



**A & E:** Read the latest movie review of *In a Better World*, and don't forget to check out the hilarious bloopers Prof. Wilcox has compiled from his students' emails and assignments on the same page. [Read more on page 12](#)



**Opinion:** Read about one writer's experiment with vegetarianism.

[Read more on page 5](#)

**December 9, 2011**  
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# The Echo

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

## Students to serve in Mexico during annual Christmas break mission trip

Brenda Rivera, Staff Reporter

As the holidays quickly approach, many students will be heading home to spend the Christmas break with their families and friends. Several other students, however, will be on their way to Mexico for an annual mission trip. Known as Commission Unto Mexico, this experience is an eight-day short-term trip to northeastern Mexico that involves 100 to 300 people each year.

This year there are twelve SNU students

who will be attending the mission trip in hopes of making an impact in Mexico. This is a mission trip that is open not

**“Our real goal is to develop relationships with our Mexican brothers and sisters”**

only to students, but to the community as well. While there, the team will be doing activities such as construction work, VBS

ministries, soccer sports outreach, and medical clinics to support the community. Commission Unto Mexico is in its 23rd year.

“The activities are a way of showing communities and neighborhoods that the church cares about them and their families. Our real goal is to develop relationships with our Mexican brothers and sisters in

*continued on page 2*

## Chapel emphasizes community while highlighting “Words of Faith” theme

Jaclynn Gray, Staff Reporter

This year's chapel theme is “Words of Faith.” It has involved a study of the book of Romans since it contains much religious language.

“We were thinking in my office that many students who have grown up in the church

know a lot of religious languages (e.g., Words of Faith), but maybe don't really know what it all means,” Vice President of Spiritual Development Brad Strawn said. “Romans is a great book for looking at these words.”

The theme this year dug deep and challenged a lot of students' faith.

“I really enjoyed the theme this year. I have never really spent much time in Romans, and it was a great learning experience,” Jennifer Huffhines, junior, said.

While preaching to a student body, faculty, and guests can be a little stressful, there are

*continued on page 2*



Dr. Mark Reighard (2nd from right) impressed with his knowledge of popular music during a chapel that discussed Romans' “Greatest Hist.” Photo by Stephany Reyes.

## Students to serve in Mexico during annual Christmas break trip, continued

the Lord and to help them with relationships with people living around their church facility,” missions professor Dr. Howard Culbertson said.

This year they will be traveling to eight mining towns in the state of Coahuila. This is only a two-hour drive from the U.S./Mexican border. They are hoping to help eight Mexican churches reach out to their communities by doing work on their facilities and work with

their events.

Culbertson hopes that students will have an enjoyable

**“It literally changed my view on life...We are blessed beyond our understanding”**

cross-cultural experience and that they will see the spiritual needs of the country. Often times, students talk about the economic disparities that

they see and Culbertson hopes that this does not keep their attention.

“I hope our participants won’t get fixated on standard of living issues. I hope they’ll see Mexico as God sees it,” Culbertson said.

This is also a special year for the university because it is the 45 anniversary of the university’s first official mission trip in 1966 to Muzquiz. Culbertson was one of the people who attended that first mission trip.

“Commission Unto Mexico is an experience that will change the life of anyone that has the chance to experience it. You meet wonderful people who are also part of our Nazarene family in Mexico. I went on my first trip in 2008; it literally changed my view on life. I am more thankful now for what I have as I have seen the injustice in the world. We are blessed beyond our own understanding,” Antonio Gomez, senior, said.

## Chapel emphasizes community through “Words of Faith”, continued

always goals involved to reach out to everyone. Chapel has been tweaked from semester to semester, but preaching the Word never has changed.

“My overall goals is always the same,” Strawn said. “The overall goal is to create a community that is being continually transformed into Christ’s likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18), this is done through a variety of formats and mediums that are sensitive to both college students and the larger SNU community.”

This semester, chapel had one main difference: Tuesdays were “Community chapel,” in which Strawn tried to have faculty and staff speak their Words of Faith Story.

“It was great getting to hear different professors speak, as well as guests share their heart

felt stories,” Huffhines said.

Chapel this semester was focused on words, speaking words that are personal and have the capability of changing people’s lives.

“We try and have a variety of students involved, different kinds of speakers (speakers of color as well as male and female speakers),” Strawn said. “I also try and have messages that meet students at different places; sometimes the messages are aimed at those that might not know Christ and sometimes the messages are aimed at those students that need to go deeper in their faith. We are also trying to find ways to incorporate different styles of worship music. This is one of the biggest challenges for us.”

Pleasing all students is not

always possible, but having a goal makes it a lot more plausible.

“I think they did a good job in bringing in community and showing different words of faith people use on their Christian journey,” Huffhines said.

**“I believe that this is one of the best chapels this semester since my 3 years of being here.”**

While everyone has different opinions about their favorite part of chapel, most seemed to agree that Bob Goff was a hit. Goff was Strawn’s favorite guest speaker as well.

“For my favorite outside speaker, I would say Bob Goff because I love his enthusiasm and his call to take Jesus

seriously,” Strawn said.

After hearing students around campus talk, it is apparent that when the dorms and athletic department speak, it has a huge effect on the student body.

“When actual students speak, it seems that it is very personal because we can relate to them and have an understanding with them as well,” Huffhines said.

Strawn enjoys listening to students speak as well.

“I absolutely loved this semester when the dorms and athletic department are in charge of chapel because our students do such an amazing job,” Strawn said.

“I believe that this is one of the best chapels this semester since my 3 years of being here,” Huffhines said. “I really feel like my spiritual walk has grown.”

## A year in review: a look at some of the most memorable events of 2011

**Jan 3:** In Beebe, AR, 5,000 birds are found dead. Mass bird and fish deaths reported internationally between in following days in what was called the “Aflockalypse.”

**Jan. 14:** The Tunisian government falls and president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia as the result of protests that began in December 2010. He had ruled for 23 years.

**Mar. 11:** An earthquake of 9.0 magnitude strikes off coast of Japan, one of the most powerful earthquakes that has ever been recorded. It caused a tsunami and accidents at multiple nuclear reactors, killing over 15,000 people. It sparked debates about the safety of nuclear reactors.



# OPINIONS

TheEcho • December 9, 2011 • Page 3

## Alleged Cain affair no worse than sexual harassment claims

Brad Crofford, News Editor

From Bill Clinton in the 90s to Herman Cain in recent weeks, the news media has shown that it has a love affair with politicians' love affairs. In this case, allegations that the now-former Republican presidential candidate had engaged in a 13-year sexual affair contributed to him "suspending" his campaign. As I think about this, I am struck by four thoughts.

The first thing that struck me was that it is strange that Cain only now was under enough pressure and scrutiny that he would decide to suspend his campaign. There had already been multiple previous allegations that he had sexually harassed multiple women during his time at the National Restaurant Association, including one by a woman who held a very public press conference and described the encounter in fairly precise detail. At that time, the Cain campaign downplayed it, noting that they were receiving significant donations and suggesting they still had significant support. To me, these allegations of sexual harassment, though the alleged events were supposedly further in the past than the allegations of an affair, are far more serious. The alleged sexual affair is a moral issue, but is not a legal one. The alleged sexual harassment, however, is a le-

gal issue in addition to a moral issue.

The second thing that struck me was that this affair allegation pales in comparison to what some other countries have put up with from their leaders. For example, according to British newspaper The Telegraph in a November 9, 2011 article, former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told "a former showgirl and men's magazine model, Mara Carfagna: 'I'd go anywhere with you, even to a desert island. If I weren't already married, I would marry you straight away.'" This was at an awards banquet in 2007! Berlusconi's wife wrote an open letter published on the front page of Italian newspaper La Repubblica demanding an apology, which she received. Then, Berlusconi made Carfagna his equal opportunities minister! Compared to Berlusconi's very public sexual intrigues and sometimes boastful claims, the allegation of a sexual affair in Cain's case seems positively puritan.

The third thing that struck me is that this allegation of an affair seems no worse than Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich's own past indiscretions. As Jena McGregor noted on her Washington Post blog on November 30, in an ironic twist, the person who will most benefit from Cain's alleged affair is a man who had two extramarital affairs.



Gloria Cain stood by her man at Cain's "suspension speech". Photo from Examiner. Used under Creative Commons.

I think McGregor's right when she suggests that voters have short political memories, having forgotten about the affairs in favor of more recent scandals, they are willing to overlook his affairs due to anti-Romney sentiment, and other similar reasons. Thus, it seems that Cain's greatest mistake might not have been actually having an affair, but rather having it discovered too recently.

Finally, it struck me as odd that Cain was "suspending" his campaign rather than terminating it. However, it appears there is a savvy business reason behind this. Luke Rosiak, writing for The Washington Post on November 5, notes that "There are few restrictions on what former

candidates may do with remaining funds except that they may not pocket them directly." Cain has created an issue group called Cain Solutions, and Rosiak suggests he may convert his presidential campaign into a political action committee or a nonprofit. By "suspending" his campaign rather than ending it, Cain can continue to collect funds. (It's worth noting that Hillary Clinton also "suspended" her campaign in 2008 and kept raising funds.) This seems unjust to me as the people who contributed to Cain's campaign contributed to help him run for president; at the point where the money will now be used for any other purpose, it almost seems to be a misappropriation of funds.

**Apr. 27:** Obama finally releases his full length birth certificate (*like it was necessary--we're four years in people*) stating he was born in Honolulu.

**May 2:** Osama bin Laden is killed in his compound in Pakistan during an American raid. The raid prompts a debate in following days about whether images purportedly showing a dead bin Laden had been faked and if it was too graphic to release to the public.

**May 22:** Deadliest U.S. tornado hits Joplin, Missouri, killing 140, injuring hundreds, and devastating the city.

**Apr. 29:** The royal wedding of Prince William and Kate draws in over 2 billion view-

May 4: Fatah and Hamas sign historic reconciliation accord because they were fed up with Israeli occupation and peace efforts from the U.S.

**May 19:** Obama says Israel should return to '67 borders, then takes it back under pressure from AIPAC and Israeli government.

**June 11:** Somalis kill East Africa Al-Qaeda leader.

April

May

June

# Looking back on the year: what's happened to SNU in 2011

Candace Robinson,  
Guest Columnist

Over the past year, we have seen a lot of positive changes. One of the biggest changes is the students. The seniors have left and a new class of freshman arrived and impacted us in many ways. Also new to campus are Anthony Puryear, the new RD for Snowbarger, and Jocelyn Bullock, the RD for Bracken and Chapman.

Another notable change is the greatly anticipated opening of the Hills dormitory. After residents lamented the destruction of Gary, hope appeared in the form of a bigger, cleaner, more efficient housing arrangement. Students of all years currently enjoy living in the new dorm.

Another huge change for us was the decision to switch from

NAIA to NCAA division two. Athletes have had a positive outlook on the change. They continue playing their best, and have seen many victories last year. Softball also had an exceptional season and went 44-16 last spring.

Over the past year some of the Asbury 4 and Imel 4 residences decided to step out and make a difference in their community. These students are said to be in themed housing. The themed house residents found a cause they were passionate about and have held events to raise money and awareness this past year.

Multicultural Student Network (MSN) is a way for students to become aware of and understand the different cultures and people groups on campus. MSN holds events that are open to everyone

and gives diverse students a chance to connect here. Louis Jones is the director of the new program.

Various grants received this year have impacted learning in a positive way. Dr. Linda Wilcox is in charge of the "increasing access through distance learning" grant received from the educational department. According to Dr. Wilcox, the "goal is to help interested faculty (from any department) design, develop and pilot their existing or new courses online." With this grant, more students will be able to take classes online, thus benefiting people working full time, commuters, and current users of online classes. Other groups to receive grants this year include Student Support Services, McNair Scholars, and NASA Research Experience for Undergraduates. In

addition, Professor Brent Eskridge is heading up a robotics research program from the federal NASA Space grant received this year.

As for Oklahoma, this past year has seen its fair share of environmental hardships. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there have been approximately 1,665 tornadoes, ranking this year as the fourth most deadly year. The summer has been incredibly hot and dry as well. Oklahoma hasn't had a drought like this since 1921 states the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. Especially shocking were the various earthquakes, the largest of which registered a 5.6 on the Richter scale.

Looking back at this past year, there have been a lot of major changes taking place.

## A year for the Arab League: a review of the Arab Spring and other seasons

Tim Rice, Columnist

Over the last months I've done a fair number of pieces on the Arab Spring, and now seems like an opportune time to look back, at now and forward. Chemical weapons were never used in Libya, and foreign troops were never needed. Egypt managed to shake loose a dictator, but the system he set up is proving even harder to escape. Tunisia is getting its first taste of gritty democracy. Syria is burning, in a civil war in all but name. Lebanon is trying to stay out of the way. Morocco has politically parried. Israel and Palestine are on and off refusing to talk. Iran is facing further sanctions and refusing to prove its innocence.

Instead of facing a protracted siege, Tripoli fell in days. Qaddafi ran to Sirt and died as he lived. His son and cabinet are in prison. But no revolution is a fairy tale, unless you read the original fairy tales. Sectors of Libya's population have been left out of the new picture, mainly the Twareg and Black Libyans. Both of these groups are stereotyped as being latent supporters of the Qaddafi regime. Removing the mindset of living in a mafia state is another hurdle that Libyans face, along with disarming militias in favor of a unified national army.

Egypt is a moving target. Islamists won big in the latest elections while there are still calls for

the military to not repeat history for the fifth time and relinquish power. The last time I wrote about Egypt I congratulated its people for bringing down what had held them back. Little did I know when I asked for their prayers for this country that our very own movement would set up park downtown in every major city. Sometimes it is very fun to be proven wrong.

Some have said that if Tunisia and Egypt were the Arab Spring, Libya is the Arab Summer and Syria is the Arab Winter. Al Assad has so far held on to power with a bloody grip. He has been abandoned by his former ally Turkey, the Arab League has imposed sanctions on travel and finance

and an internal rebel force composed of defected Syrian soldiers has carried out symbolic raids. Those who suffer the most are the people. Homs, the third largest city in Syria by last count, is a war zone reminiscent of Misrata, Libya without NATO airstrikes keeping tanks out of neighborhoods.

A main reason for the chaos is that Al Assad took a major lesson from the late Saddam Hussein. Many social groups (including a majority of Christians in Syria) are at the moment convinced that the, if brutal, regime in place is the only thing standing in the wake of Syria becoming the next Baghdad. If only there were no sense to their reasoning.

**July 20:** The United Nations declares a state of famine to exist in two regions of Somalia, a result of severe drought. The harsh conditions also exist in other East African countries.

**July 31:** Obama and John Boehner announce an agreement to raise the nation's debt ceiling. The agreement called for the creation of a congressional "supercommittee" that would be tasked with finding over \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts.

**Aug 18:** Britain, France, Germany, and U.S. state President Assad of Syria has lost legitimacy after his military's attacks killed over 200 people.

**July 21:** NASA's last space shuttle mission comes to an end when space shuttle Atlantis arrives at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

**Aug 8:** Stock market nosedives after U.S.' credit rating drops from AAA to AA+. The DOW Jones dropped 634 points.

**Sep 17:** Demonstrators gather in New York City's Zuccotti Park, marking the beginning of the Occupy Wall Street movement. The slogan "We are the 99%" referred to the wealth gap between the wealthiest Americans (1%) and the rest of society.

July

August

September

# Gaining respect for vegetarians: a reporter's journey without meat

Candace Robinson,  
Guest Columnist

If there's one thing I never thought I'd do it's become a vegetarian. Countless times at an event I'd watch with pity and disgust as the vegetarians of the group bemoaned the lack of options and how much they were suffering. Why broadcast the meatless diet like it's the apocalypse?

I had to find out. After several of my friends simultaneously converted to the vegetarian way of life, I decided to learn more about this strange phenomenon. I figured I couldn't really judge vegetarians if I had never even tried it myself. So I decided to join the veggie lovers for one month, starting November 28, just to see what it's like.

I was off to a great start. I had gone all of one hour with no meat before I completely forgot and had sausage for breakfast. I quickly realized this might be harder than I had first anticipated.

After nearly two weeks of this, I learned that being a vegetarian requires a lot of work. Coming home the other day, I wanted some fast food. We almost pulled

into McDonald's before I remembered my experiment. Sure, I could get a McDonald's salad but I didn't want that. So after driving for a long time we finally found a TacoBell where I was able to get a bean burrito. Not being able to just stop at any first fast food restaurant was a foreign concept to me.

I encountered much of the same difficulties at Sodexo. It's hard enough to find food up there normally. Add on finding food with no meat products in it and you're in real trouble. Yes, there's the salad bar, pizza, and typically a vegetarian option, but let's face it, there's only so many salads and pizza you can take before it gets old. As for the vegetarian option, how many of us voluntarily eat that? Usually there is some type of soup that is available as well, but the soup has led to several embarrassing episodes for a nonexperienced vegetarian like me.

After exploring the cafeteria and finding no vegetarian dishes that looked appetizing, I decided to have some creamy potato soup the other night. I started eating it when I realized there were bacon bits in it. I was not about to give up my soup so I proceeded to fish the bacon bits out



Candace must say no to chicken and other poultry and meat products for a month. Photo by McCall Adams.

of my soup. You would think that at this point I was an expert at getting bacon out of my food. Nope. I finished long after my friends and my bowl was surrounded by wadded up napkins of meat.

While I haven't been a "vegetarian" for very long, I've learned that it requires creativity and determination.

People that give up meat, whether for moral reasons, health, or something else, must be dedicated to their cause and I respect that. After this experiment is up, I will never make fun of a vegetarian again. Let's just hope Sodexo doesn't put any more bacon in their soup or I might use up all their napkins before then.

## Letter to the Editor: Ten Commandments sculpture links religion and politics

Luke Winslow

A few weeks ago, the university accepted a privately donated gift that, as far as I know, has earned little attention on campus. Sometimes, such gifts beg the question of how money should be spent towards the university when tuition is constantly rising, new projects critical to SNU's mission remain unfunded, etc. Although the university can do little more than accept or decline donations that are earmarked for a specific usage, the new Ten Commandments statue outside the SNU Library has me particularly concerned.

The statue that now stands outside the SNU Library features the Ten Commandments etched on two large tablets that rest on a cubic base. On the four faces of this base are tributes to America's "founding fathers" with quotes such as George Washington's "... that He [God] would incline the

hearts of citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government" and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas' "The institutions of our society are founded on the belief that there is an authority higher than the authority of the State; that there is a moral law which the State is powerless to alter; ..."

Gregory Boyd, in his book "The Myth of a Christian Nation," wrote, "Rather than focusing our understanding of God's kingdom on the person of Jesus—who, incidentally, never allowed himself to get pulled into the political disputes of his day—I believe many of us American evangelicals have allowed our understanding of the kingdom of God to be polluted with political ideals, agendas, and issues." My concern is that the Ten Commandments statue may perpetuate this "myth" that the American government rests under the

weight and authority of Christianity (in this case, literally).

While I personally disagree with the potential political implications of this message, promoting a diversity of opinions on a liberal arts campus is respectable and indeed necessary. However, I have a harder time respecting that the university would so quickly agree to give such politically charged messages a permanent platform that only part of the community support. The Ten Commandments alone are certainly historically significant enough to stand as a testament to how we live as Christians and require no further adornment or detraction from political agendas. John Wesley's quote, "In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity" comes to mind. The reason the statue of Jesus Christ by the Religion Building is so noncontroversial is because Jesus

represents an essential foundation of Christianity and this community, whereas the Ten Commandments statue embodies a political agenda that is not foundational.

As an educational institution, the university's role is to remain impartial yet respectful of political diversity since not everyone is comfortable with associating their faith with the American government. Unfortunately, this statue represents one standpoint that I think weakens the spiritual inclusiveness in this community. The current Cabinet Chat events seem to be a reasonable attempt at dialogue, but I suggest some more proactive and intentional effort be taken to increase the accountability between the Administration and the student body, faculty, and staff in regards to such public, permanent decisions.

In Christ,  
Luke Winslow

**Oct 5:** Apple visionary Steve Jobs died at age 56 due to health problems. His death was covered widely in the media, and many posted tributes and memories of the technological innovator.

**Nov 5:** Jeff Sandusky, football defensive coordinator, is arrested for 40 sexual abuse counts. Other staff are fired, including beloved head football coach, Joe Paterno.

**Dec 3:** Herman Cain, after allegations of sexual harassment and an long-term extramarital affair, suspends his presidential campaign with a quote from Pokemon.

**Oct 20:** Former Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi is killed by revolutionaries when they gained control of his hometown of Sirte. The controversial and divisive leader had ruled Libya for 42 years before his death.

**Nov 21:** The congressional "supercommittee" who had been tasked with finding \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts. The committee's failure means that automatic spending cuts split between military spending and social programs will begin in 2013.



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# STORMSPORTS

TheEcho • December 9, 2011 • Page 7

## Westerly Win: Men's basketball triumph over Oklahoma City

### Sports Information

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Despite having just two field goals in the final 10 minutes of the game, No. 18 Southern Nazarene got just what it needed to force overtime with Oklahoma City and then got 10 points in overtime from Jon West to score the 63-55 win over OCU.

The Crimson Storm (6-1, 2-0 SAC) have now won six straight and are 1-1 in overtime games this year.

West scored a game-high 18 points as he was 6-for-9 from the field and 5-for-8 at the free throw line. He also added seven rebounds and two steals. Tyrone Lyons added 13 points and six rebounds

off the bench. He was 4-for-8 from the field and 5-for-7 at the charity stripe. Ryan Aaron added 11 points and five rebounds while Horace McGloster chipped in with nine and Adrian Hunter had eight.

Southern Nazarene held a 45-37 lead with 10:13 left when OCU scored seven straight to close the game to one with 6:13 left. West drained a 3-pointer to put SNU up 48-44 with 3:59 left, but OCU answered with a 7-1 run to take a 51-49 lead with 57 seconds to play. It was Stars' first lead since the 8:35 mark in the first half.

West then came up clutch again with 34 seconds left when he drove hard to the goal spun and got the layup to fall and OCU missed a last second shot to force overtime. West gave SNU a lead it would never relinquish with the first bucket of the overtime period and hit four free throws in OT to secure the win.

The senior scored 16 points after the 4-minute mark in the second half.

Southern Nazarene will now get set to travel to Science & Arts, Saturday, at 4 p.m.



Daniel White makes a fast pass. Photo from Sports Information.

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## Women's Storm basketball suffers hard defeat against OCU, making record 5-3

### Sports Information

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Logan Martin scored a team-high 16 points for No. 11 Southern Nazarene in a 94-65 loss to No. 3 Oklahoma City, Saturday afternoon.

The Crimson Storm (5-3, 1-1 SAC) suffered its first loss of the Sooner Athletic Conference season as the Stars (6-0, 2-0 SAC) shot 63.8 percent from the field in the runaway win.

SNU's only lead came on the first basket of the game as the Storm controlled it the rest of the way. OCU answered the opening bell with an 18-7 run to lead 18-9 and eventually pushed the lead to 32-17 with 10:50 left in the first half. Kristin Milster cut it to 32-23 with two straight 3-pointers.

OCU scored five straight on the answer before Oumoul Thiam added a layup and Martin drained a three to make it 37-28 with 5:37

left. That was the last time SNU had the lead under double digits. OCU took a 45-32 lead into the half, before opening the second half with a 19-7 run to take a 64-39 lead and held on from there to take the win.

Sharmeda Johnson added 10 points and three rebounds off of the bench while Milster finished with nine points with three treys.

Four of OCU's starters finished in double figures as Desiree Jeffries scored a game-high 20 points as she was a perfect 10-for-10 from the field.

SNU shot 37 percent (20-54) from the field and were 9-for-18 from 3-point range. The Stars dominated the paint, outscoring SNU, 36-10 in the lane.

The Storm will now get set to travel to Science & Arts, Saturday, for a 2 p.m. SAC game.



OCU shot over 60 percent from the floor in the win. Photo from Sports Information.

## Storm indoor track season opens in Joplin with SNU members finishing top five

### Sports Information

JOPLIN, Mo. — Southern Nazarene opened its indoor track season by competing at the MSSU Early Bird Open. SNU had a handful of top five finishes and set some benchmarks for the year.

Rilwan Jimoh and Kentrell Miller ran second and third in the 400-meter dash as Jimoh finished in 51:43 while Miller ran a 52:18. Nigel Hampton also took second in the 800-meters with a 2:01.44. Andrew Leahey ran a 4:28.59 in the one mile to take fourth.

Jimoh, Miller, Chad Mathis

and Corey Lulko combined to run a 3:30.54 in the 4x400-meter relay

The women's distance medley tam took second as Sarah Keller, Taylor Posey, Catalina Keo and Chesney Burgweger combined to run a 13:57.76.

Jackie Stevens took fourth in the shot put and the weight throw with a 11.54-meter throw in the shot put and a 14.35-meter toss in the weight throw.

SNU will continue the season, Jan. 20-21, and will go right back to Joplin to run in the MSSU Invitational.



SNU kicks off season in Joplin. Photo from Sports Information.

## CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES!

*Jackie Acevedo, senior, Women's Soccer,  
All-American athlete*

*Kaylee Piatt, sophomore, Volleyball,  
All-American athlete Honorable Mention*

*Ricardo Valentini, senior Men's Soccer,  
Scholar athlete*

*Ellen Martin, sophomore, Volleyball,  
Scholar athlete*

# Mike Cochran named Regional Coach of the Year for second time

## Sports Information

WACO, Texas — For the second time in his career, Mike Cochran has been named an AFCA Regional Coach of the Year.

Cochran led the Crimson Storm to several new heights in the 2011 season that ended in the school's first appearance in the NAIA Football Championship Series and a school record for wins overall and in the Central States Football League.

SNU went 9-3 overall and shared the CSFL league title.

The AFCA recognizes five regional Coach of the Year winners in each of the Association's five divisions: Football Bowl Subdivision, Football Championship Subdivision, Division II, Division III and NAIA. The winners are selected by active members of the association who vote for coaches in their respective regions and divisions.

The 2011 Regional Coach of the Year winners will be

recognized at the AFCA Coach of the Year Dinner at the 2012 AFCA Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10.

The AFCA began recognizing district coaches of the year following the 1960 season.

The awards were established the same year Eastman Kodak agreed to sponsor the AFCA Coach of the Year award. Prior to 1960, the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain had sponsored the program, which recognized one national Coach of the Year.

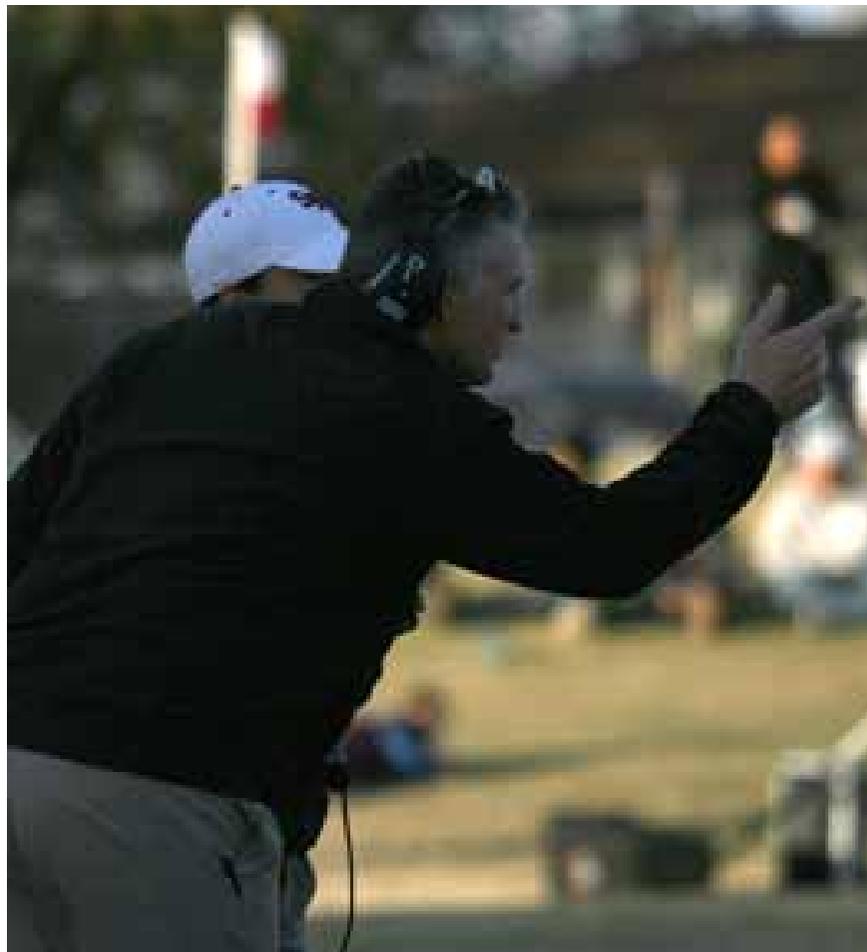
The AFCA first recognized eight district winners in each of two divisions: university and college. In 1972, a ninth district was added in each division.

In 1983, the award was changed to recognize regional winners instead of district winners, and the number of divisions was increased from two to four, and five regional winners were selected in each division. This resulted in a more equitable selection process and better represented the make-up of the membership. At the same

time, the new system increased the number of honorees from 18 to 20.

In 2006, the AFCA Division

II Award was split into separate Division II and NAIA divisions, giving the 25 winners they now recognize.



Cochran led SNU to a school record 9-3 mark. Photo from Sports Information.

## The Echo congratulates senior athletes for their contribution to our SNU legacy

### Storm Football: Chance Willard



SNU football over the past four years has meant a lot to me. I have friendships that will last a lifetime going through so much with my teammates. We got the privilege to win Conference this year the perfect way to top off my career as it comes to an end. Looking back on the last four years it started out as a place just to play football just to see how it was. It ended being the best decisions of my life, building relationships with people that I know are real and will always be there for me.

### Women's Storm soccer: Bruna DaCas



Being part of the SNU community has been an unforgettable experience. Also being in the SNU women's soccer team was a blessing for me because through the women's soccer team I choose not to be just be a team but also be part of family here in the USA. I've had the opportunity to study and play competitive soccer, something that is very hard to do in college in Brazil. I have meet wonderful people such as staff, students, and teachers--people who will be in my heart forever. I have learned how to grow inside and outside of the field. I am so thankful to be here, having all the great opportunities and enjoying something that many people would like to have.

## It's a Wonderful Life: We Mean More to the World than We Think

Jake O'Bannon, Staff Reporter

We are blessed people. Seriously, we have so much. Air to breathe, food to eat, shelter to live under. What a tremendous blessing, you know? It is time that we begin to focus less on what we don't have, and more on what we do.

Okay, so you're probably wondering, why all the optimism? Did I just get a job promotion? Solidify my Ring by Spring? Well, no, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night. (I can't resist a bad joke when I have the opportunity). But seriously, I just watched the 1946 classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

With the Christmas season upon us, it is only right to spend some time gathered together with family watching a holiday movie. And there is none better than *It's a Wonderful Life*. Directed by Frank Capra in 1946, the incredible Jimmy Stewart stars as "George Bailey."

Bailey has lived in the town of Bedford Falls all his life. After many years he starts feeling and itching that I am sure we're all familiar with – he starts feeling restless. Bailey believes that he has spent enough time in Bedford Falls, and it is time to go explore the world. He senses that his influence has run out in Bedford.

I believe there are times in our lives when God very directly calls

us to a situation, and there are times when He likes to be a little sneakier about showing us the way. In the case of George Bailey, God played a little bit of both roles.

George met a girl that changed his world days before he was scheduled to leave for his adventure. Around the same time his father, owner of the family bank, passed away. This was the only establishment in the city not owned by Mr. Potter, a greedy entrepreneur who lived his life trying to attain everything he could.

Eventually, George marries the girl he was so crazy about. For all of you that love cute, cheesy romance, you will adore their relationship in the early stages of this film.

But life takes a turn for the worse when George's uncle, Billy Bailey, misplaces the only money the bank has. George understandably takes this awfully hard, reaching the point of ending his life. It is here that his guardian angel, Clarence, comes from Heaven to save him. Clarence, a favorite character of mine, comes to Earth to show George what life would be like if he had never existed.

The section of the film where George does not exist is rough. George finds that life in Bedford Falls is not very good without him. Mr. Potter has taken over the town,

people are much more angry, and the quality of life has gone down for the town. This image generates a 180-degree turn in George's perspective, climaxing when he exclaims, "I want to live again!"

And live again he does. Clarence lets George come back to life. The new George Bailey is the happiest man you will ever see. He has a new, inspiring outlook on life. He also finds out just how much impact he has had on people, as the entire town, with the exception of Mr. Potter, shows up at his house, donating their own money to replace what the bank lost. Then comes my favorite quote of the film, when George's brother Henry makes a toast, saying, "To George Bailey, the richest man in town!"

In terms of money, George is in no way the richest man. But in terms of heart and love, Henry got it right. So how rich are you? When there are times when we feel the most down, do we really feel like the richest woman/man in town? Probably not. But let's take a lesson from George Bailey. We mean more to the world than we think. You impact the world more than you know. So start living with our focus not on what we don't have, but on all of the blessings we do have. Because friends, with God, it truly is a wonderful life.

## Local Events

12/9-12/25: FREE boatripe in the Water Taxi (Bricktown OKC) Thurs-Sun 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

12/10-1/1: Chesapeake Energy Snow Tubing (RedHawks Field) Time varies

12/10: Trans-Siberian Orchestra (Chesapeake Energy) 3:00 p.m.

12/12-2/4: Devon Ice Rink (Myriad Gardens) 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

12/11: Celtic Jam (Full Circle Bookstore) 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

12/2-1/1: Chesapeake Energy Snow Tubing (RedHawks Ballpark) \$10 Time varies

## SNU Events

9

10

Men's bball @ USAO  
Winter Commencement

11

12

Finals M/W/F Classes

13

Finals T/Th Classes

14

Finals M/W/F Classes

15

LAST DAY OF FINALS!

## Academy Award Winner, In a Better World: Rethinking How You View Violence

Abby Marra, Staff Reporter

Susan Bier's Oscar winning drama "In a Better World" poses tough questions about violence and whether or not "turning the other cheek" is the best option. The story follows the friendship of two young boys and their struggles with bullying.

Elias, a school misfit who is constantly harassed by the school bully, Sofus, becomes friends with the new kid in school, Christian, a troubled, angry, violent young boy. Dealing with his mother's untimely death from cancer, Christian believes that violence is the answer to everything. After being harassed by Sofus himself, Christian follows him into the school bathroom and beats him to a bloody pulp with a bicycle pump, later holding a knife to his throat and threatening his life.

After this incident, he proudly tells Elias, "No one will dare touch me now." Christian serves as a terrible influence for Elias, as he begins to view violence in a different light.

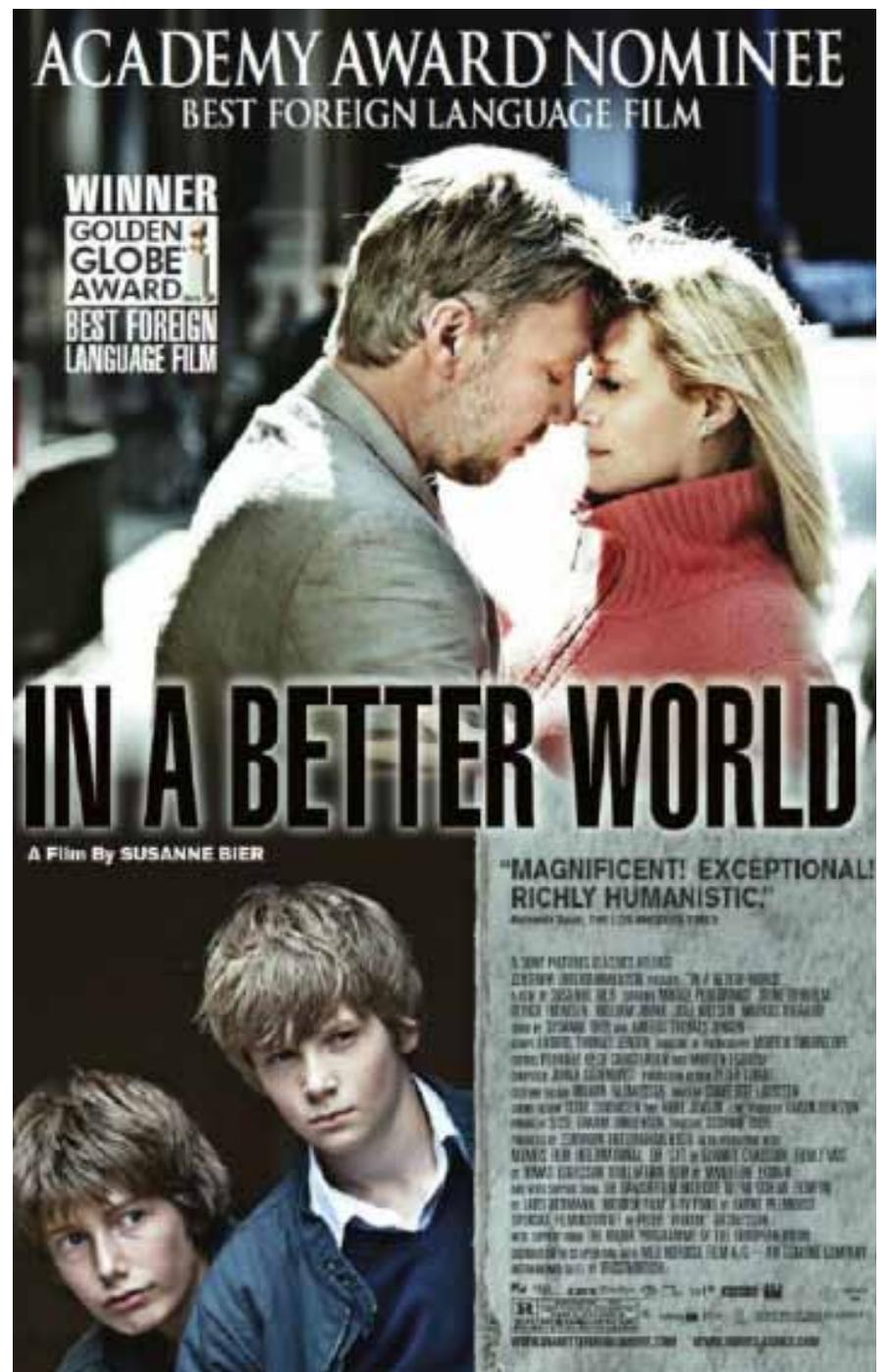
The plot also follows Elias' father, Anton, a pacifist surgeon who works in a remote village in Kenya. He spends his time operating on men and women who have been mutilated by the local gangster/warlord, nicknamed, "Big Man." One of the largest

conflicts in the film arises when "Big Man" comes into the camp with a critical wound demanding treatment, and the villagers beg Anton not to help him due to the horrors he has caused for their people.

When Anton returns home to his son, he does his best to show him the benefits of pacifism. At another critical point in the film, Anton gets into an argument with another father on a playground. The man is clearly the 'bully' type, and ends up punching Anton in the face. He doesn't retaliate in the least, and instead calmly takes his small son and Christian and Elias home.

Christian approaches Anton later, asking why he didn't defend himself. It is at this point that Anton tries to teach the two young boys the repercussions of violence, but Christian doesn't buy it. The film reaches a climax when Christian convinces Elias to help him build a pipe bomb to blow up the car of the man who punched Anton in the park.

The film is one of the best I've seen in a while, and challenges audiences to rethink how they view violence. I would strongly recommend this film to anyone who is up for watching an intellectual drama that will spark conversation and healthy debate.



Directed by Susanne Bier, this film is set in Denmark. Photo by Google Images.

## Bloopers of Fall, 2011: Are Teachers Really Helping Students to Read and Spill?

Compiled by Jim Wilcox, English Professor

It's that time in the semester to stress and fret and worry about all the school work that seemed to be SO FAR AWAY when we first looked at our syllabi.

Believe me when I tell you this: we professors stress, fret and worry, too. Five piles of 10-page papers is more than daunting. (Like you care. "Serves'em right," huh.) So to relieve some of that stress, fretting and worrying, do what I like to do: recline as far as your desk chair will allow and enjoy a

few of my students' wonderfully woeful writing. It's what I like most about my job.

(Well, yes, I also like the campus in autumn. Isn't it grand?)

"Are teachers really helping students to read and spill?" (This blooper needs no comment.)

"Marriage is a forever commitment and once a person has said their vows, divorce should not exist." (Must mean that "I do" is now "IOU")

"Each committee member had an increment of children." (Better "increment" than "excre..." Oh, never mind.)

"America tried several times to clam Iraq down." (and to clam them up, too)

"Never in the field of conflict was so much owned by so many to so few." (Three words: OCCUPY MAIN STREET)

"They were upset at the fact that the U.S. was sicking its nosie in someone else's business." (Who knowsies what that's supposed to meansies?)

"America engaged in the golf war to help Kuwait." ("FORE! INCOMING!")

"President Lincoln was killed by a Soviet Union leader while attending

a show with his wife." (Thus ending the Civil War and starting the Cold War.)

"Both religions have hire beings." (Are they paid minimum wage?)

"The entire nation is in a state of morning." (That's because we just turned our clocks back an hour.)

"Fathers are afraid to show fear." (Mothers, on the other hand, are uneasy about showing apprehension.)

"Fowl play is the major problem occurring at this time." (I know the Lakers thought so when Larry Bird was playing.)

continued on page 12

## Are Teachers Really Helping Students to Read and Spill? Cont.

*"In one hand, people in Brazil eat a lot of health food."* (...and in the other hand they eat Big Macs covered with white gravy.)

*"Football coaches have free rain."* (...but prefer the hail Mary.)

*"This could be solved with the implantation of instant replay."* (But it's hard to find an instant replay donor.)

*"The class room as we know it will seize to exist."* ("Oh cease it -- you're killing me!")

*"The girl was texting and diving."* (LOL!)

*"At the end of the day, women will be women and men will be me."* (Oh my kingdom for an "n")

*"Both cats and dogs have wet noises."* (Quit feeding them from the table, man!)

*"God has complete and udder control over everyone."* (Then why are there "Depends"?)

*"Drug abuse is where you do or take the drug so much that you abuse it."* (This is called "circumlocutionution")

*"The most reason for people start consume drugs is because influences."*

(Uh-huh. Sure. Whatever you say.)

*"American males have the responsibility of being goof fathers."* (I'm 100% American in that regard.)

*"Depression, anger, anxiety, annoyance have negative effects on the family, peers, and other aquatics."* (Then shouldn't that be "piers"?)

*"Telling kids liquor is made from Satin is the way to go."* (That's what makes it smooth, I hear.)

*"Have a Mary Christmas and a Happy Nude Year."* (That goes double for you.)



### FINE ARTS

**Chris McGrady**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

#### Interests & Hobbies:

Making stuff, camping/hiking/wilderness things, film photography, Odd Future, big gulps, the west coast, Workaholics, surf rock, friends, blogs, nonsense, etc.

#### Most Prized Possession:

My moccasins

#### Three Words that Best Describe Me:

Spontaneous, Wanderlust, Strange

#### Best Advice My Parents Gave Me:

"Prioritize"

#### What Motivates Me:

Scatterbrainedness

#### As A Child, I Dreamed of Being:

Write, painter, musician, actress, whatever...I could never decide. Not much has changed.

#### Pet Peeve:

When no one is actually using the microwave, yet it keeps flashing that obnoxious END sign.

#### Favorite Quote/Verse:

"Little by little, one travels far." -J.R.R Tolkien

## Class Christmas Parties: Ending the Year with Some Holiday Cheer



Sophomore class Christmas Party costume contest winners. Photo by Kira Roberts



Junior Class Christmas Party. Photo by Stephanie Reyes



Junior class Christmas party. Photo by Stephanie Reyes



Sophomore class Christmas party. Photo by Kira Roberts.

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