next. I turned to the Lord. I just kept praying, and the Lord brought me here."

Here is the WKU basketball team—a team where Jackson has found a home and a pivotal role, where his basketball skills can shine. Over the past two seasons, Jackson has started 40 games (26 this season), averaged 10.1 points per game and has become the "vocal leader" of the team.

"I think he’s a guy that’s a big-time energy guy," Head Coach Ray Harper said. "When he’s at his best he’s a lockdown defender. He’s a competitor. That’s the best way I can describe him. He’ll fight you—he’ll compete. He’s meant a lot over the last year and a half."

"Loud. Energy. Active. Loud."

The three teammates boast the most laughter. The comments were the words fellow seniors T.J. Price and George Fant used to describe Jackson’s upbeat personality.

"He’s a high spirit," Fant said. "He likes to laugh. He makes everyone else laugh and have fun. He’s a good guy. When he first came in, I could tell from the jump he was a good guy.

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After a four-run second inning by Belmont, the WKU baseball team could never get back into Tuesday’s game in Nashville as the Bruins beat the Hilltoppers 9-1.

Sophomore Santiago Higgs and freshman Logan Weins also saw time on the mound Tuesday as they combined to give up nine hits and four runs in six innings.

In a contest with few positives, Diedrick provided some hope for Hilltoppers as he extended his hitting streak to seven games dating back to last year.

The loss brings the Hilltoppers to 2-4 on the season, with games next against Vanderbilt and Southern Illinois.

Freshman forward Tashia Brown drives toward the basket during WKU’s game against Marshall at Diddle Arena, on Feb. 14.

The Lady Toppers won with a final score of 74-60.

“Trey was huge,” Miriah Jones said of Brown and Gaines in the team’s win over MTSU. “Every day they are getting better and better. We really needed them to step up…and they showed up huge.”

Clark-Heard said she was proud of her team.

“Changing the dynamics of what you can do on the floor,” she said. “She is able to do different things for us and her teammates are helping her along the way.”

The Lady Toppers’ marriage of youth and experience looks to push through the rest of the season while staying atop the league standings, as they are in control of their own destiny.

TRENCY JACKSON

The same year, Jackson received inter-

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Better Retention. Taking summer classes can help students retain information from spring semester that they will need in the fall semester.

Hilltoppers baseball topped by Belmont 9-1

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The Lady Toppers’ marriage of youth and experience looks to push through the rest of the season while staying atop the league standings, as they are in control of their own destiny.
The Hilltoppers will return to Diddle Arena, after a nearly three-week hiatus, Thursday night to take on Florida Atlantic.

They will stay at home for Saturday's Conference USA clash against Florida International, and look to put an end to their current four-game losing streak with four games remaining in the regular season.

After beginning league play stop the conference with a 4-9 record, the Hilltoppers have since lost their last four straight losses were on the road where the team has a 4-7 record.

Entering the weekend, FAU sits in last place in the conference at 1-13 (9-21 overall), while FIU sits in 8th in the 12 team league with a 6-8 record in conference play and a 2-72 overall. Against FAU and FIU in Diddle Arena, the Hilltoppers hold an 18-5 overall advantage.

The Hilltoppers will look to play close to home on the offensive side of the ball. Head Coach Ray Harper maintains it is important to stop giving the opponent easy baskets. "If the Hilltoppers win out their games this season, Head Coach Ray Harper would become the very first coach in program history to win 20 games in each of his first three seasons at the post of head coach.

Despite the current losing streak, WKU would have the fourth seed in the upcoming C-USA Tournament and a first-round bye if the season ended today. They anticipate that winning out will offer them a similar result.

Harper has maintained a calm demeanor amidst the losing streak and still sees his team's potential as high in the face of recent adversity. "If we were losing by 30 and playing terrible then the alarms would be going off," Harper said. "There is no way we've done that, but it is a team sport, and we have to focus on defense and getting a win in every game, and in that current position, it would be the first step in Harper to lead a team in scoring since back in 1996, completed the feat in the 1995-96 Sun Belt Conference season with 19.1 ppg.

It would be the highest finishing average of any Conference USA Tournament first-place men's basketball team ever.

Action starts on Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Diddle Arena, with the same-time off-set time for Saturday's contest against FIU.

Lady Toppers head to Florida with C-USA destiny in own hands

By Jonah Phillips

WKU guard and rising Senior Trenecy Jackson drives to the basket during the game against North Texas, on Feb. 5 at Diddle Arena. WKU beat North Texas 65-59.

HARRISON HILL/HERALD

Despite the current losing streak, WKU would have the fourth seed in the upcoming C-USA Tournament and a first-round bye if the season ended today. They anticipate that winning out will offer them a similar result.

Harper has maintained a calm demeanor amidst the losing streak and still sees his team's potential as high in the face of recent adversity. "If we were losing by 30 and playing terrible then the alarms would be going off," Harper said. "There is no way we've done that, but it is a team sport, and we have to focus on defense and getting a win in every game, and in that current position, it would be the first step in Harper to lead a team in scoring since back in 1996, completed the feat in the 1995-96 Sun Belt Conference season with 19.1 ppg.

It would be the highest finishing average of any Conference USA Tournament first-place men's basketball team ever.

Action starts on Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Diddle Arena, with the same-time off-set time for Saturday's contest against FIU.

Lady Toppers head to Florida with C-USA destiny in own hands

By Jonah Phillips

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SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

The honors continue to roll in for the WKU Swimming and Diving program. After the men’s side repeated Conference USA champions this past weekend and nabbed several meet honors, the program as a whole has brought in more honors, this time by way of academics.

Senior Claire Conlon has been named to the C-USA All-Academic team while her Lady Topper teammates earned the title of College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Fall 2014 Scholar All-America Team.

The honors come for Conlon, a South Africa native, after boasting a 3.62 GPA as a business economics major and having received honorable mention in the same category last season.

Head Coach Bruce Marchionda noted his program’s “team effort” on the weekend, despite some traditionally not categorizing swimming and diving as a team sport.

“It was a total team effort at the end of the week,” Marchionda said. “WKU had 15 first-place finishes … and of those 15, five came in the championship rounds.”

While athletes such as sophomores Fabian Schwingenschlogl (named Swimmer of the Meet) and Zach Batus (named men’s invitational Diver of the Meet) put forth first place finishes in their respective events over the weekend, other athletes are still looking for their qualification path to the NCAA Championships.

Accordingly, Marchionda will send select individual athletes to the University of Georgia this weekend in hopes of qualifying for NCAA’s (men’s in Iowa City, Iowa and women’s in Greensboro, North Carolina). Marchionda collected his fourth career conference title over the weekend, but clearly sees work to do before NCAA’s on March 19 to 21 (women’s) and March 26 to 28 (men’s) due to his drive to keep his team competing.

The WKU Men’s Swim and Dive team jumps in the water with their trophy after winning the Conference USA Championship on Saturday, Feb. 21 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

SAVANNAH NEDDO/SPECIAL TY

BY HUNTER FRINT
SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

The WKU Track & Field team heads to Birmingham, Alabama this week for the Conference USA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The program enters the competition after combining for 11 indoor championships since 2006 in the Sun Belt Conference.

“We are ready,” Head Coach Erik Jenkins said. “We have a very young, enthusiastic team and I think they are ready to compete so it should be a good competition… I think they are physically ready, obviously they have a lot of growing to do as student-athletes, but they have been in several big meets indoors and put out some solid performances.

Jenkins is expecting a strong showing on the men’s side from Ventavius Sears, who ranks amongst the top of the conference in the 200-meter dash (21.40 seconds), 400-meter dash (47.42 seconds), long jump (7.34 meters) and triple jump (15.35 meters).

“Ventavius Sears is going to compete in four events at the conference championships,” Jenkins said. “He has a legitimate chance of winning all of them. He also was a double All-American as a true freshman. The thing about Ventavius is, last year at NCAA’s has actually qualified for five events, and we had to pull him out of three of them. That is how good he is.”

On the women’s side, Jenkins said Carrol Hardy should have a big meet.

“Carrol is an incredibly talented young lady,” Jenkins said. “She is going to do well but as she gets stronger she understands the event groups more she is going to do even bigger things over the next few years.”

The Hilltoppers enter the championships with leaders in four different events, and Jenkins knows his team’s strengths are in the sprinting events.

Sprint powerhouse Enmanuel Dasonic leads the way with conference-best times in the 200 meter (21.28) and 400 meter (47.29) dash. He also anchors the 4x400-meter relay that ranks first in the C-USA and 27th nationally.

“We have a very talented sprint group, so we hope to do very well from 60 meters to 400 meters and the relay as well.”

Competition was set to begin on Wednesday, but has since been postponed until Thursday, due to severe weather forecasted in the Birmingham region.

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Mobile Options • View and Share ID cards for you and your dependents • Search for Providers

FEBRUARY 26, 2015
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SWIM & DIVE

WKU Swimming and Diving heads to University of Georgia

BY JONAH PHILLIPS
SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

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**Baseball**

BY JOHN REECER
SPORTSWRKSWKU.COM

The WKU baseball team played No. 1 ranked Vanderbilt at Vanderbilt Wednesday afternoon. The game was called off in the third inning due to rain. The Hilltoppers will try to avoid a sweep in Nashville on Wednesday at 3 p.m.

**Softball**

BY JONAH PHILLIPS
SPORTSWRKSWKU.COM

The Lady Toppers have been handed a tough stretch of the season, with a series against Southern Illinois scheduled for March 7 to 8. The Hilltoppers will try to bring a lot of new things to the table against us,” said Coach Myers.

The WKU baseball team had intentions of having two home series under their belt by the end of the week-end, but due to weather, that will endure an unexpected week-end break.

Mother Nature is to blame for both event cancellations that would have seen the Lady Toppers pitted against Bowling Green, Indiana State, Cleveland State, Butler and Northern Kentucky this up-coming weekend and games against Saint Louis, Eastern Illinois, Ohio, Saint Louis and VUPP last week.

The Lady Toppers have been led by the pitching of senior transfer Miranda Kramer. In her first competitive week-end and second competitive game for the program, Kramer threw WKU’s eighth no-hitter in school history. Her earned run average sits at 1.40 while the team’s is 3.17 on the season. Lariissa Franklin has spored-headed the Lady Topper prog-ress this season. With a combined game average at 1.20, her earned run average sits at 1.40, and the team’s average is 3.17

WKU’s next game and first home showcase is now scheduled for March 7 to 8 with matches against Loui-siana Tech. The match ups will also serve as the team’s inaugural Conference USA contest.

**SoFTball**

**Lady Topper home opener postponed again**

BY JONAH PHILLIPS
SPORTSWRKSWKU.COM

The Lady Topper softball team announced on Tuesday that their upcoming weekend’s Holiday Inn Hilltopper Classic had been cancelled following last weekend’s cancellation of the Holiday Inn Hilltopper Spring Fling.

The WKU softball team played No. 1 ranked Vanderbilt at Vanderbilt Wednesday afternoon. The game was called off in the third inning due to rain. The Hilltoppers will try to avoid a sweep in Nashville on Wednesday at 3 p.m.

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