TEXAS ABILENE, **Vol. 90, Issue 9** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

OFFICIAL INAUGURATION

Welcomes Dr. Sandra Harper to McMurry University

Candace Boehm STAFF WRITER

Past, present, and community McMurry family members gathered together for a four day inaugural celebration of the appointing of the newest McMurry University President, Dr. Sandra Harper. Harper, who was once a professor here at Mc-Murry, technically took to her campus office in mid-October of the 2013 fall semester and has spent the past few months preparing for the official recognition of her position that would follow in the spring of 2014. After a few months of familiarizing with and observing the War Hawks' close-knit nest and flock members, Dr. Harper was joined on Monday, March 17, 2014, by current and former staff, faculty, alumni, and students in the enjoyment of a well-organized and exciting series of activities, banquets, and speeches, marking the beginning of her term as McMurry University's new president.

Historically, official inaugural ceremonies for university presidents have long been practiced and conducted by both current and former college alma maters Most universities (including McMurry) have their own sets of unique rituals and spirited traditions

that are displayed through various festivities and interactive events. Typically lasting a few days, these series of events ultimately lead up to the much-anticipated ceremonial endowment of leadership to the newly appointed individual—the so-called "presidential installation"-which allows the entire university family to officially recognize the new president and his or her step into the next few years of academic guidance, authority, and development.

This year at McMurry, Dr. Sandra Harper's inauguration week followed in lieu of the universal theme that seems to drive her goals and plans for War Hawks' future: "education for the greater good." The ceremonial events and fun-filled activities allowed attendees the special chance to interact with Dr. Harper on an individual basis, where they were able to ask questions, make comments, and talk personally with their future leader. Furthermore, the event allowed for everyone to recognize the historical significance of Harper's position, as her appointment in October represents a revolutionary milestone: the tumbling of the longheld gender barrier of male leadership in regard to the university's past lineage of presidents.

The opening evening

of the inauguration week brought McMurry War Hawks of all ages, tastes, and desires to the Furr Welcome center, together spreading their wings in welcome to the beginning of a new academic era. From the opening showcase and community reception of the "100 Women, 100 Words" exhibit to the more-serious and private cabinet meeting for Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences, Dr. Harper's inaugural celebration planned a little something for everyone to enjoy. In fact, students in the McMurry's Honors Program were invited by Dean of Students, Vanessa Bryan, to host the studentoriented event "Recess with Dr. Harper." The Honors' hosted recess, located on the Intramural Field, was a three-hour long celebration that allowed current War Hawks the chance to relax and chat with the president herself. Students enjoyed delicious (and free!) food, fun-filled games, awesome prizes, and an official croquet tournament that had every Hawk on their wings.

Indeed, as we celebrate this official inauguration of our newest president, Dr. Sandra Harper, let us all acknowledge our support and encouragement for the next few years to come, as we-current and former War Hawks alike-are to



certainly bear witness to an extraordinary amount of growth, change, and transformation within our university. In doing this, we accomplish three crucial aspects that bring us all to-

gether: One, we give our official welcome to Dr. Harper as the newest addition to our flock; two, we honorably remember the leaders of our past who ultimately influenced McMurry as it

stands today; and finally, we openly look towards the future and what it will one day mean for us to say that we once "bled maroon."



Passing on the Torch

Caty-Jane McSpadden

A hush falls over the people as the new President walks across the stage ready to accept her new role. Everyone watches as the torch moves from a beloved person, for everything that he did, to a new leader ready to bring her own talents to the table.

The inauguration of Mc-Murry University's newest President Dr. Sandra Harper will occur on March 20th. There will be many events leading up to the inauguration itself that will incorporate the entire student body and mark the beginning of something new for Mc-Murry.

Dr. Sandra Harper is the first female president of Mc-

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Murry University a fact that the University and Abilene community has every reason to take pride in. Mrs. President herself thinks it was time to break through that barrier. It should be inspiring to everyone that Dr. Harper has paved the way for others to break their own barriers to achieve their dreams and her inauguration is not just a change

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A NEW ACADEMIC ERA BEGINS Educating for the Greater Good

8:30 a.m. Bishop's Cabinet Meeting for Northwest Texas and

New Mexico Conferences President's Dining Room

*Private event

11:30 a.m. Women's Leadership Luncheon Mabee Room

*Ticket required to attend

1:30-2:30 p.m. "100 Women, 100 Words" Reception/Exhibit Furr Welcome Center and Gallery

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

7:30 p.m. President's Dinner Abilene Woman's Club *By invitation only

2-3 p.m. Student Forum

Furr Welcome Center

*By invitation only

5 p.m. Alumni Reception

Furr Welcome Center

6-7 p.m. Inaugural Concert

Radford Auditorium

8 a.m. Prayer Breakfast Bishops Hall

*By invitation only

11 a.m. Inauguration Ceremony Radford Auditorium

12:30 p.m. Inaugural Reception Mabee Room

2 p.m. Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting Furr Welcome Center

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WELLNESS CENTER HOURS

MONDAY Noon-11:00pm

TUESDAY 6:30am-9:00am and Noon-11:00pm

WEDNESDAY

Noon-11:00pm

THURSDAY

6:30am-9:00am and Noon-11:00pm

FRIDAY Noon-5:00pm

Noon-5:00pm

SUNDAY 6:00pm-9:00pm

POOL HOURS

6pm-9pm

MONDAY 7pm-9pm

TUESDAY

11am-1pm 7pm-9pm **WEDNESDAY**

7pm-9pm

THURSDAY 11am-1pm 7pm-9pm

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Closed

Timor-What?

Evelyn Gonzalez
STAFF WRITER

Timor-Leste, also referred to as East Timor, is half an island between Indonesia and Australia with a population of about 1.21 million. The people of Timor-Leste speak mostly Portuguese, English, and Tetun Dilia language that is only spoken in Timor-Leste. Their government has a President, Prime Minister, and Parliament. It was this year, after twelve years of being independent from both Portugal and Indonesia, that the Timorese saw their very first Winter Olympic athlete head to Sochi, Russia and compete for their country. 19-year-old Yohan Goncalves participated in the Alpine Skiing event. Since there are not any icy slopes in Timor-Leste, Goncalves trained in Australia, working hard to make his country proud. In the end, he ranked 77th overall, being the last player to finish, with many behind him that did not. Believe it or not, this is actually very good for a first-time Olympic athlete. Timor-Leste was more than thrilled by this victory.

So why is this relevant? As anyone in Model UN can tell you, Timor-Leste deserves some of the spotlight. For those who do not know, Model UN is a class that anyone can take, with permission from Dr. Tina Bertrand. The students in this class are assigned a different countryin this case, Timor-Lesteevery semester, and act as their United Nations (UN) representatives. There are various committees in the UN that Model UN reflects, based upon the actual UN committees that country participates in. Timor-Leste participates in six committees: General Assemblies 1, 2, 3, and 4, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weap-



ons (OPCW), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Each committee is designated 2 or 3 topics to focus on, and then they research for half a semester, all to write a position paper that will be sent off to National Model UN, which will be receiving position papers from other universities across the nation each representing other member countries or observing countries and non-governmental organizations. While Timor-Leste only has six committees, many other countries have more, so schools from around the globe will be participating in the Model UN confer-

Finally, to top it all off, all the students then take a trip to wherever their conference will be. This semester, Model UN will be held in New York City for an entire week. The conference only lasts five days, so our students will be exploring a lot of New York before getting down to business, even seeing a show on Broadway, or an opera. So far, they have decided as a group to attend a showing of "All the Way" on Broadway featuring Bryan Cranston. The show begins with the Kennedy assassination and goes into the first year of President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration, including his passing of Civil Rights legislation and his landslide re-election victory. The

show is sure to put all of Timor-Leste's delegates' in the political mindset minds for the parliament they will encounter during their committee meetings, ranging from women's rights to food security.

So, anyone who enjoys learning about a country, developing real-life solutions to obstacles they face, and does not mind traveling, Model UN may be the class to take. For any student who is interested, the conference next semester will be in Italythe very home of the Olympic Games that Goncalves and many other athletes participated in this year. Keep that in mind when choosing classes. You may find yourself more interested in Model UN than you ever imagined you would be.



If you are a club president, please contact Sheila Kitts at kitts.sheila@mcm.edu to arrange a time to have your group's photo taken for the 2013-14 Talon yearbook.



Teacher Job Fair

9 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 20 Abilene Civic Center

49 School Districts/ Organizations attending!

TORUH...continued from page 1

for the university itself, but for everyone involved in some shape or form with McMurry. As Dr. Harper said "Change is everywhere. You learn to adapt to the change."

There has been a lot of preparation for this special event on campus with committees meeting, speeches, and planning luncheons and panels. The inauguration itself is the ceremonial passing of the torch from one president to another. The brining in of a new leader to the university for the greater good. A presidential inauguration does not happen very often and President Harper's in particular holds a greater impact than others because McMurry will have its first woman president, which is a breakthrough for the McMurry community to celebrate and take pride in.

Besides the inauguration itself there will be an entire week planned full of events. An art show titled '100 Women 100 Words' has been hung in the Furr Welcome Center Hallway leading into Radford Auditorium showcasing 8' by 8' canvases utilized to depict what it means to be a wom-

an from the point of view of women in the Abilene area. This show includes the work of many Mc-Murry students, staff and faculty featuring the work of Dr. Sandra Harper herself. There will be a field day on Tuesday of Inauguration Week for students and organizations to get to know Dr. Harper on a more fun and personal level. At this field day there will be drawings for students and organizations to win a chance to have a meal with Dr. Harper. On Wednesday there will be a Women's Leadership Luncheon where Distinguished Female Alumni of McMurry University will create a panel for specially selected female student leaders on campus will be able to ask questions. For freshman and new students to McMurry the changing of presidents occurred right at the beginning of their experience on campus. It is a whirlwind of things which freshman and newer students alike have yet to fully understand, and the inauguration will give them a chance to learn more about McMurry. Dr. Harper entells you a lot about hoe the university views itself. What are they emphasizing? Is there an overall theme throughout the whole process and it's educating for the greater good." All students are encouraged to attend this monumental event because it is an opportunity to see McMurry University is a way they normally would not.

Dr. Harper hopes students and staff alike will see the opportunity available through the passing of the Presidential torch, "Change is everywhere. You learn to adapt to the change." Now is the time to explore something new and to look for those new horizons. Dr. Harper is here for the Greater Good of education and everyone here at McMurry should welcome the change. Along with the ceremonial and symbolic torch passing, Dr. Harper's Presidential Inauguration is a time for students, faculty, staff, and the Abilene community involved to remember everything McMurry University stands. It is also an opportunity for them to see what the alumni who graduate from here are because of McMurry.



Athletic Events This Week in Abilene

3/19/14: Baseball vs. Southeastern Oklahoma State University at 1 p.m. Promotions: Tweet your Seat

3/21/14: Track at the War Hawk Classic at Noon. First 25 student get a free War Hawks drawstring bag. Promotions: SUPER FAN Contest

Tennis vs. St. Edward's University at 2 p.m.

Baseball vs. Lubbock Christian University 3 p.m. (DH) Promotions: United Super Markets Trivia Challenge. Tweet your Seat

3/22/14: Track at the War Hawk Classic 11 a.m. First 25 students get a free #talonsstrike rally towel

Tennis vs. Dallas Baptist University at 1 p.m.

Baseball vs. Lubbock Christian University at 1 p.m. Promotions: Tweet your Seat



couraged new students to

Ala Cumba Coach Neel

Salome Felise Block

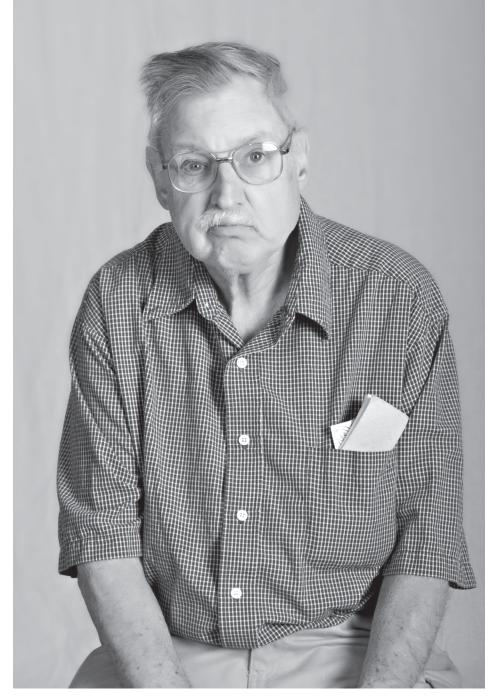
Every freshman that is orientated to McMurry University learns the phrase "Ala Cumba" and Coach Neel Lemond was no different. Even before he was a part of the McMurry University family he was shouting the phrase at games along with the crowd when called upon for school spirit. Not many students know the meaning of such a tiding and, in answer to all the questions arising about Coach Neel's passing on the McMurry University Facebook page, Pug Parris shed some light on the subject "Ala Cumba, loosely translated, means 'on to victory. Isn't it wonderful to

bid the greatest Ala Cumba to our friend Neel?" This phrase, which is as much a part of McMurry as Coach Neel was, is indeed the perfect tiding to guide that War Hawk's wings up to Heaven.

At 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7th at Southwest Drive United Methodist Church, McMurry University, along with the Abilene community, said goodbye to one of their greatest friends and heroes. Coach Neel exemplified all the values of McMurry University and had truly fulfilled a life of leadership and service. As alumnus Debbie Baker Chamness eloquently described "He was what McMurry is and should be about; Christian love and acceptance. I loved Mc-Murry because of people

like Coach 'Bat,' always kind, loving, LOYAL to the Indian Spirit!" McMurry prides itself on the people that it attracts to nurture the students and Coach Neel was quite possibly one of the greatest individuals drawn to this tight knit community. He was a constant through the classes of both Indians and War Hawks.

Coach Neel was no stranger to any student, staff or faculty member on campus actively participating in the chapel band, affectionately known as "Coach Bat" by the sports teams he assisted to victory throughout the years, a family role model for any student who affectionately called him "Uncle Neel," a former sweetheart of the sorority Pi Delta Phi and so many more innumerable roles on campus. Neel's participation in the lives of students spans generation of the Mc-Murry family and the community's love of him could be described as enviable. As alumnus Liz Wood said, "His love for McMurry and all it stands for was amazing and to be a part of a group that took him in and loved him; we were blessed. We would go and pick him up or drop him off for functions - usually a car full of us to go get him because who wouldn't want a car load of college girls to come and pick you up? I am sure that some of the other residents in the home he lived in were very jealous of that." Older



generations of alumni recall memories of "Neel riding around campus on his bike with the [Pi Phi] flag," as Tonja Gray said on Facebook followed by Frank Rauch's tiding "God Bless you Coach Neel - sound that horn on your bike!"

Coach Neel will go down in McMurry History by many names, all of which exemplify his many roles in the lives of the Indians and War Hawks he served. Most everyone in the classes currently attending McMurry University knows him as Coach something. The athletes may lean towards "Coach Bat," the dutiful chapel goers may refer to him as Uncle Neel, but all students know who

he was. Everyone who met him was met with a smile and an inquiry into their life that established a personal connection. So, as we say goodbye to this Indian and War Hawk that affected the lives of each and every one of us, we shall all shout: "Ala Cumba Coach/Uncle Neel!"

McMurry History Majors Dominate Statewide Research and Writing Competition



McMurry University history majors achieved top honors at the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in San Antonio. Besting their peers from universities and colleges from across the state, Katie Hinton and Ashley Dandridge brought home firstand second-place awards in the upper division of the TSHA's C. M. Caldwell Memorial Awards for Excellence in History.

Hinton earned a firstplace certificate and a \$400 award for her paper entitled, "Time in Stitches: Quilting in Floyd County." Dandridge secured the second-place award and a \$300 award for her paper, "Black Education in Hamlin, Texas: Early Years to Integration." Both women are also inductees of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. Ashley Mayer, the president of the Mc-Murry chapter, attended the annual conference of Texas historians and was present as her classmates accepted

their prizes. Stephen L. Hardin, McMurry history professor and Phi Alpha Theta sponsor, also attended the award ceremony.

Hinton and Dandridge wrote their award-winning monographs as part of the History Department's Historical Methods and Senior Seminar courses, co-taught by professors Stephen L. Hardin and Robert T. Maberry. These awards are a testament to the efficacy of the department's celebrated writing program, which devotes an entire semester to teaching the techniques of historical research and another to scholarly writing.

The achievements of these young women are all the more impressive when one considers that the TSHA meeting was the first scholarly conference they had ever attended.

On April 5, McMurry history majors will travel to Denton to participate in the Northeast Texas Regional Phi Alpha Theta Confer-

Mockaritaville

with

Kelsev Frazier

Break: the warm sun, the vacationing

friends and the long break

Everyone loves

from school. However, we all know that there can be a lot of alcohol on those vacation spots and there is a lot to consider when you go to those places. Mockerittaville is an activity that warns you of all the dangers that could occur over Spring Break, such as UV radiation from too much sun and the risks of drinking and driving. Ronda Hoelscher, our Campus nurse, explained that "Mockeriattaville" is the University's pre-Spring Break alcohol awareness program to help make students more aware of the dangers of too much sun exposure, texting and driving, and how to keep safe while still having a good time. These give a ways continue to remind people after the event to help keep them safe. On March 5th

on the Quad there was a

long twisting course out

lined by bright orange

cones and the McMurry

University Campus Security

golf car. Ronda Hoelscher,

was out in the Campus

Center handing free draw

string back packs, kooizses,

notepads, pens and pen-

cils while giving students a

ride on the "booze buggy"

obstacle course. The booze

buggy is an exercise where

students attempt to driving

the golf cart through the

course with different pairs of goggles that were blurred to two different intoxication levels, and the cones that lined the path symbolized people. The first half of the course was driven with a pair of goggles that were blurred to the equivalent of someone with a .05 alcohol level. After putting on the goggles, I had an instantaneous head ache, though all the cones were in the same place they were very blurry. I made sure to drive extremely slowly. I was successful in not killing anyone on the first half, but my second attempt was not so lucky. At the half way marker, Ronda Hoelscher had you stop the cart and trade out the goggles for a pair that were the equal of having a blood alcohol level of .25, over half the legal limit. This attempt was much more difficult. In the first few seconds of the attempt, I had already run over two people and was

driving on the sidewalk. Everything seemed to shift to the left and my small head ache turned into a massive migraine. This was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. Two other students, Sam Galyon and Nilo Ordonez, took a turn on driving the booze buggy. Nilo commented, "It was fun, though hard to see. It was enjoyable. I felt a little dizzy and really bad for the four technical people that I killed. Though I am thankful they were just cones." Sam Galyon said "It was very strange, seeing as the first pair barely impaired my vision, the second pair made seeing the cones much harder. Staying in between the cones with the .25 goggles was the hardest part. Driving the remote control car with goggles was not too terrible, but was definitely not as hard as the golf cart had been." Inside

the Campus Center they

were serving mockerittas, different alcoholic beverages that lacked the alcohol. The flavors consisted of Piña Colada, Strawberry, and Lime. For sun protection, Ronda Hoelscher gave out little bracelets with UV beads on them. The beads would be clear inside rooms and buildings, but when in the UV rays from the sun hits them, they would turn different colors. These color changing beads are a warning for students to be aware of being under UVV radiation and to not stay under the rays to long. This awareness program is very effective, as well as fun. The amount of fun is enough to keep you curious as well as keeping you aware of the grave dangers that Spring Break can bring.





McMurry to Rejoin American Southwest Conference

McMurry University will be returning to its NCAA Division III athletics roots, as American Southwest Conference (ASC) officials announced today the forthcoming return of the War Hawks' athletics program to the league. McMurry was one of the eight founding member of the ASC in May 1996.

The announcement was made by Dr. Rod Mabry, president of the University of Texas at Tyler and chair of the ASC Council of Presidents. The ASC also announced the addition of Belhaven University (Miss.) to its roster of member schools, which will raise the American Southwest Conference membership to 13 institutions.

The exact ASC admittance date for each institution is contingent upon their date of successful admittance by the NCAA into the required Division III membership program.

"The American Southwest Conference presidents are pleased to welcome both McMurry University and Belhaven University to our conference membership," said Mabry. "The pending membership expansion will strengthen our conference in a number of ways and will benefit their student-athletes as well as current ASC student-athletes with improved conference scheduling opportunities. We look forward to renewing and initiating spirited athletic competition and rivalries with both institutions."

McMurry and Belhaven each support athletics programs that fit with those sponsored by the American Southwest Conference, including sports that will bolster overall ASC sponsorship numbers in men's and women's golf, football, and men's and women's track and field. Postseason championship opportunities will be enhanced along with regular-season opportunities.

"Inclusion of McMurry and Belhaven continues



the American Southwest Conference mission of providing an environment for learning, competition and cooperative efforts within our membership," said Amy Carlton, ASC commissioner. "The membership additions create an occasion for our administrators to revisit season scheduling and postseason tournament models for potential adjustments where we maximize conference scheduling, maintain in-region Division III non-conference opportunities, and reduce stress on missed class time and travel costs.

University McMurry left the conference in June 2012, seeking to reclassify to NCAA Division II. In January 2014, President Dr. Sandra S. Harper and the University's Board of Trustees announced that McMurry would withdraw from the Division II membership process. McM instead opted to remain with the NCAA III and its philosophy for the university's athletics program

"McMurry University is delighted to rejoin the American Southwest Conference," stated Dr. Harper. "Commissioner Carlton and the ASC presidents have been very supportive in our effort to compete in NCAA Division III. The ASC invitation is one of the major steps in crafting our scholar-athlete program to fit with our institutional mission and centennial vision. We look forward to the competition and the camaraderie of the ASC."

During its previous 16 years as a member of the American Southwest Con-

ference, McMurry won two NCAA Division III national titles (men's track and field 2008, '12), and collected 41 ASC conference championships. Since leaving the ASC, McMurry athletic programs have competed in the Division II Heartland Conference and Lone Star Conference. The War Hawks compete nationally in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), winning the 2012 national tournament title in volley-

McMurry offers 19 intercollegiate athletics programs, ten men and nine women, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's track and field, and women's volleyball.

American Current Southwest Conference membership includes Concordia University Texas, East Texas Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University, Howard Payne University, LeTourneau University, Louisiana College, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Mississippi College, University of the Ozarks, Sul Ross State University, University of Texas at Dallas and University of Texas at Tyler. The University of California, Santa Cruz is an affiliate ASC member in women's golf. Mississippi College will withdraw from the conference in June 2013 to reclassify to NCAA Division II.



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Applications Due

March 28, 2014

Interviews April 1-4, 2014

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- A completed application must accompany all resumes.
- Only those with completed application packets will be selected and called back for an interview.





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Every Thursday from 11 to 11:40 a.m.

Radford Prayer Chapel
(admissions entrance) located at the very top of the left stairs.