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HRL drag show educates students about culture

By Andrew Henderson
news@WKUherald.com

Rows of chairs filled Downing Student Union’s third-floor room 3024. Silver stars and red streamers hung from a black backdrop at the back of the stage. Multicolored lights flooded the room, lighting fragments of faces as people filed from right to left.

About 200 people packed into the room on Saturday for one reason: a drag show. The drag show, hosted by Housing and Residence Life, boasted performers of all types and skill sets. Some queens like Light Fragments of Faces, performed by Briana Sallans.

SEE DRAG SHOW PAGE A3

Student gets hit by car

By Trey Crumbie
news@WKUherald.com

Another injury due to a car accident has occurred close to WKU. Goodlettsville, Tennessee freshman Shawtrice Hammonds was hit by a car around 10 p.m. on Sunday while she was walking.

The police report stated the driver of the car applied his brakes once he saw her, but couldn’t stop in time to avoid the collision. Results are pending a toxicology report, the report said. The man behind the wheel is 18 years old. Hammonds was transported to The Medical Center and then flown to Tri-Star Skyline Medical Center in Nashville. She was treated and released by Monday afternoon.

Junior London Chandler of Lafayette, Louisiana joined by sophomore Simone Lampkin of Nashville, alumna of the University of Louisville, junior Jarred Johnson of Somerset and junior Lucas Miller of Lexington.

Gender conference discusses sexuality, identity

By Shelby Rogers
news@WKUherald.com

After five years at WKU, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Kathryn Costello is retiring. “There is nothing more worthwhile to work on behalf of than higher education,” she said. “It’s been a great pleasure for me having ended up in higher education, even though I didn’t necessarily plan to end up here at my whole career.”

Originally from Jasper, Georgia, Costello’s career spans nearly 40 years of work in philanthropy, and she’s worked in both private and public institutions.

Costello will retain a role with the university as a special advisor, helping President Gary Ramseur in choosing a successor. She will retain her current full salary through December 31, 2015.

SEE COSTELLO PAGE A3
Student Publications is home to the College Heights Herald and Talisman. The Office of Student Publications provides students with valuable hands-on experience. Positions in writing, photography, design, sales, marketing, multimedia and copy editing develop skills that give students a competitive edge when entering the workplace. Students from all departments and majors are a part of our team. We are accepting applications until April 28. Pick one up at the Adams-Whitaker Student Publications building across from Mass Media & Technology Hall.
**Board of Regents debate student athletic fee increase**

**by JESSICA VOORHEES**

The increase in the student athletic fee as the part of the proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year is scheduled to go before the Board of Regents next week. Currently, WKU student athletes would pay an athletic fee of $15 per semester, which would increase to $20 per semester. This comes after last week’s Student Government Association motion to reduce the fee to $13 per semester. "It's my hope that we can increase the fee to cover the costs of athletics, and also provide an opportunity for students to collaborate with their peers and experience athletics at WKU," said SGA President Melissa Knight, who is also WKU’s drag queen for the upcoming Drag Show. Knight said she is excited to be a part of the show, which will feature WKU students and drag performers from around the country. The show is scheduled for April 28 at the Diddle Arena, and tickets are available for $10 at the door. Kane said that the increase in the fee will help fund the sports programs, which have seen a decrease in funding over the past few years. "With the increase in the fee, we will be able to cover the costs of the sports programs and provide a better experience for our student athletes," Kane said. "We want to make sure that our student athletes have the opportunity to compete at the highest level and also have a positive experience." The drag show will feature performances by drag queens from across the country, as well as a variety of other entertainment. "It's going to be a great night on campus," Kane said. "We want to make sure that everyone has a fun time and also learns about the diversity of drag performers." The show will be held in the Diddle Arena at WKU, and tickets are available for $10 at the door. The show will also feature a silent auction and other fundraising activities to support the WKU Foundation. Overall, the increase in the student athletic fee will help ensure that WKU remains involved in athletics and that our students have access to the best possible experience.
A three-decade-old mystery has been solved with the help of a university student in a special major.

The mystery, known as the "Age of Adaline" plot, involves a woman who appears to be 29, but is actually 108. This phenomenon has puzzled scientists for years, and now one student has uncovered the truth behind it.

The student, who goes by the name of William Ford, discovered the key to Adaline's condition while working on a project for his special major in the History of Science.

Ford, who is a senior at the university, said he was inspired to take on the project after learning about Adaline's condition during a lecture on the history of medicine.

"I was fascinated by the idea of someone who could live a normal life for 30 years and then suddenly find themselves aging at an accelerated rate," Ford said. "It was a mystery I wanted to solve for as long as I could remember."

Ford's research involved analyzing medical records and conducting interviews with Adaline's family members.

He discovered that Adaline's condition was caused by a rare genetic mutation that slowed down the aging process.

"I was able to piece together Adaline's story by combining evidence from medical texts and family records," Ford said. "It was a challenging project, but I'm proud of the results."
**THE FUN PAGE**

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Interested applicants can apply online at www.bgky.org/hr/jobs or at the Human Resources Department in City Hall, 1001 College Street, Bowling Green.

**News/Talk 93 WKCT (AM 930)** has an immediate opening for a part-time reporter/anchor. Position would also assist in producing afternoon talk show. Good communication and writing skills necessary. Call Chad at (270) 781-2121.

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**PREVIOUS CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

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ACROSS
1 Stick (out)
4 Chocolate syrup choice
9 Call to mind
14 Self-image
15 Chipmunk’s morsel
16 “America by Heart” author Sarah
17 Good name for a tree-lined street
18 Controversial coal-extraction process
20 Long gun
22 Really mad
23 __-Loompa: fictional chocolate factory worker
24 Bagpipe, often
25 AFB truant
26 Kit __ candy bar
27 Broken pottery piece
28 Helga’s Viking husband, in comics
29 Extremely impressed
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31 Spanish “I love you”
32 Astronomical red giant
33 “2001” computer
34 Cinematic shootout time
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56 Some Balkanites
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66 “Think again!”
67 Decent chops
68 “Give thoughts no tongue”: “Hamlet”
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75 Kathryn of “Law & Order: C.I.”
76 Appropriate room for the sequence comprised of the starts of 18-, 27-, 47- and 59-Across
77 Legal suspension
78 Family room
79 Soda container
80 Do-over on the court
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DOWN
1 Bit of heckling
2 Aptly named fruit
3 Horseplay
4 Infielders
5 Autumn mo.
6 Fraternity counterpart: Abbr.
7 Nursery bed
8 Like some military housing
9 Literary postscripts
10 Makeup tables
11 “Chocolate” actress Lena
12 Royal flush card
13 Second lang., for some
14 Wise neighbor
15 Stuck-in-the-mud gear
16 University VIP
17 Good name for a tree-lined street
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77 Legal suspension
78 Family room
60 Soda container
61 Do-over on the court
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New WKU Store Director will start in June

By BRIA GRANVILLE

After several months of searching, the WKU Store is nearly ready to welcome its new director.

After its previous store director left in February of 2014, the position was given to Trinity Hilliard, who served as interim director. Vice President of Auxiliary Services Mary Meszaros said the store hoped to keep Hilliard long term but also decided to look for candidates in September of the same year.

Since then, Meszaros stepped in as the interim director.

“It’s difficult in the fact that I’ve been in the Auxiliary Services department for over 30 years, but I never ran a bookstore,” Meszaros said.

The experience and professionalISM will allow us to keep moving forward and growing,” Gary Mezanos, Assist. VP of auxiliary services, said.

Rosalind Floresca, former store director, said that the search for a new director was complicated.

“We went through several different candidates,” Floresca said. “Some with retail, some without retail experience. It’s a big one for us because I’m from southern California, but everybody was so welcoming,” Floresca said.

“I’m not very familiar with this store, we aren’t from the three days I spent there, so really I’m looking forward to the people and the position 11 be working with,” Floresca said.

Meszaros says that because Floresca’s experience as a trainer for Follett, a privately owned book company, she will make a qualified director.

“Her experience and professionalism will allow us to keep moving forward and growing,” Meszaros said.

Follett provides educational services to schools K-12, districts and colleges. According to the Follett website, the company is higher education’s largest retailer, operating in more than 5,000 local campus stores and over 1,000 virtual stores across the continent.

Meszaros said she hopes Floresca will bring the expertise she learned from working at the Follett bookstores.

“We’re looking forward to her getting her feet on the ground and her reaching out to the community and we want people to get to know her and work with her,” she said.

“She may have a different opinion, a different view of how to run this store. I’m looking forward to seeing what she comes up with.”

Board of Regents approves new degrees, parking options

By JESSICA VOORHEES

The Board of Regents approved a Bachelor of Science in Civil, Architectural and Mechanical Engineering, the 2016-2022 Capital Plan and the 2015-16 tuition and fees schedule at its second quarterly meeting.

The Board convened at Mass Media & Technology Hall Friday on to discuss voted on student academic, financial and executive action items.

The Board also approved Graduates Certificates in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice, Emergency Nurse Practitioner and Intercollegiate Athletic Administration.

This approved for undergraduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Patient Navigation and in Neuroscience and Clinical Community Behavioral Health.

The Board also approved the University’s 2016-2022 Capital Plan, as well as the purchase of the 1840 Russellville Road property for a parking lot.

Brad Wheeler, assistant vice president of resources management, said the property will be used as a swing parking lot during the parking structure’s construction, for commuter parking, athletic overflow parking and for bus event parking.

Wheeler said in a student survey, commuters preferred this location since many come to campus from that road.

He said the lot will hold 125 to 150 spaces, and will cost $340,000 plus design costs.

Jennifer Tougas, director of parking and transportation services, said operation funds will be used to purchase the land.

The Board approved the 2015-16 tuition and fees schedule and the SGA resolution for the introduction of a $30 student fee to support a new parking structure, which will be prorated for part-time students.

The Board granted four faculty members Emeritus status. Ric Kearst, professor of Educational administration; Bart White, professor of the School of Journalism and Broadcastin, with White, professor of Mu and Brian Brunner, professor of Mathematics, received faculty Emeritus status.

The Board will reconvene on June 26 for a special budget approval meeting.

Faculty member invited to international organization

By TREY CRUMBLE

AWKU faculty member has been accepted to represent the United States in an international organization.

Chris Groves, distinguished professor of technology, who teaches in the Geography and Geology department, accepted an invitation to represent the nation in the 2015-2016 term of the International Geographical Union.

The IGU was established in Brussels, Belgium in 1932. The intent of the organization is to promote geography through conducting geographical research and educational work.

On the Kazan Commission, Groves will help to develop an international approach to the Karst Commission, Groves will help develop an international approach to the Karst Commission, Groves will help develop an international approach to the Karst Commission.

Groves said another goal of being selected to serve on international committees, “It helps gives us some international perspective,” Groves said.

“I believe there are people who are doing something different,” Groves said. “I believe it gives us the chance to look at the classes we teach and the way we teach it.

Groves said the commission ties in very closely with the classes he teaches.

“Groves enjoys working internationally, and this will be a great experience for him.”

“This is not the first international organization Groves has been a part of,” Groves said.

Groves has worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to study karst water resources and landscapes.

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Senior pursues his ‘calling’—not his major
BY NICOLE ARES

Like most graduating seniors, Joe Starks will take a leap of faith into pursuing his future. This leap, however, will take the Lexington native to western Asia rather than into a job market.

“Courage is the absence of fear,” Starks said. “It’s doing what you should do in the presence of fear.”

In the fall of 2011, Starks came to WKU with the anticipation of pursuing a law degree after graduation. He chose political science and economics as double majors because in high school he was a very informed and opinionated person.

“My motivations for going to law school were not the best,” Starks admitted. “I essentially wanted to make a lot of money and have a lot of prestige. That’s not what all attorneys care about, but that’s what I cared about when I came to WKU.

After one semester, Starks realized that being a lawyer was not the path in life he wished to follow—“he desired to pursue missionary work in China.”

When the time came, however, Starks did not pursue his double major, but also began to entertain the idea of missionary work. Starks has always enjoyed sharing his faith with others and felt it was his “calling.”

“Missionary work was the most effective way for me to reach the world and impact people,” he said. “In one sense it is duty, but I think it is a calling that has steadily grown on my life.”

His passion for faith started in high school. Starks was a Christian at a very young age and realized that this was the life he wanted to follow—he desired to pursue missionary work in western Asia.

Starks believes he will be ready to radiate his new faith in his field of work after college, this is still the best time to pursue mission work after college.

“When the time comes, however, I think that Joe has counted that cost of his faith over the last four years and the move abroad on the horizon, Starks. “I will need the skills I have learned abroad on the horizon, Starks. “I will need the skills I have learned

“I think it was a disadvantage for me to be in an alliance with everyone until the end, but now I feel like this is where I belong.”

Walcher said. “But I feel like this is where I belong.”

For WKU alumna Simone Payne, auditioning for the 17th season of Big Brother at Hilligan’s, Thursday, April 23. Bowling Green native Andrew Hawkins, 29, has his snapshot taken prior to auditioning for the 17th season of Big Brother at Hilligan’s, Thursday, April 23. Bowling Green native Andrew Hawkins, 29, has his snapshot taken prior to auditioning for the 17th season of Big Brother at Hilligan’s, Thursday, April 23. Bowling Green native Andrew Hawkins, 29, has his snapshot taken prior to auditioning for the 17th season of Big Brother at Hilligan’s, Thursday, April 23.

People came from all over for a chance at fame. Caleb Schweiger drove approximately six hours from Athens, Ohio for his chance at audition. He said “Big Brother” was the only reality television show he’s ever really well. Walcher is also a big fan of the show and he started out watching the show within the last year and believes her audition went well as she was one of 14 markets in the United States to host a live audition for Big Brother.

For the last four years, Starks has focused on economics and political science. Ethnography is usually focused on anthropology, sociology of psychology.

Starks doesn’t regret his chosen majors—“he believes he’s grown immensely because of them. If he had known he would pursue missionary work after college, this is still the best time to pursue mission work in China.”

“Saying you don’t want to do something is a cop-out,” he said. “If you don’t want to do something, you need to take charge of that and pursue it.”

“Starks will need the skills I have gained in college for the rest of my life.”

With graduation around the corner and the move abroad on the horizon, Starks says the anticipation is building, but he still has an appreciation for where he is now.

“If you’re not afraid of crossing into unknown territory and are willing to take that leap, you’ll be good at whatever it is you pursue,” he said.

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Franklin alumna Nathan Killen encourages members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity during the championship match of Tug, Friday at the University Farm. AGR went on to win Tug for the second year in a row.

MIKE CLARK/HERALD

PHOTO WKUHERALD.COM

APRIL 28, 2015 > WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

TOP LEFT: Chi Omega sorority junior Alyssa Bush, of Franklin, looks back at her team as she pulls for the Tug competition on Friday at the University Farm. The Alpha-Gamma Delta sorority and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity were named the Tug champions.

JEFF BROWN/HERALD

TOP RIGHT: Sophomore Zach Jordan, of Sigma Chi fraternity, is given a cigarette to smoke by his coach, senior Nick Madrick, before they begin Tug, Friday at the University Farm.

JEFF BROWN/HERALD

LEFT: The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi sorority cheer during the annual Tug event for Greek Week on Friday at the University Farm.

ASHLEY COOPER/HERALD

BOTTOM LEFT: Junior Alyssa Bush, of Franklin, holds on tight with her Chi Omega sorority team on Friday.

ASHLEY COOPER/HERALD

BOTTOM RIGHT: Kappa Delta sorority junior Summer Spillman, of Richmond, wipes away tears while teammates embrace her after their loss in the first round of the Tug competition, Friday at the University Farm. This was KD’s first loss in Tug in 11 years of competition.

JEFF BROWN/HERALD
For the first time ever, WKU will host a Lavender graduation ceremony to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender graduates, along with their families and allies.

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion is heading the ceremony. The first Lavender Ceremony began in 1995 at the University of Michigan, said Andrea Garr-Barnes, director of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

"A lavender graduation is an institutional response to, 'We know you're here. We welcome you here. We understand how society is when it comes to your differences, and we're proud you're part of our community,'" she said.

Garr-Barnes said she had interest in bringing this ceremony to WKU when she interviewed for her position in 2012. Over time, a group of faculty, staff and students emerged as a planning committee for the ceremony.

She said the committee did grassroots organizing in order to get the word out about the ceremony. They also sent out an email inviting the entire campus to persuade them to take part in some way.

"To do one of two things, or preferably both, to attend the ceremony on May 11 and support the students and in addition to that to share that information," Garr-Barnes said.

She said the atmosphere on WKU’s campus regarding LGBTQ inclusion is moving much like the rest of the country from tolerance to acceptance. She believes this is evidenced by the ceremony receiving no pushback from the university. She presented the idea before President Gary Ransdell and the administrative council and received full support.

Ransdell said having the Lavender Ceremony is a natural step for the university. He said the university already hosts other ceremonies such as ones for Black students and students in the ROTC. He believes the ceremony will also bring recognition to students in the LGBTQ community.

"It’s all for any student or academic community that wants to celebrate their success," Garr-Barnes said. She said WKU’s founding was motivated by the idea of "any student or academic community that wants to celebrate their success."

Garr-Barnes said she sees WKU laying the foundation, moving the campus from tolerance of different groups of people to respect. She said college can be challenging when you identify with the majority group and those also send out an email inviting the entire campus to persuade them to take part in some way.

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She said the committee did grassroots organizing in order to get the word out about the ceremony. They also sent out an email inviting the entire campus to persuade them to take part in some way.

"To do one of two things, or preferably both, to attend the ceremony on May 11 and support the students and in addition to that to share that information," Garr-Barnes said.

She said the atmosphere on WKU’s campus regarding LGBTQ inclusion is moving much like the rest of the country from tolerance to acceptance. She believes this is evidenced by the ceremony receiving no pushback from the university. She presented the idea before President Gary Ransdell and the administrative council and received full support.

Ransdell said having the Lavender Ceremony is a natural step for the university. He said the university already hosts other ceremonies such as ones for Black students and students in the ROTC. He believes the ceremony will also bring recognition to students in the LGBTQ community.

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"It’s all for any student or academic community that wants to celebrate their success," Garr-Barnes said. She said WKU’s founding was motiva...
This is the first victory for any SAE tug team, so we are pretty much accomplishing our main goal.

Other chapters dedicate more of their time in preparation for the event. Members of Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity said they paired up with Phi Mu months ago to practice for this competition.

Kyle Howard, tug chair for AGR, said they paired up with Phi Mu months ago to practice for this competition. "This is one of those things that if you slack off it’s not just on you, you hurt your sisters," McGuinn said. "We really focus on pulling for each other because that’s the whole reason we are here.

On the frutini side, Alpha Gamma Rho won the fraternity tug competition for the second year in a row.

Garr-Barnes said. ‘Job well done—we appreciate you,’” Young said to celebrate these students and say, "Honestly we just wanted to win one thing, so if we can keep going that’ll be great. We just like to have a good time and represent Chi Omega well,” said Kerstey Kutta, tug chair for the Chi Os. This year Alpha Gamma Delta won the competition over Alpha Delta Phi.

"We were already a member of SKY, and SKY was moving over here so we just decided to come here with them," Gary Robbins, farmer for APC Greenhouses, said. ‘They’re going to have a wonderful facility here.’

Milliken and his family have been farming for years, growing tomatoes out of their greenhouse for Bowling Green City Schools and now, WES.

“Nobody has time to tomatoes this year, so we do pretty good,” Robbins said. Bubblins said they also grow a variety of other vegetables, raise chickens and bake fresh breads and pastries for their farmers market.

Young said the new pavilion should be up and running by June, rain and inclement weather permitting. A grand opening and ribbon cutting has been set for June 10. Young said there will be inflatables, music and garden starter kits for children.

"This is going to be a permanent place that will have a farmers market forever,” Young said.
Congratulations!

The office of Study Abroad and Global Learning would like to thank our graduating Student Representatives for their service to SAGL and the WKU campus community!

- Jason Webb
- Katherine Halicks
- Jenny Gaiko
- Matt Frazier
- Cindy Block
- Rachael Walters
- Natalie Buller
- Kiersten Richards

SAGL Student Representatives

The SAGL Student Representative program is a volunteer student organization comprised of passionate study abroad alumni who advocate for and promote study abroad on WKU’s campus and in the community. The SAGL reps are responsible for multiple campus-wide outreach efforts, including peer advising, classroom presentations, general information meetings, and study abroad events.

Welcome!

The eleven returning SAGL reps and the office of Study Abroad and Global Learning would like to welcome our seven new SAGL reps to the program for the 2015-2016 year!

- Austin Richards
- Callie Mobley
- Mallory Schnell
- Jarred Johnson
- Jessica Canada
- Susan Breidenich
- Abby Ponder
- Lauren Bales
- Trent Potts
- Paige Hughart
- Jamie Doctrow

- Taylor Pellerin*
- Benjamin Richardson*
- Abigail Belknap*
- Arla O'Neal*
- Jessica Henao*
- Isabella Greene*
- Bryson Keltner*

* New Student Representatives
Students have been rehearsing "Evening of Dance," the KU Dance Company's last performance of the school year, is set to showcase a variety of dance pieces. But for the senior dance majors, this will be their last performance here.

Leitinger senior Nathan Fister said he's excited to be a part of it, enjoying the production for what it is, while getting ready for graduation and what's to come afterwards.

"I remember my first show, it's very little, you know, (in) full-circled, bitterness moment," he said.

The production will feature various styles such as ballet, 3-2 tangos, contemporary, and more. Nadrohso senior Alicia Brooks described assistant professor of dance Lisa Daum-Koch's performances, as "3-2 tangos, as a very different piece in which dancers are -- moved by somebody else, but at the same time, you are dancing... we mimic each other"...we manufacture each other.

Brooks was excited about assistant professor of dance, Eric Silver's modern contempo-styled performance, which was created in collaboration with the art department. Paintings of dancers will be displayed on stage where the performers will pose as the image in the same way, creating the quality of art coming to life.

This will be Charlotte, North Carolina senior James Rath's first time performing in "Evening of Dance."

She said students have been working for the production since the beginning of the spring semester. A studio dancer and composer, since the age of seven, Rath had been uninterested as to whether she should get her degree in dance, and spent some time in broadcasting at one point.

"I kind of didn't really know exactly what I should do and kind of looking for others to tell me what I should do," she said. "But then I thought I found a way, and found myself. I knew that dance was what I wanted to do."

"For some students, the dance program has helped them grow as individuals. Being an adolescent and checking in four hours of practice a day ended up transitioning itself to practicing all day at the college level," Fister said.

"Timing is a management thing within our program... so sometimes, you could be in the studio from 6 o'clock in the morning to 9 o'clock at night,"

Brooks attested to how physically and mentally unrelenting being a dance major can be. "Our program can wear you down," she said. "It can tear you down. Like, you physically can... feel mentally, feel horrible about yourself, but it is what you make it. And if you overcome that and surpass it, it's one of the greatest feelings."

The challenges endured in college, Brooks said, were important to teach students how the real world industry really is. "You have to have the willpower and drive to overcome it, and somehow I think it is not four years," she said, "so, I'm glad I did it. But definitely my time to start the next chapter in my life."

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The coaching staff has had to work overtime to develop high school players at Hamilton High, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Clark-Head described her as "an agile, defensive player who plays incredibly hard on defense." Soliman is one of Egypt’s most coveted players, participating in two FIFA Championships and more than 20 international competitions. Soliman scored 21 points and had seven rebounds during the last game in Mexico and followed it with a 19-point game against Switzerland. The announcement brings the total number of additions for the 2015-16 season to eight (including four signees from the regular spring signing period), with Nigerian junior college in-terminable for immediate eligibility. Transfer Jaycey Coe, sopho-
**TRACK & FIELD**

The WKU Hilltopper women’s track and field team demonstrated their prowess in the season’s third event, the Hilltopper Relays, in Louisville on April 17.

The Hilltoppers have been competitive this season, as they have qualified seven individuals for the Conference USA championship meet.

In the women’s 4x100 meter relay, the team posted a time of 49.28 seconds, which is the second fastest time in the Conference USA.

The Hilltoppers also captured the women’s pole vault with several athletes posting impressive heights. Karleigh Parker, a senior, set a personal record of 12.62 meters to secure the top spot.

Overall, the Hilltoppers showed improvement in most events, demonstrating their dedication and hard work towards excellence.

**BASEBALL**

For the average baseball team batting order, the best hitters are usually found in the leadoff or cleanup spots. However, the WKU baseball team, known for its offensive prowess, has drifted away from this model as their strategy has proven to be vital to their success.

Senior batter Travis Gerding, who leads the team in batting average as the Union native currently has a .326 average through 38 appearances on the year, attributes much of the team’s success to the quiet play of Britt Clarkson that has remained a key element.

The Hilltoppers are currently 11-3 overall, with a .326 team batting average, and are second in the Conference USA, trailing only South Carolina and GC Foster.

Clarkson, currently second on the team in batting average, attributes much of her success to the quiet play of Britt Clarkson that has proven to be vital to the triumphs of the team.

However, it has been times this season where that core has struggled to make consistent contact, including LSU, Texas A&M, and Pittsburgh.

Despite falling one strikeout short of matching her career best in game three, Clarkson was able to match her no-hitter in game two.

Those big bats he refers to are well-known Hilltoppers such as Miller and Irae Church. However, it has been the quiet play of Clarkson that has proven to be vital to the triumphs of the team.

This problem could not be made worse.

Clarkson is currently second on the team in batting average as the Union native currently has a .326 average through 38 appearances on the year, elevating her status as one of the top hitters in the Conference USA. Clarkson has proven to be a problem for opposing pitchers, hitting a career-high .326 average this season, and is second in the Conference USA.