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6612 NW 42nd St. Bethany, OK 73008 (405) 491-6382

SNU students attend McNair conferences

Grace Williams, Business Manager

SNU students in The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair scholars) were given the opportunity to attend three conferences so far this year.

In late september, Ronna Fisher, Laura Mino, Terra Frederick, Esther Edington, Trey Polk and Roderick Wright went to the Ronald E. McNair conference in Kansas City, Missouri. These students presented their summer research projects, attended a workshop on writing graduate admissions essays, a graduate recruitment fair and more.

Wright said, "From the conference and the McNair program, I learned how to do in-depth research, and to present and defend my work. I am thankful for

the guidance I received." He researched gender difference in perceptions of God.

Ronna Fisher, Jordan Hepler and Heather Cox attended the University of New Mexico's McNair Scholars Research Conference October 2nd- 4th, 2013. These students also presented their summer research, attended a graduate admissions fair and graduate school preparation workshops. Student researchers also attended the Albuquerque balloon festival during their trip.

Cox presented Water Quality of the Savegre River and Human Impact. She said, "I learned about the importance of confidence when entering into graduate or professional schooling. [A speaker] also emphasized the importance of

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Tensions build: the situation in the Ukraine



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Summer Howard, Staff Writer

This past November, the Ukrainian government decided to move toward establishing better relations with Russia. Infuriated that their president, Viktor Yanukovych, did not want to be closely affiliated with the European Union, citizens who support ties with the Western world took to the streets of Kiev in protest. Many in the eastern part of the country, however, would prefer to be allied with Russia. These divided loyalties caused a serious rift in the Ukrainian citi-

zenry.

Since then, there have been instances of violence between the government and its citizens, some of which included the kidnapping of opposition leaders and dead protesters. The Ukrainian athletes at the Winter Olympics even asked if they could wear black armbands in support of the protests in their country. At the end of the Sochi Games, the Ukrainian parliament voted out the president and released

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Tensions build: the situation in the Ukraine cont.

Yulia Tymoshenko, an opposition leader, on February 22. Despite the Ukrainian president's flight of the capitol on the same day he was expelled from the government, the troubles in Ukraine were far from over.

"Until then, the world will be watching."

Over the last weekend of February, Russian President Vladimir Putin allowed 6,000 Russian soldiers to invade the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine, the peninsula that is most sympathetic to ties with Russia. On Saturday of that weekend, President Obama made a phone call to President Putin in an attempt to stop him from carrying out any more action against Ukraine. However, Obama's attempt fell on deaf ears. Despite Putin's unresponsiveness, further efforts to intervene in Ukraine continue. Secretary of State John

Kerry announced a visit to Kiev to meet with Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk, the replacement for Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who resigned in late January. The Prime Minister warns that war is in the future if Russia does not stop the movement of its military into Ukraine. Meanwhile, the United States' ambassador and others state that international law is being broken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The tension has continued to

build in the Crimean Peninsula, where Russian troops have taken control easily, perhaps due to the support of many Ukrainian citizens in that region. Threats issued by the Russian Black Sea Fleet have also been reported, and the fear of being stuck in a pending war is hanging over the heads of citizens not opposed to the new Ukrainian government.

Only time will tell if this conflict can be resolved peacefully. Until then, the world will be watching.

SNU students attend McNair conferences cont.

finding quality mentors at the university we presently attend and then at the graduate or professional school we get accepted into. It is not all about being a competitive applicant; rather, it is about finding a place where I can see myself living for the duration of my next degree. These workshops will help me succeed post graduation."

On February 14th, Kristen Caldwell, and Jordan Hepler attended the annual conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Austin, Texas along with other undergraduate and graduate students from SNU.

Caldwell presented a poster My introvertedness makes me think: Personality and problem solving,

and Hepler presented Just let me check this text: Attachment and personal technology use in social settings.

Any student involved in McNair scholars is guided through a research project and provided with opportunities to attend conferences like these. McNair Scholars is a federally-funded grant program designed to prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds (first-generation and under-represented ethnic groups) to succeed in graduate education. For more information about SNU's McNair Scholars Program and how you could be a part, contact our office at (405) 789-6400 x6540, e-mail mcnair@snu.edu or see our website: www.snu.edu/mcnair.



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Have something you want to see in The Echo?

Contribute to THE ECHO

Come to our meetings: Tuesdays at 5:30, room 221 in the Library

Send a letter to the Editor

Leave a comment on our website

Email Ronna Fisher (rfisher@mail.snu.edu) with questions

BenchMARK with Dr. Christena Cleveland

Grace Williams, Business Manager

“We invited Dr. Christena Cleveland here not to inspire us and affirm what we are already doing here. You won’t leave here patting your own back. We invited her to challenge us so that we can go into discomfort and create something better. Listen and learn and try to stay engaged even if you disagree,” said Kim Brandy of The Spero Project.

When I braved the cold and icy roads that shut down SNU on March 3rd, I was not expecting this kind of introduction. I came to the Classical Christian Academy gymnasium because I thought I was going to a talk that was part of the Marked event about end-

ing human trafficking and oppression. That didn’t seem like a topic people would disagree on.

Marked, which had been scheduled but postponed the day before, is a conference about ending oppression worldwide and changing society’s mark on women so that God can put his redeeming mark on them. Rescheduled for April 6th, Marked will educate, mobilize and empower the Church in order to raise awareness and promote intentional and healthy steps to confront issues facing women. Check it out here: <http://www.markedokc.com/>

This talk was a part of the BenchMARK series that Spero

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Photo from twitter.com/CSClev

SOS Venezuela: A fight for human rights

Carlos Font, Staff Writer

“Mom I went to fight for Venezuela, if I don’t come back, I left with her.”

What has been going on in Venezuela the past month? According to Andreina Nash millions of college students took action on February 12, 2014, the day of the youth in Venezuela, and protested because of the social-economic crisis that the country is living in. Most attribute the crisis to Venezuela’s illegitimate government. Students, daily facing uncertainty and insecurity, have finally taken action.

What is this uncertainty in Venezuela? Well, a major factor in the unrest is violence. According to The Violence Observatory of Venezuela, close to 25,000 homicides occurred in only one year in a population of less than 30 million people. The worst part about the homicide rate is that more than 90 percent of these crimes go unpunished and, in the majority of cases, there is not a

single arrest or even an investigation.

Outraged at the reality of their nation and its government, students marched peacefully in major cities like Caracas, Valencia, Mérida, San Cristobal and Puerto Ordaz. However, the peaceful manifestations turned violent when the Venezuelan military forces showed up and started to act hostile against the student protestors.

What led these peaceful protests to violence? One main cause was the military’s forceful treatment of unarmed students. There is little to no information about how many students have died in the manifestations. We do know, though, that in the first three days of demonstrations, three students were assassinated. The students were Bassil Alejandro Dasilva, Robert Redman and Neyder Arellano Sierra who all

“Mom I went to fight for Venezuela, if I don’t come back, I left with her.”

died from gunshot related injuries. These students are viewed as heroes, fighters for Venezuela’s freedom. In addition, many more protesters were injured in the days followed, as well as arrested. Witnesses have stated that the students that get captured and thrown into jail are being tortured and beaten.

The second cause of resistance in Venezuela is the government’s control of all channels of communication in the country, including TV and radio stations. Stations who have exposed the corruption in the Venezuelan government were special targets of censorship. Major foreign stations that were covering the situation, a Colombian network called NTN24 and CNN, were censured and kicked out of the country by the Venezuelan government. The

most powerful and unhindered way left to reach the world with what is going on in Venezuela was Twitter. Many students were sharing Tweets and pictures of the situation and protests. However, Twitter was soon shut down and students were not able to exercise their freedom of speech.

Signs in the streets of Venezuela summarizing the situation read like this: “I want a future in the country that saw me grow up,” “No more blood,” “No more deaths,” “Peace,” “Who is the one with weapon?” “You are shooting whom you swore to protect.” These statements reveal the feelings of a people too long living in turmoil.

One anonymous woman said in a street interview, “I invite you, I invite you to the fight of the Venezuelans, because we are all Venezuelans.” Every night, student demonstrators gather around each other and pray for peace and that Venezuela can find its way to democracy.

BenchMARK with Dr. Christena Cleveland cont.

Project hosts regularly to discuss relevant church issues. This talk was actually about diversity in the Church. Dr. Cleveland is an African American social psychologist that conducts research, teaches at St. Catherine's University and travels around teaching organizations about diversity and Jesus' radical calling to a love that breaks down all barriers.

Cleveland framed the problem and said, "Only 10% of churches are racially diverse. Only 5% of evangelical churches are diverse. The definition isn't even good: if a church is 80% white and 20% other then it is classified as diverse but if a church is 80% black people and 20% white, then it is a black church."

She identified four reasons that we don't search for and reach out to people from diverse backgrounds. First, we categorize people into an us versus them mentality. Secondly, the category we assign someone is so simplistic that we miss the depth of the person and therefore see that person as having nothing to offer. Thirdly, we exaggerate the differences that exist between people when, in fact, there are many universals in the human experience. Finally, we believe that our cultural perspective is right and better compared with a different one.

Next, she offered advice on ways that we can bring more diversity

into our communities. "Community leaders must model intercultural relationships, and communities must invest money into programs that reach multicultural needs. People need to seek out extended contact with someone from another race to create a true relationship. Having a common superordinate goal that both groups are working for is a great way to come together." said Cleveland.

Laura Miller, senior, asked Cleveland "I go to a predominantly white Christian school and the white people and the people from other racial groups hang out separately from each other for the most

part. How can we change this?"

Cleveland said, "Find out what the minority students are already doing and participate with them. Don't take it over -white people like to take things over but things don't need to be fixed just because it may be different than what you are used. Focus on the similarities."

I wish I could include all the vivid real life and biblical examples she gave throughout her two hour talk but it cannot be contained here. Cleveland wrote *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart* which I encourage you to read for a more in depth discussion of how we can create more diverse communities of faith. Also check out her blog: <http://www.christenacleveland.com/>

"... go into discomfort and create something better."

SNU Library proclaims the week of the Lord's favor!

Katie King, SNU Library Director

If part of the title seems familiar to you (and I hope it does), you may recall the verse from which it comes, which is Isaiah 61: 1-11. The passage reads:

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. [the Lord] has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of [the Lord's] splendor" (NIV).

That 'year of the Lord's favor' Isaiah discusses refers to the year of Jubilee (described in detail in Leviticus). Briefly, this year was

characterized by rest, justice and a resetting of ownership – in this year, the land went unplanted, slaves were entitled to their freedom and land/property was returned to its original owner (or heir). In this way, the people of Israel and their political, social, and economic processes actively recognized that everything in this earth is God's; they participated in God's plan of recurring restoration.

It is in the spirit of rest, justice and restoration that the SNU Library announces its Week of Jubilee! The week of Sunday, March 9 through Saturday, March 15, the Library will celebrate the Week of Jubilee by accepting a (non-expired) canned good item as payment for \$1.00 of any fines you may have. So, \$1 = 1 canned good. There is no limit to how many cans you can bring in, and any cans you bring over your fine amount will be applied at random to other Library accounts that have fines. The Library will donate all received canned goods to the Regional Food Bank (RFB), and will volunteer with the RFB on Monday of



***No expired food, please!**

Graphic designed by Hannah Bean

Spring Break (March 17).

The SNU Library recognizes that God is the God of infinite information, knowledge and wisdom, servant leadership and humility, relationship-building, flexibility, hospitality, timely assistance

and anything else we do here in the Library. We give credit to God for any strengths or abilities we have, as well as anything we're able to accomplish together, and we hope you'll join us in that spirit for the week.

STORMSPORTS

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Oklahoma City brings new “Energy” to town

Saydi Dowd, Staff Writer

We’ve got Thunder basketball, Barons hockey and Redhawks baseball. Now, Oklahoma City has welcomed a brand new addition to the list of sports teams that get to call the 405 home. The Oklahoma City Energy FC is an American professional soccer team in the United Soccer Leagues’ Professional Division (USL PRO) and has recently moved to OKC.

After deliberation, the team name “Energy” was decided on. Inspired by the industry that has become synonymous with Oklahoma, “Energy” also makes a bold statement about the city the team represents and the people who are proud to live and work here. Oklahoma City Energy FC is a metaphor of the great momentum present in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma state flag and the state color, green, make up the foundation of the team logo. The logo features an exploding star, symbolizing the spark that initiates energy. The star also forms an abstract soccer ball with upward moving lines to create a sense of positive movement.

Energy will play their regular season home and playoff games at Pribil Stadium on the campus of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City. This will be the team’s home until

their new stadium is built, which is rumored to hold 7,000 seats.

OKC Energy FC has named former Sporting KC goalkeeper, Jimmy Nielsen, as the team’s head coach, Jason Hawkins as the team’s general manager and Chris Spendlove as an assistant coach.

The 36-year old Nielsen recently completed his final game as a professional, serving as goalkeeper for Sporting KC in their win over Real Salt Lake in MLS Cup 2013 on December 7. A veteran of nearly 600 professional games, Nielsen brings a wealth of experience to his new position.

Oklahoma City Energy FC have their first game on April 5th with the Orange County Blues FC at Los Angeles. Their first season opener home game is not until April 27th.

Some people may feel that Oklahoma is out doing themselves, taking on all these sports franchises. However, it may just be the perfect time for all of them, as the city continues to grow and develop.

If you are interested in this new addition to our state, or soccer is just your thing, then go check out their website at www.energyfc.com. They have ticket options, rosters, schedules, article, and everything one could possibly want to know about the “Energy” that is about to spark Oklahoma.



Photo from www.energyfc.com

SNU

Keep up with results and scores at

snuathletics.com

Athletics

Dodgers and Diamondbacks play down under cont.



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Carlos Font, Staff Writer

The 2014 Major League Baseball season is set to start on March 22, when the Los Angeles Dodgers face the Arizona Diamondbacks in a two-game series Down Under.

As it has done in previous years, Major League Baseball likes to move one of their opening series out of the country. In the past,

we have seen the MLB open their campaign in Japan. Overall, the league has put together six international opening days. Teams like the Boston Red Sox, Oakland Athletics, Colorado Rock-

ies, San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Chicago Cubs, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays have been able to par-

“... the Los Angeles Dodgers face the Arizona Diamondbacks in a two-game series Down Under.”

ticipate in these international openings.

Major League Baseball decided to change things a bit for this year's international opening series by moving the venue to Sydney, Australia. The Dodgers and Diamondbacks will face off in the historic Sydney Cricket Grounds, which will be fully renovated to a baseball configuration based on the MLB's standards. While both teams are from foreign parts, the Dodgers will be considered the home team.

The Dodgers and Diamondbacks are both a part of the National League West Division. Both teams profile as two of the most young and exciting teams in Major League Baseball.

Last year, not only did they fight for the National League West Division Title, but they faced conflict and controversy due to trash talk and incidents of batters getting hit by pitches. This young rivalry is one of the most exciting in baseball and it profiles to be a great for years to come.

Plus, the series is significant because it marks the first time that Australia will see Major League caliber baseball since the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

SGA Events

March 19 - SGA class apps due
March 29 - Softball Marathon

Misc.

March 17-21 - Spring Break
March 24- Faith and Film

Sports

March 21- Home Softball game @2:00pm

March 22- Home Softball game @12:00pm

March 28- Home Baseball game @1:00pm

OPINIONS

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Power Puff: dynamics of power in gender imitation



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Katelyn Lamb, Content Editor

Each year, SNU proudly opens its fields for a student-government sponsored event called Powder Puff. You are probably familiar with this game, but, in case you're not, here's a general overview. Girls are paired off

by grade (Freshman/Junior versus Sophomore/Senior) into two teams. The teams then compete in a gentler version of football while wearing trendy matching t-shirts. Meanwhile, a group of boys act as "cheerleaders," dressed in ridiculous versions of typical cheer uni-

forms and relying on far too many spread eagles and hip thrusts to entertain onlookers.

Now, before you assume I am simply a bitter cynic who hates fun, let me admit something. Powder Puff games can be amusing. There is something fun and entertaining about the "sport." However, what concerns me is not that a school is providing amusing activities for its students; my concern lies in why this activity is so hilarious to many of my peers.

On one level, we can enjoy Powder Puff as a recreational pastime, nothing more than a funny few hours of role reversal. However, as university students and as people who profess Christ, I believe we are called to examine things on a deeper level than our own amusement.

It seems to me that at the root of Powder Puff's appeal is imitation. We laugh and enjoy the game because boys are behaving in ways stereotypically associated with girls and vice versa. Our male peers wearing short skirts, tossing their buzz cuts and jumping around enthusiastically is only

humorous because it is abnormal. If we saw men exhibiting that same behavior on an average day, think how different our response would be. If you walked into the Commons and saw your male friend seriously wearing a pleated skirt and belly shirt, what would your reaction be? However, because these male cheerleaders are, for the purpose of the event, imitating women, their behavior becomes amusing. While the same goes for girls at Powder Puff, the imitation is less pronounced because there is less farce and exaggeration on the girls' part. Although the girls playing football (of which I have been one) are still imitating the typical behavior of the opposite sex, they do so in a more mellow way.

Interestingly, we can look at this difference between the men and women's gender imitation in Powder Puff as a result of power dynamics. The male cheerleaders, likely unconsciously, are mocking the very stereotypes a historically patriarchal culture has led women into. The archetype of the female cheerleader and all the generalizations that are associated with

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New Year's revolutions revisited

Editorial Staff

The following editorial was the very first article published in Spring 2014 (published on January 13) and reflects the goals and desires of The Echo editorial staff. Some updates have been made.

"Cha cha cha changes!"* All around, this was the tune being sung. New Year's Resolutions were being made (and quickly

broken), goals were being set, bars were being raised, and so on and so forth. Everyone was trying to better themselves and grow as a person. The world was cleaning up, people!

And so did The Echo. This semester we are publishing our layout version on Wednesday afternoons, instead of Friday mornings. You, our readers, talked. We listened. You said that more students would read The Echo if it was published

earlier in the week, instead of right before the weekend. So. We're changing too.

We also began posting online more frequently. We want you to have new and interesting things to read every day. Of course we can't please everyone, but keeping our audience (you) happy and reading is a top priority. This is your student newspaper. We are your voice.

At least . . . we want to be. But, we can't do that without your help. Share, read and write. Tell us what is happening on campus, what you are interested in, what you want to read about, and we will do our best.

At this point, you may be thinking that you didn't ask for these improvements. Perhaps you have even more or different suggestions. Please let us know. We want to dia-

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The good, the bad and the faithless

Claressa Cortesio, Staff Writer

The second law of thermodynamics says that all natural processes tend to go from order to disorder, and can only be reversed under very special circumstances. That means it's easier to drop your standards than to raise them. It's also easier for a bad influence to pull someone down than for a good one to raise another up. We are told that faith is the evidence of things not seen. Faith, therefore, is not considered a natural process. It requires influence – an outside source. Faith is what gives people the confidence and conviction to change. However, a lack of it can lead to stagnant churches and relationships. Many believe our generation has become lazy in the faith department, and statistics are pointing to the possibility that the church in America has failed to do the very thing they were set out to do: serve.

According to Paul Fleischmann, the church has turned into a kind of business seeking to “compete with the world by performing instead of staying focused on their mission of transforming lives.” I think the lack of healthy leadership in church is a probable cause of a generation that is lacking faith. In Fleischmann's ar-

ticle *Today's Youth – With Church or Without?*, a study on the truth behind church drop-outs reveals some shocking facts.

A study done by Fuller Youth Institute indicates that “forty to fifty percent of young adults will drift from God within eighteen months of graduation.” In addition, LifeWay Research has asked hundreds of youth, ages eighteen to twenty-two, why they left church. Fifty-eight percent of the survey group said that a church or pastor related issue influenced their decision. The most common response was, “church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical.” Still another twenty percent said that they “didn't feel connected to the people in their church.” While the Church has not failed to provide teaching and entertainment, it has failed to create an effective refuge from everyday life for all kinds of people. LifeWay supports this shortcoming, noting the disturbing fact that “Thirty-five percent of teenagers do not feel church is a safe place to express their doubts, fears and honest questions.”

When church members become lazy, critical or focused on problems instead of creating solutions,



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they push people away from religion. Articles written about what kinds of people to avoid marrying and arguments on modesty strive to define what it means to be Christian and illuminate faults in people. The truth is, the more we categorize, the less people there will be in church.

Finally, a wise man named Abraham Lincoln once said “If you look for the bad in humankind expecting to find it, you surely will.” So, what better way to revive faith in the church than to search for the

good in people? A faithless generation such as ours will continue to judge things they can see. If we focus on the unseen, we can generate faith. If we choose to emphasize the good in ourselves, make the effort to welcome people into our churches, our homes and maybe even our lives, we might be able to change these statistics. The day that serving others becomes more important than church membership, I think our city, our state and our county will have a chance at reviving faith again.

New Year's revolutions revisited cont.

logue with you about how to make The Echo the best yet. We're passionate about creating something worthwhile for the student body.

However, dialogue is simply not enough. Many times, not just in regard to a student newspaper, we find that people are willing to give suggestions for changes they want to see made but not a plan for how to implement those changes. It's easy to point out flaws or make demands when you aren't the one who has to implement the changes. Our staff works hard with the resources we have to produce the

absolute best of our capabilities. We are only as good as our writers, our story ideas, our editorial staff and so on.

By all means, do not hesitate to tell us when something isn't working. We want to know. Nevertheless, constructive feedback is the best feedback. As our editor-in-chief is teaching her students this semester, that means providing positive suggestions or guidance on how to go about fixing the problem, not just pointing it out.

One of our editor's personal resolutions was to be more honest about

who she is and act in ways that remain true to her nature--how God made her. The Echo can be a great avenue for sharing thoughts and experiences with the world. Well, probably just the SNU campus will read it, but that is a great place to begin. It's important to start resolutions with small achievable goals so that you can stay on track.

If you see something that you want changed, if you know that students are interested in other topics or would like to see something else, then do something

about it. Go beyond talk and into action. Take initiative. Submit that cool comic or edgy opinions piece you talk about wishing to see in The Echo. Comment on the articles you like and tell us that you liked them. Comment on the articles you disagree with and start a discussion. If there is something you want to see, write it. Or find someone who can. Be brave and do something.

Contact Editor-in-Chief, Ronna Fisher, with ideas, articles, feedback, etc. at rfisher@mail.snu.edu.

More advice for those who don't need it

Jim Wilcox, Guest Writer

(These are real questions from real students)

*Dear Professor,
Why is Netflix so addicting?
Signed, Kelsey*

Dear Kelsey,
We are weak animals, Kelsey. Any new shiny thing becomes our new shiny obsession. My brother bought a simple Texas Instrument calculator in 1972 to replace his slide rule. It cost \$106. Now you can find them on the back of cereal boxes. Netflix offers instant access to TV shows and movies. The only thing missing is the recipe for theater popcorn. Once that's on the "menu," theaters will start to disappear. Why pay \$8-\$10 per flick when you can get hundreds for the same price? So to sum it all up: humans addict easily; new shiny things are

cool; humans are cheap chumps; humans love theater popcorn; Netflix is a penny per movie (if you binge 24/7).

*Dear Wilcox,
What's your favorite piece of candy?
Signed, LeBradford*

Dear LeBradford,
Whichever one is in my mouth.

*Dear Prof,
How should
a girl show a
guy she likes
him if he
doesn't have a
clue?
Signed, Cora*

Dear Cora,
Cora, Cora, Cora. All it takes for a guy to notice a girl is if she's breathing. All guys notice all girls. As they grow older, say 37, they start to notice only girls who fit

their images of "The Ideal Woman." At about 51, they are ready to settle down (whatever that means) and be with one girl, who is now a hearty woman.

So rest assured, young one, that guy notices you. He hopes he sees you every day. If he hasn't asked you out by the time he's 37, steal his car, fill the cup holders with bleu cheese dressing and scratch

your
name on
all four
doors
with a
sharp
knife.
He won't
like you,
but he'll

know you're out there, somewhere.

*Dear Professor,
If given the chance, would you bungee
jump or skydive?
Signed, Jessica*

Dear Jessica,
Are you out of your ever-lovin' mind? I don't even like sitting on stools. I read this three days ago: "You don't need a parachute to skydive. You need a parachute to skydive twice."

Given my long history of falling, slipping, tripping, flipping and being chased by large, drooling stray dogs, I loathe all surprises, especially if they involve gravity and crunching sounds.

*Hey Prof,
How do you fix a broken heart?
Signed, Trey*

Dear Trey,
Nobody knows how to mend a broken heart, and if she tells you she knows, she's a big, fat, hairy liar. Here's a thought: I'll bet skydiving without a parachute would erase her from your mind. Once.

PREHISTORIC LEGENDS

Power Puff: dynamics of gender imitation cont.

it (beauty, ignorance, peppiness, etc.) is, at some level, the result of male power. Traditionally, men have valued these characteristics in women to some degree, leading many (not all, mind you) girls to strive, even unintentionally, to behave in a particular way. In many ways, female gender has been constructed by men, making a woman's gendered behavior something she has little to no control over.

Therefore, if we examine Powder Puff on a more critical level, when boys "cheer" at the game, they are really mocking the roles

they have constrained females to. This is another exhibition of power on the part of males and is, to some extent, a sign of authority. Only the group (men) who constructed this expected female identity have the power to mock it, to act it out in farce, while keeping their separate male identity in tact.

"This distinction between the boys and girls is fascinating because it once again highlights the difference in power."

The role of power can also be seen in the girls' modeling of male behavior. In my experience playing Powder Puff, girls are encouraged to act tough and "manly," even if just for fun-ny event advertisements and hype. However, what is missing from the women's imitation of male foot-

ball players is the level of caricature. Girl players do not wear outrageous costumes, act out in humorous but sexually founded ways or even receive much of the audience's amusement. This distinction between the boys and girls is fascinating because it once again highlights the difference in power. Women who are imitating men by playing a particular sport do not have the freedom or power to mock the opposite sex like the men behaving as women do. Players, even though they are engaged in the same kind of gender imitation as the cheerleaders, are more restricted and subdued, whether by "choice" or because onlookers would not be entertained by a farcity of the male sex. Our preference for seeing typical feminine roles imitated over typical male

roles reflects, even unknowingly, a privileging of men over women.

I know that is a lot of analysis for a school event. Feel free to completely disregard my thoughts. I know I am speaking in very broad, general terms and it is difficult to encourage critical thinking without appearing bitter or unkind. Please know my purpose was not to dissuade people from attending (or even enjoying) this event, nor was it to disrespect my peers who do choose to participate in it. I only hope to create a more thoughtful dialogue surrounding the activities we, as an educated Christian community, engage in. Maybe this year, while you're watching your friends score points and do high kicks, you will think a bit more deeply about the messages we are conveying.

Top five must see shows of 2014

Macy Sliman, Staff Writer

As a general rule, people love being entertained. One very popular mode of entertainment is television. Now, we have movies and we have television shows. For some reason, TV shows seem much more popular these days, either because of the insane prices of attending movie theaters or the fact that we love something so easily accessed as the regular viewing of a continual story.

It could also be that we, as people, need something to connect to and many of us connect to these shows. This connection gives us a more detailed view of the characters and their lives as well as a narrative that spans more time, insuring that we get attached. Now, in case you have been under a rock for the past couple of months, there are quite a few recent and new TV shows with very promising stories and addictive characters.

Top on the list is a fairly new show called "Scandal." Only on its third season, this series features Kerry Washington playing the leading lady, Olivia Pope. In this American political thriller, Pope is a press aide with lots of dirty little secrets. Not only is she racing to keep them all hidden, but she is also juggling other char-



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acters, conflicts and controversy. The audience follows Pope as she and her team do their best to protect the nation's elite. "Scandal" returned to the air on February 27, 2014 and can be seen Thursdays at 10:00 PM.

Coming in second, is "American Horror Story," also on its third

season. True to its title, this show is the American horror story. This series follows the lives of several different people that encounter different horrors known to our society such as murder, insanity and witchcraft. Each season takes place in a different time period, giving the show a more in-depth feel. This Fox

original has returned on January 8, 2014 to continue scaring its viewers half to death.

At a shocking third place is the critically acclaimed "Game of Thrones," bringing its fourth season this spring. This HBO original took the nation by surprise as an

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Brett eats out: grade A food from Tai Pei

Brett Smith, Staff Writer

For most styles of food, there are people who love it, people who hate it and people who think it's just alright. Chinese food does not usually leave room for this moderate middle category. I find that people either love or hate Chinese food. There are some exceptions, but these cases are few and far between. Chinese food is one of my favorite kinds of food, and when I

moved to SNU, I discovered that there are not a huge number of Chinese restaurants in the Bethany area. Turns out that I had been driving past a great place on MacArthur the whole time.

Tai Pei is a small restaurant that is easy to miss. However, they serve some great food there. I went with Anthony Tolbert, who is also a huge fan of Chinese food. It was around 4:00 pm

when we ate, so there were very few people there. Like I mentioned before, the restaurant is small, so someone who does not like to eat with a close group of strangers may not enjoy Tai Pei that much. Their service, on the other hand, is quite good. The small room makes it easier for them to serve their guests. Rather than having to walk back and forth from the kitchen to the table, everything is close so

servers are able to keep track of drinks and such. Anthony and I are both music majors, so we instantly noticed the classical music that was being played. This detail made the environment welcoming and relaxing.

Both Anthony and I ordered Combination Dinner #1. For seven dollars, we received garlic chicken, sweet and sour shrimp, chicken

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Top five must see shows of 2014 cont.

intense fantasy full of betrayal and action. “Game of Thrones” joins seven families from the fictional land of Westeros as they all quest for the throne. Known for unpredictable plot twists and gripping drama, “Game of Thrones” has the whole audience begging for more on April 9, 2014, when it is scheduled to return.

Fourth place goes to the ever-

famous “Walking Dead.” This post-apocalyptic thriller follows the lives of several characters as they brave the wasteland of America after a disease has ravaged the land, turning their loved ones into mindless people-eating monsters. This intense drama is best known for its mind numbing plot twists and brilliant action. As a greater threat than the Walkers begins to draw near,

the fans of the “Walking Dead” were on the edge of their seats with anticipation at the arrival of the fourth season on February 9, 2014.

Not to be outdone, “House of Cards” comes in fifth as a dramatic political thriller quickly rising in popularity. A rival of “Scandal,” this story follows the lives of a certain Congressman and his cunning wife who work to exact revenge on

the people who betrayed him in the last election. This shrewd drama returned on February 14, 2014 for its second thrilling season.

Movies may be on a slow decline since TV series have become so popular. Who could argue against that with so many good shows being produced? Be sure to tune in to one or all of these promising shows of 2014!

In review: “Atlas” by Real Estate

James Tunnell, Staff Writer

With their third full length album release, Real Estate has firmly cemented their place in the current music scene as one of the most consistently great acts around. Following 2010’s excellent album *Days*, *Atlas* finds Real Estate in new, yet familiar territory. They still have the same lackadaisical, surfy vibe to their music. However, where their previous works were delivered through a summery haze of suburban nostalgia, the clarity in *Atlas* brings the talents of Real Estate into full view. But don’t worry, they’re still the same lovably nonchalant crew from Ridgewood, New Jersey.

And that’s the beauty of Real Estate; they haven’t lost a thing in the transition, and part of that is because they haven’t tried to re-invent themselves. They know what works and what doesn’t within their band. Lead singer Martin Courtney’s voice still dances around the simple melodies of lead guitarist Matt Mondanile, and it continues to sound great. Bassist Alex Bleeker still provides simple bouncing bass lines that help to propel the songs forward. You can’t point to one piece of Real Estate and say, “That’s why they’re great.” It all just fits together into a breezy sound that feels like you’re on a float trip with your best buds after your senior year of college. Interestingly, most of the album



Photo courtesy of Shawn Brackbill

was recorded live at Wilco’s recording studio in Chicago call The Loft, a point that long time fans of Wilco will surely not overlook, considering their trajectory from alt-country heroes to their current status as a dad-rock jam band. Thankfully, the soul of Real Estate has been left in tact.

Thematically, *Atlas* is a bit more serious than previous efforts. As mentioned before, Real Estate’s the-

matic focal point up to this stage in their career has been an achingly suburban nostalgia. There’s still that wistful feeling, but it’s tempered into conflicts of the here and now. In their first single, “Talking Backwards,” Courtney sings “And I might as well be talking backwards/Am I making any sense to you/And the only thing that really matters/ Is the one

thing I can’t seem to do.” In previous albums, Courtney sang about fuzzy space in time, looking back through a window fogged by his own memory. Now, instead of trying to make sense of the past, he’s attempting to make his way into the future. If this record is any indication of the future of Real Estate, then there’s not a whole lot to worry about.

Fine Arts Student Feature

Rachel Whatley



Hometown: Yukon, OK
Hobbies and Interests: Reading fantasy and sci-fi, clarinet, piano, writing stories, action-adventure movies

Most prized possessions: My clarinet (the piano isn't mine :P)

Three words that describe you: Intellect, determination, sounding board (as in listening)

Best advice your parents gave you: Always do your best

A talent you possess: Sight-reading

Biggest fear: Spiders and public speaking

I would like to have witnessed: Creation

Best memory: My sister's wedding

As a child you dreamed of being: Paleontologist

Pet Peeve: When people put drinks on the piano

Favorite Quote or verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Brett eats out: grade A food form Tai Pei cont.

chow mein, sweet and sour pork, an egg roll, soup and fried rice. Anthony kept telling me how he was starving, and that he was skeptical that this was a lot of food. However, he was soon put to rest when our entrées arrived. Apart from the egg roll and soup, the rest of the meal is served on two plates. At less than ten bucks, this was an amazing deal. Neither of us were able to finish, so our waitress gladly gave us to-go boxes. We easily had enough left for a second meal. Again I say, this was a lot of food! It certainly

tasted wonderful as well. Do not be fooled, a lot of food does not mean that the quality is poor.

After our visit, I was certainly comforted that there is a great Chinese restaurant in Bethany. It is not a "date quality" restaurant, but if someone wanted to eat a good meal off-campus and they had limited wallet space, I would certainly recommend Tai Pei. It is located at 5005 N MacArthur Blvd, and it is very easy to miss. The food was great, as well as the service. Tai Pei is definitely on my list of places to visit again.



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Editor-in-chief: Ronna Fisher

Content Editor: Katelyn Lamb

Layout Editor: Amy Lauver

Business and Social Media
Manager: Grace Williams

Adviser: Jim Smith



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