



Top Five Movies for Summer 2012

In honor of *The Avengers*, Arts and Entertainment columnist Jake O'Bannon shares his top picks for movies coming out this summer. Will *The Dark Knight Rises* make the cut?

Read more on page 10



President Personality?

Columnist Brad Crofford writes about the importance of personality. Can Romney match Obama?

Read more on page 5

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The Echo

Southern Nazarene University – Bethany, OK (405)491-6382

Seniors reflect on their time at SNU, share their plans for the future

Josh Riley, Staff Reporter

The college experience varies from student to student. Some have more highlights than others, but all in all, the “experience” is the ultimate thrill for a college student.

These experiences for seniors include: looking for off-campus housing, anticipations of life after college, memories of previous years of college, and the excitement of graduation.

When asking graduating seniors about their favorite memories, the answers varied. Cassidy

done differently during these years?”

“I wish I would have taken advantage of the time to spend with friends,” Banning Dawson says. “As the end draws near, I’m realizing that I won’t have those opportunities as much once we graduate,”

When the seniors were then asked what they are going to do after they graduate, there were many different directions being taken.

“After I graduate, I plan to work with special needs children this summer and then continue my job search for a teaching position at a local

the next chapter of my life, but it can also be a little terrifying to think that I will actually be out in the real world on my own! Although it has been scary at times, I am more than ready to move on.”

In talking about advice for getting jobs and off-campus living during the school year, Dawson offered this advice, “I think as soon as 2nd semester begins, you should start the search for jobs and apartments/houses—the sooner the better—you don’t want to get caught with no job and no living arrangements because you started your search too late.”

“For me, the process of graduating has been exciting and a little bit terrifying.”

Conner remembers a particularly exciting game of volleyball,

“My favorite memory from this year is when my friends and I played volley ball with foreign people who did not attend SNU. The best part was the whole time we were playing, they would be speaking their language and singing chants and clapping when the team my friends and I were on did good! It was probably the weirdest game of volleyball I have ever played but by far the most exciting and funny!” Conner says.

Looking back on the college life, the college seniors were asked, “What would you have

school,” Conner says. “I might even eventually go back to school at OSU-OKC and become a sign language interpreter. I worked with special needs students last summer and really enjoyed it and wanted to do it again and I know a little sign language so a part of me has always wanted to go to school to become an interpreter.”

The perspective of the graduating process varies from person to person.

“The process is exciting, and somewhat nerve-wracking at the same time,” Dawson says.

Conner says, “For me, the process of graduating has been exciting and a little bit terrifying. Its exciting to know that I will be moving on to



Photo courtesy, chenected.aiche.org

The Echo congratulates

The Graduating Class of 2012!

NEWS BRIEFS

**CHINESE DISSIDENT RELEASED FROM EMBASSY, TURMOIL FOR U.S.**

In a series of dramatically conflicting developments on Wednesday, the Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng left American custody under disputed circumstances, and what briefly looked like a deft diplomatic achievement for Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton turned into a potential debacle.

nytimes.com
Jane Perlez for NY Times

**ISRAEL'S MOVE TOWARD EARLY VOTE MAY SHELVE ANY ATTACK ON IRAN**

Israel's move toward early elections is the latest sign that its threatened attack against Iran's nuclear facilities is unlikely to take place in the coming months. Though no final decision has been made about moving up national elections slated for next year, the Knesset, or parliament, is talking about dissolving this month and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to announce as soon as next week an election date in September.

latimes.com
Edmund Sanders for LA Times

**CUBA TO LET ITS PEOPLE LEAVE THE COUNTRY?**

After controlling the comings and goings of its people for five decades, communist Cuba appears on the verge of a momentous decision to lift many travel restrictions. One senior official says a "radical and profound" change is weeks away. The comment by Parliament Chief Ricardo Alarcon has residents, exiles and policymakers abuzz with speculation that the much-hated exit visa could be a thing of the past.

msn.com
The Associated Press

Students enjoy Wet Bandits as pre-finals fun

Baker Pitts, Staff Reporter

You have been hiding in a bush outside of the commons for 45 minutes waiting, just waiting. Finally, you see your target as they walk down the brick steps, laugh-

"...I was obsessed with tracking down my victim..."

ing with their friends; that's when you strike. You leap from your hiding spot and pull the trigger on your water gun twice, slightly soaking the back of their shirt. As you walk away with your next target, you revel in your most recent kill. This is Wet Bandits.

Wet Bandits is an event that many students look forward to more than most of the others.

Senior Kailiana Odom said of the event, "I played last year for the first time and became totally addicted! It was so bad I didn't hardly do homework all week. I was obsessed with tracking down my victim..."

For those that haven't participated before or are new this year, the rules are simple: hunt the assigned target, shoot them with the water gun provided and then take on their target.

"Sodexo is like the cornucopia of wet bandits. You have to go there because it has something you need (i.e. sustenance) but it's sure to be a bloodbath," said senior, Candace Robinson.

In order to keep up with who

is still in the game, players are being asked to email their 'kill confirmations' and their current targets to Camerann Fry at cfry@mail.snu.edu by 11:59 every night.

There is also a new rule this year that has added a twist to the game. If one's target realizes their intent to 'kill' and shoots them down with their gun before being hit, they must give the target a full five-minute head start before resuming the chase.

In addition to the new rule, there is one other change to the way Wet Bandits is run this year: prizes will be awarded to the final two players, instead of just the final assassin. This has been implemented in order to prevent any arguments that may arise from the final two players killing each other at the same time.

The full rules of Wet Bandits are as follows:

- Participants were emailed their first target on Sunday, April 29th to their mail.snu.edu email accounts.

-The game began at 8:00 am Monday, April 30th

-Each participant's goal is to "kill" his or her target.

-Once a player has been "killed" they are OUT!

-After one "kills" their target, they then take over the target of the deceased and proceed to repeat the process.

-If a player's target realizes their intent to "kill" and shoots them first, they must give then give the target five minutes to escape before resuming the pursuit.

-Participants have until 11:59pm of each day to check in with cfry@mail.snu.edu and report their current target and who they have "killed".

-Prizes will be given to the top two assassins

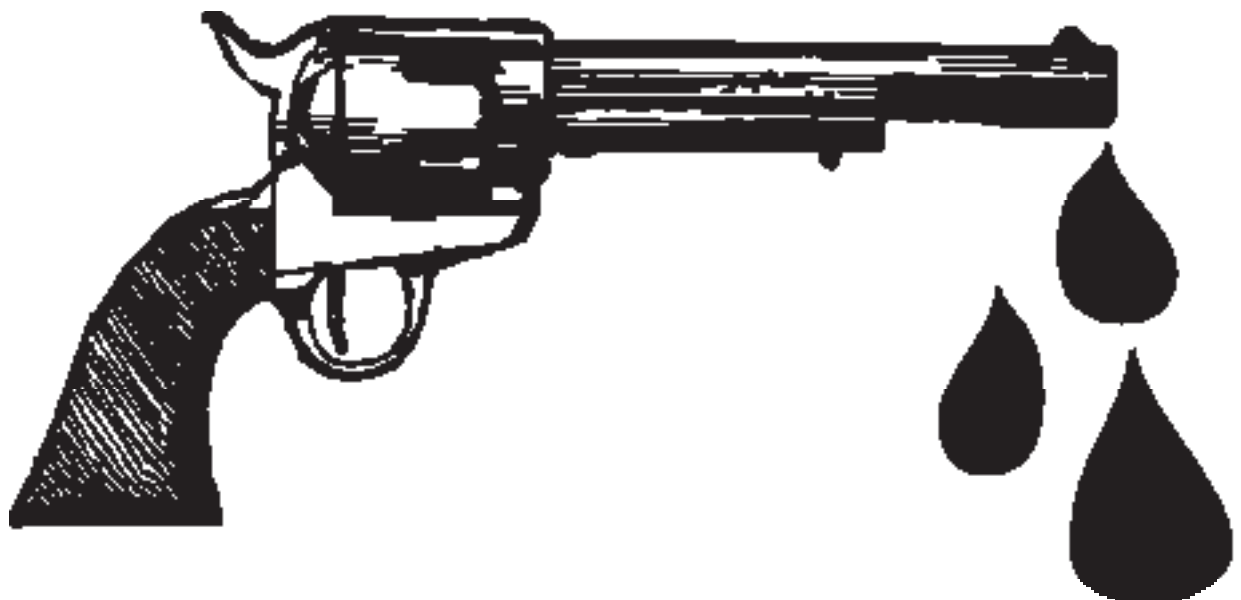


Photo courtesy, SNU SGA

SNU says goodbye to departing long-time community members

Ben Smith, Staff Reporter

Southern Nazarene University has four known faculty members who are leaving following the close of this semester, including Tom Herkowitz and Daryl Cox, along with Joy Pauley and Arlita Harris, who will both be retiring.

Herskowitz has served as the Chair of

includes receiving the Charles K. Morrow Award from the Nazarene Leadership Associations as one thing he was very honored to receive.

In reporting what lessons he's learned at SNU, Herskowitz says, "God never wastes an experience, even the bad ones."

In closing, Herskowitz says, "Take the road less traveled, and it will make all the

database as well." She also works the reference desk a few hours every week.

When asked about one of her favorite things about SNU, she said the grass. "I love the grass this time year. Since I live very close to the campus, I'll still be able to enjoy that."

For parting words, Pauley says, "When I went to graduate school, I surely did miss

"I'm grateful to Dr. Gresham, Dr. Jones, Dr. Hackler, and the library faculty and staff, and others who have supported and befriended me in these last four years. SNU is a great place to work!"

the Business Department, Pauley has been the Coordinator of Cataloging and Technical Services, Harris has worked as the Library Director, and Cox has held the position of Chair of the Department of Chemistry.

Herskowitz has been with SNU for 8 years, being promoted to department chair in 2005. He says one of his favorite things about working at SNU was, "starting the Morningstar Institute and revising the International Studies Program (ISP)." He also

difference in your life. God bless."

Pauley has been working at SNU since 1980. She added, "I also worked in the library as a student here. So more than half my life!"

Pauley says of her position at SNU, "I am the Coordinator of Technical Services. That means I catalog all the books purchased by the library or received as gifts. I also oversee the physical processing of the books. I make sure all titles are entered into our online catalog and into the WorldCat

the Christian community of SNU! Don't take it for granted. Make your relationship with Jesus a priority."

Harris has been working at SNU for 4 years, since July 2008.

When asked about her favorite things at SNU, she says, "I've loved getting to know the college students and working with them. In addition to meeting them at the library, I've been an NSI and POD sponsor and taught the college Sunday School class at my church, Western Oaks Nazarene. I have great confidence in the future of our world based upon the college students of today!"

"I have great confidence in the future of our world based upon the college students of today!"

Harris notes the noticeable difference in being able to work in a Christian Institution compared to many other workplaces.

When asked for parting words, Harris says, "Because my husband is an alumnus of SNU and because we will still be living in Bethany at Southern Plaza, I will still be a part of SNU. I'll still be involved."

She continues by saying, "The SNU library is ready for change and progress with professional leadership in place to take over."

She finishes by saying, "I'm grateful to Dr. Gresham, Dr. Jones, Dr. Hackler, and the library faculty and staff, and others who have supported and befriended me in these last four years. SNU is a great place to work!"



Joy Pauley, Photo courtesy, snu.edu



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OPINIONS

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Obama showcases humor; when will Romney follow suit?

Brad Crofford, Columnist

At the recent White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, DC, President Obama highlighted one of the biggest personal differences between himself and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney: Obama shows more personality in public.

Consider the two dog-related "scandals" that have faced both major party candidates. It has been known for quite a while that during a family vacation to Canada, Romney tied his dog's kennel to the car's roof. When there was a public outcry about the dog riding on the roof, he said that his dog probably preferred it to riding inside the crowded car, a direct, no-nonsense answer. Practical, but flat. In recent days, a tidbit from Obama's 1995 biography came up: during his upbringing (part of which was overseas), he had eaten dog meat. Obama handled it with humor at the Correspondents' Dinner. "What's the difference between a hockey mom and a pitbull?" he joked. "A pitbull is delicious."

Obama's performance throughout the White House Correspondents' Dinner was both hilarious and human. Of course, he probably did not write all (and perhaps not any) of the jokes himself. Yet, his delivery of them was filled with personality; as the audience would laugh, he would grin widely, chuckle, and glance over to his wife, who sometimes just shook her head with a smile. The Washington Post's April 30 headline was "White House Correspondents' Dinner 2012: Obama outshines Kimmel and pokes fun at campaigns past and present, Secret Service, Donald Trump."



President Obama and Bo Obama, the family dog. Official White House Photo by Pete Souza. Used under Creative Commons.

Romney's campaign has struggled to put Romney's personality on display and make him appeal to the everyman. They took away his ties, they tussled his hair, and on April 28, Romney's aides assured the Twin-Cities-based Star Tribune that he has a lighter side. They told of a prank he played on a member of security detail while he was governor of Massachusetts. (It's interesting to note that they reached back to at least 2007, Romney's last year as governor.) They also said, "He's got a great sense of humor. He's very self-deprecating. He's probably the most self-deprecating person in our campaign organization."

If this is the real Romney, it sure hasn't been obvious. Whether it's an accurate depiction of reality or the result of news bias, stories about Romney are more likely to focus on the new car elevator he is adding to his mansion than on his self-deprecation. Such stories



Public outcry against Romney's treatment of his dog. Used under Creative Commons.

make him seem even more removed from the realities of the average American. Even their musical performances have showcased their differences. Obama has sung snippets of some of his favorites, such as Al Green's "Let's Stay Together," while Romney has stuck

to "America the Beautiful."

Perhaps it is time that Romney take a hint from Obama's playbook: It's time he show more personality in a genuine, impromptu fashion. Don't be perfect and practiced; be pleasant and spontaneous.

Older students' tips and tricks for surviving finals week

Brian McNatt, Staff Reporter

As the end of the school year nears, students of all levels face a multitude of challenges. This is the time when students must start to pack up their personal items, rush to use up any last FLEX money in Pop's Lounge, and, worst of all, study for final exams. Those graduating this semester have jobs and housing to think about on top of everything else. It is a perfect recipe for stress, and lots of it.

No one needs to panic however, if one keeps calm and sticks to some simple advice. Professors in class are not the only people students can listen to and learn from. Other students can have advice to give born from experience.

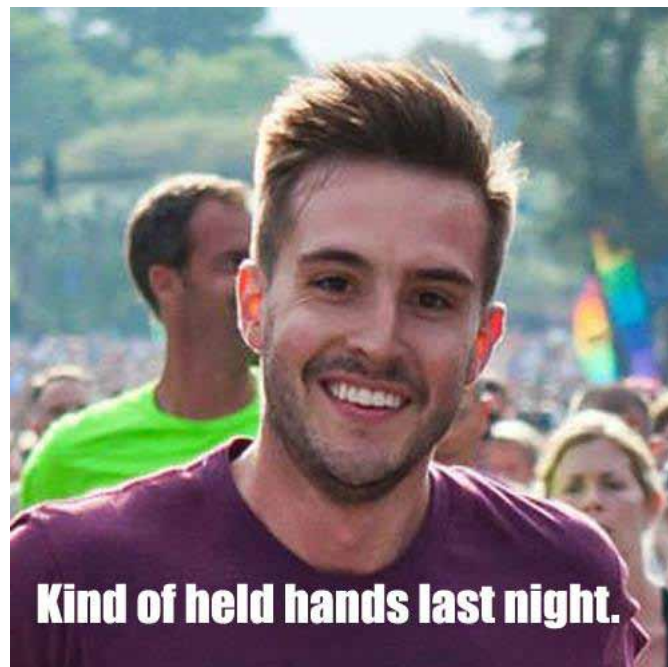
Here I offer some tips and advice from some older students of SNU for getting through the last week of the semester with a clear head:

From personal experience, it can be a problem trying to use up all your FLEX money before the semester ends. Other than going to the official my.snu website there is no easy way to keep track of how much money is left either.

The best advice is to use FLEX money in moderation throughout the year. You don't want to spend all of your FLEX before Finals week, as the coffee, energy drinks, and assorted other snacks are very useful for a long stretch of studying.

Students can also buy items in bulk in the last week of the semester. Keeping this in mind, students should use their money at their own discretion.

Final exams are the most important part of any student's semester. They always make up a large portion of a student's final grade, and are usually one of the toughest tests or papers a student will face in the se-

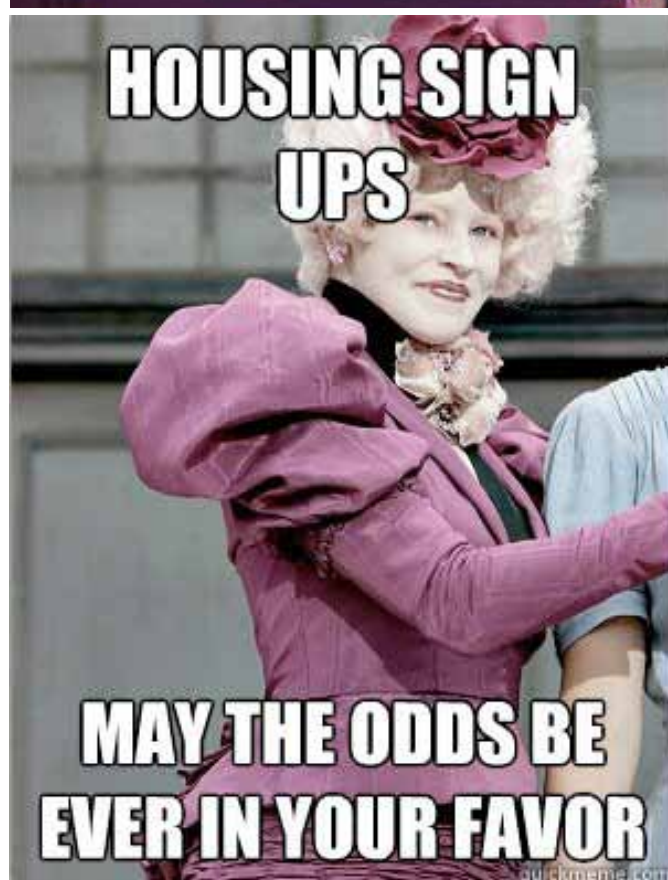


Kind of held hands last night.



One cannot simply...

be "friends" with a girl at SNU.



HOUSING SIGN
UPS

MAY THE ODDS BE
EVER IN YOUR FAVOR

Laughing melts the stress away. Look up Facebook group SNU Memes for a good laugh! Images from SNU Memes.



wet bandits....

Friendships will be TESTED



You stayed up all night to finish a project you've known about all semester?

Tell me more about how hard your classes are

mester.

Understanding this, a good place to study is a key to success. Many students will recommend the library, and for good reason. The second floor is good for students who prefer or need absolute silence when studying.

The library's first floor meanwhile is great for students who don't mind some noise, don't like too much silence, or just want some snacks while

they study.

Your room can also be a good place to study, as long as your roommate doesn't bother you or vice-versa. Even Pop's Lounge can be a good place to study for some people.

Finally, de-stressing after a hard test or long stretch of studying can mean the difference between success and fail-

ure. Do something that you enjoy. Watch a favorite TV show or movie. Read a book. Listen to music. If you're a social person, go hang out in a lobby with some friends. If you enjoy it, it can relieve stress. That's the secret to surviving Finals week.

STORMSPORTS

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Track and Field qualifies for Nationals

Sports Information

WINFIELD, Kan. — Southern Nazarene can now pack a few more bags and book a few more flights as a handful qualified for the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships at the Southwestern Relays.

Travis Boyd picked up a qualifying mark in the hammer throw with his throw of 52.09 meters which garnered him first place. Jake Stephens took second in the discus with a 47.71-meter toss which also hit a qualifying mark.

The 4x100-meter relay team also qualified as Rilwan Jimoh, Chad Mathis, Sterling Wright and Kentrell Miller all combined for a 41.89 to take second. The 4x400-meter also took first place with a time of 3:15.98 while the 4x800-meter relay team took second at 8:10.33.

Miller also ran an 11.05 in the 100-meter dash to take third just one-hundredths of a second ahead of Wright at 11.06. Wright actually ran a 10.96 in the pre-

lims. Gerrod Coney took second in the 200 meters with a time of 22.24 while Corey Lulko took eighth at 22.83.

Nigel Hampton was just a few seconds off the lead in the 800 meters at 1:57.22 as he took fifth while Andrew Leahey took 13th at 2:03.16. Dustin Barrier took fifth in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:07.47.

DeAndre Vick took third in the 400-meter hurdles at 56.54.

Kalicia Williams recorded a 12.85-meter throw in the shot to take first while Jackie Stevens was right behind in third at 11.99 meters. Williams and Stevens also went 7-8 in the discus at 37.73 meters and 35.97 meters. Stevens



Miller ran a leg of the 4x100-meter relay team. Photo from

also took fourth in the hammer throw with a 45.23-meter toss

Chesney Burgweger took fifth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:28.52.

SNU will now get set to compete at the Sooner Athletic Conference Championships, Saturday, at Oklahoma Baptist.

Women's Golf headed to National Tournament

Sports Information

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There has been quite a bit of tension over the last couple of weeks for No. 20 Southern Nazarene in waiting to find out if it would have an at-large bid to the NAIA Women's Golf National Championship.

Add that on top of a coaching transition as SNU Head Coach Steve Hulsey announced his retirement, and will be inducted to the NAIA Hall of Fame the night before the tournament starts,

and the emotions may have been wrapped tighter than a Twizzler.

All that tension went out the door when the 28-team and 144-player field was announced and SNU snatched up one of 13 at-large bids. The Crimson Storm were the 12th at-large team in. Southern Nazarene is one of five schools from the Sooner Athletic Conference that will be making its way to Greenville, Tenn., and it will be the last time at the NAIA National Championship for SNU as it makes it transition into the

Great American Conference and NCAA Division II play.

SNU will be making its 16th trip to the national tournament in 17 seasons. The Storm went to 15 straight from 1996-2010 and just missed out last year. Southern Nazarene won the 1999 and 2002 NAIA National Championship under Hulsey.

The 20th Annual NAIA Women's Golf National Championship will be played at the Link Hills Country Club, May 15 – 18, with the Hall of Fame induction the night of May 14.

SCORE BOARD

BASEBALL

Okla. City	L 1-8
Lubbock Christian	L 1-6
	L 4-8
	W 3-1

SOFTBALL

St. Gregory's	W 4-3
	L 2-4
Langston	W 8-0
	W 7-1

TENNIS

NAIA Regional Tournament	
John Brown	W 9-1
Lewis-Clark State	W 6-3
Okla. Christian	L 1-8

Results and scores at
sports.snu.edu

One out away in Lubbock

Sports Information

OKAHOMA CITY, Okla. — In a game that featured more drama than an episode of Grey's Anatomy, Southern Nazarene watched leads disappear twice, including an 11-7 lead in the top of the 10th, as No. 24 Lubbock Christian rallied with five runs to knock off SNU 12-11.

The Crimson Storm (20-29)

had a 4-1 lead through the third inning and rallied from being down three to tying it to force extra innings. SNU then took an 11-7 lead with four runs in the top of the 10th. JT Bean led off the bottom of the 10th for LCU with a ground ball to second that Zach Friesen misplayed, but redeemed himself by helping turn a double play to clear the bases with two outs.

T h e n little by little the bottom began to fall out from underneath SNU. Back-to-back singles put runners at first and third before a single to left made it an 11-8 game. A Josh Powe pinch hit single loaded the bases before

Brennyn Smith delivered a

two-run single to left center to make it 11-10. That set the stage for Jason Fisch who drilled a double to left center that scored the tying run and then Smith as he was the game-winning run. All five runs came with two outs and the bases empty.

The Crimson Storm had rallied to tie the game with three in the eighth after giving up a 4-1 lead through the third. Southern Nazarene took a 3-1 lead in the third when Nate Saquilon hit his 10th home run of the year with a three-run shot to right. SNU added another with a Luis Hernandez double to left field. The Storm though gave up four unearned runs in the fourth and LCU added one each in the fifth and sixth innings to lead 7-4.

SNU though caught a break in the eighth with a leadoff home run by Jacob Inbody that cut the lead to 7-5 and then got a pair of wild pitches with the bases loaded to tie the game at 7-7. SNU and LCU both had a runner at second in the ninth, but couldn't push them across the plate as they hit extra innings.

In the top of the 10th SNU struck quick as Riley Morrow floated a double to deep left

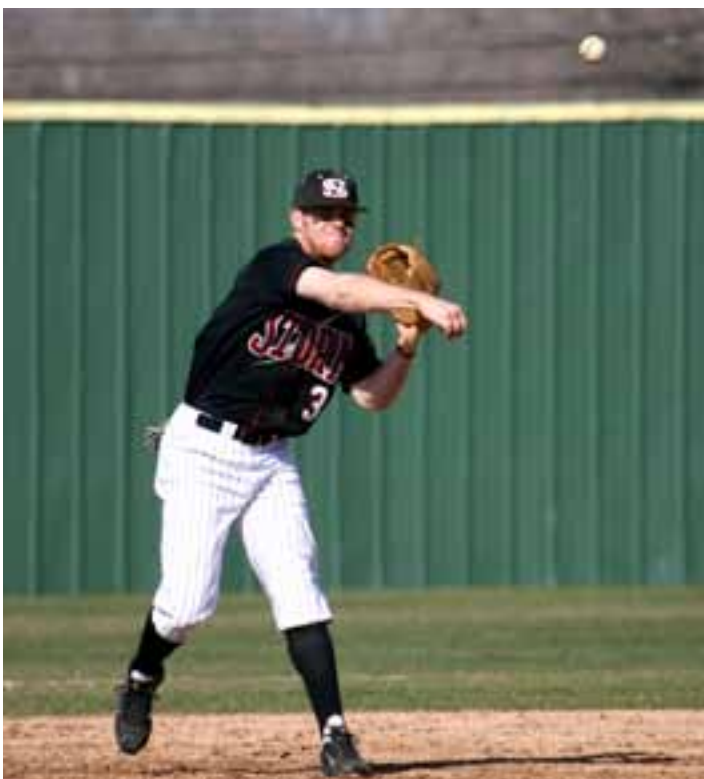
center before Ryan Williams belted a two-run home run to left to give the Storm a 9-7 lead. SNU then got a walk and two hit by pitches to load the bases with two outs. Tyler De Trinidad then ripped a double to right center to drive in two and put SNU on top 11-7 heading into the bottom of the 10th.

Then came the final collapse, as SNU couldn't hold on with just one out needed to record the second upset over LCU in as many weeks.

Tim Coleman (1-1) took the loss after giving up five runs on six hits in one and one-thirds innings of work. Jake Bidelman gave up just two earned runs on 12 hits in four innings in the start. Matt Berry gave four and one-thirds innings of relief as he allowed just one run on three hits.

Saquilon led the way going 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Hernandez also went 3-for-6 with an RBI while James Tunnell went 3-for-4.

The Crimson Storm will now close out the season Friday at 2 p.m. when they play Northwestern Oklahoma State. It will be the final game in the NAIA for both institutions.



The Crimson Storm were just one out away from upsetting Lubbock Christian for the second time in as many weeks. Photo from Sports Information.

ON DECK

BASEBALL

Sooner Athletic Tournament May 2-4th in OKC

SOFTBALL

Sooner Athletic Tournament Fri, May 4th in OKC

NAIA National Championship
May 17-23rd in Gulf Shores, Ala.

TENNIS

NAIA National Championship
May 15-19th in Mobile, Ala.

TRACK AND FIELD

Sat, May 5th, SAC Championship in Shawnee

Thu, May 10th, OBU Last Chance in Shawnee

May 24-26th, NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in Marion, Ind.

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The transformation of the SNU experience over the last four years

Hannah Marchant, Section Editor

Over the last four years, the university has experienced a transition period. I am sure it started before I got here, and I am sure it will continue after I walk across the stage next week. Perhaps this is the way things have always been, constantly shifting here and there.

Thinking back over the school's history, it was not that long ago that we built Sawyer Center, made the shift from Redskins to Crimson Storm, started NSI, allowed women to wear shorts at any time of the day, and changed our name from Bethany Nazarene College to what it is today. I have not seen all the changes of the past 100 years, so let's focus on the last four years. Seniors, it's time to reflect, and freshman, it's time for you to learn how good you have it. We had it good too; it's just that your sense of entitlement can be a little nauseating.

During my freshman year, I lived in Hatley, had a midnight curfew, and volunteered on the Community Relations SGA council. None of these exist any longer. Before I start writing the autobiography of my time here, let's go through changes by focusing on certain aspects of university life.

The Student Government Association has made significant

changes in restructuring and focus. After our freshman year, they consolidated the Student Services and Community Relations councils' events and responsibilities to form the Student Relations position. This move allowed class council members to receive a small stipend. Campus Communications was called Publicity council, but made the name change after that year. The next year brought the revival of Flicks, an event put on by the Campus Communication council.

Seniors might have also noticed SGA's additional focus of inclusive and intentional community-building. SGA has been making efforts to not only provide entertaining events, but to provide ways to get involved in our campus and local community. This focus coincides with other aspects of student life. For example, SGA members were the only LEAD Retreat attendees until the addition of resident advisors. After our freshman year, NSI mentors were added to the mix as well. The next year leaders from athletic teams and small group leaders were added, and the most recent retreat included SSS mentors as well.

Another large tentative change that is being made next year is the new Athletic Relations position. This position focuses on creat-

ing events and opportunities to support our athletic teams. This means the Student Relations position is being dissolved for next year and its events will be dispersed among class councils.

Resident Life has experienced enormous changes--not so much in what they do as in where students live. The most obvious addition was A.M. Hills, where students only have to share their bathroom with one person in most cases. This shiny new building is available to all grades, beginning the end of the concept of "seniority." Garey Hall was a residence hall our freshman year. You can't see it anymore because it was knocked down. A.M. Hills residents now reside where that beloved building once stood. It was almost identical to the layout of Hatley, but upperclassmen and sophomore girls lived there.

Our sophomore year witnessed the demolition of Gary, but the biggest change came with the new "co-ed" residence hall, Bracken. Bracken had experienced both genders, but never at the same time. The Z door system has made it possible now to have the girls live in the North wing, and the boys to live in the South. Some regional churches disagreed with this move, but contempt was surely born of misinterpretation.

Also, around that time, married couples were forced to live off-campus. They used to live in Chapman. I'm not sure what this change was due to--maybe it was difficult for the RA to decipher when to enforce the open dorm policy or perhaps it was the decline in student marriages.

Spiritual Development has also made some changes to better meet students' needs and preferences. Students were given the option to opt out of half of their chapel credits and get involved in the Oklahoma City community through Student Service Program, which was implemented our sophomore year. Also, our class is the last to remember what chapel hour felt like. There used to be a time set aside each day at 10:00, dedicated to chapel. There was only chapel twice a week though, thus the beauty of chapel hour (a.k.a. nap hour to many).

These examples are just a few of the changes we have witnessed during our time here. Besides these institutional changes, it seems that the atmosphere transforms from generation to generation. Whatever the changes or transitions throughout the years though, students can be sure that SNU will always be a place where they can expect to grow and be transformed by the relationships they build with students, faculty, and staff.

SNU Events

4

Wet Bandits
Finals Fling

5

Transfer visit day

6

7

Finals

8

Finals

9

Finals

10

Finals
Kingdom Come

Brave, Batman, and more: Jake's Top 5 Picks for Summer 2012

Jake O'Bannon, Staff Reporter

Friends, we have reached the end of another school year. A week from now we will all be going our separate ways, creating our own individual adventures. If you could see me now you would notice a single teardrop flowing down my bearded cheek. So what can I do to send us off right? After much deliberation (ten minutes), I have come to the conclusion that there is just one way to do this goodbye right. Ladies and Gentlemen, in honor of today's release of *The Avengers*, I give you the Top 5 Movies of the Summer of 2012, according to me:

5. *The Amazing Spider-Man* (July 6th): Listen, it is weird that a whole new Spiderman series is coming out only five years after the last one, but I am too intrigued by it to be upset. Starring Andrew Gar-

field and Emma Stone, this take on the super hero classic seems to be much more dark and, for lack of a better word, hipster. Do you know what I mean by that? With most super hero movies you know what you are going to get going in. The Tobey Maguire Spiderman films fit this category. But this new one seems unpredictable. I'm not sure what to expect, and I am excited to find out.

4. *Brave* (June 22nd): Pixar movie! Pixar movie! Pixar movie! Honestly, I don't think there is much more needed to be said to get you excited about this film. You can't really complain about the lineup Pixar has put up over the past two decades. And this one is unique, as it will feature the film company's first female lead character. Think about it, none of the past Pixar films have had a strong female lead. I am excited to see

what they are able to do in *Brave*.

3. *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* (June 22nd): No, I am not kidding. There really is a movie with this title coming out in June. And I cannot wait for it. The main reason why I am so excited is because of how absurd the whole concept is. I have not read the novel it is based on, so my expectations couldn't be more confused. Guys, Abraham Lincoln hunting vampires! I told myself I would never see another vampire movie, but this summer I will have to make an exception.

2. *Moonrise Kingdom* (May 25th): Do you like being happy? I do. And I know that the trailer for this film makes me happy, which means there is a good chance the whole movie will make me happy. For not having much hype, this film sure does have an all-star

cast (Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, etc.). In the midst of a number of blockbuster summer hits, there is always the chance of an instant classic falling through the cracks and being looked over. I sure hope that does not happen to this film. My expectations couldn't be higher. This is my sleeper movie recommendation of the summer.

1. *The Dark Knight Rises* (July 20th): Duh. Is there anyone not excited for this movie? As far as I am concerned, this is going to be a great summer for movies. But none of them will be anywhere close to this one. After the last installment of the Christopher Nolan Batman series, I wanted more. To quench that desire, I watched *The Dark Knight* over and over again. Now, friends, we have another one. The end of the road. The last hurrah. The final words. The best movie of the summer? Oh, you betcha.

Honorable Mentions: *Men in Black III*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *The Bourne Legacy*

There you have it, friends; another year in the books. I sure have enjoyed sharing my thoughts with the readers of the ECHO this year, and I hope you have enjoyed it too. I look forward to some more times together next year. So, have a great summer, and in the words of Lloyd Christmas, "Big Gulps, huh? All right! Well, see ya later."



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