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SPORTS Track season comes to a successful end. Page 1B



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Swine flu outbreak threatens to become pandemic

opinions editor

In light of the predicted swine flu pandemic, members of Harding's Emergency Management Committee met Tuesday to discuss preventative measures. The committee, which was formed in 2001 shortly after Sept. 11, has representatives from most departments on campus, providing for a wide range of input.

Lynn McCarty, director of Student Health Services, said Tuesday's meeting was to discuss a pandemic plan and how to implement it if the need arises.

"The plan includes communication with the campus, identifying people who are at risk for exposure or infection, caregiver training and plans for those who do become ill," McCarty said. "[We also discussed] how we interface with state and local agencies for the best outcome for our students, faculty and staff."

What to call this new strain of flu has been debated, and the World Health Organization said that as of April 30, it will only

by ASHTON REELY refer to it by its official designation, influenza A (H1N1), after the Egyptian government began slaughtering pigs in a misguided attempt to contain the virus (it is not spread through pigs or by eating pork). News of its spread has been raising alarms around the globe. Though influenza viruses tend to come out of Asia, this strain seems to originate in Mexico.

> According to the WHO Web site, as of April 30, 11 countries have officially reported 257 cases of swine influenza.

The United States government has reported 109 laboratory-confirmed human cases of infection over 11 states, with one death. There have been no reported cases in Arkansas.

Mexico, the epicenter of the pandemic, has reported 97 confirmed human cases of infection, including seven deaths.

Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO's Director-General, raised the current level of influenza pandemic alert from phase four to five (out of six levels), stating, "all countries should immediately activate their pandemic preparedness plans.'

see FLU page 3a swine flu outbreak.



photo by RODRIGO ABD | AP

Passengers walk inside a metro station in Mexico City on Wednesday. A citywide shutdown has been declared in Mexico City due to the

Hundreds 'rescued' at LR event

student reporter

People slowly awoke in their sleeping bags Sunday morning with hard pavement beneath them and the reality that they were still not "rescued." The sun was peeking above the buildings that overshadowed the cold parking lot. Disappointment was apparent in the eyes of the sleepy men and women as they prepared to wait tor a cultural or political leader to come and rescue them. By Sunday morning at 5, the participants had been waiting for more than 12 hours straight.

Soon, however, they realized that their hopelessness was nothing in comparison to the child soldiers in Uganda that they were there to represent. Children in Uganda have been robbed of their childhoods and forced into military service over the past 20 years, experiencing a deeper hopelessness every day they are under the army's control. The participants' brief glimpse of bleakness was dwarfed by the children's constant fear and grief from being abducted and forced to serve in an army.

Saturday, April 24, hundreds of people gathered at Little Rock's capitol building to be voluntarily "abducted" in participation with Invisible Children's event, The



photo courtesy of NATALIE FREEMAN

About 400 people, mostly area college students, were "abducted" Saturday, April 24, during The Rescue, an event held to raise awareness for the Invisible Children organization.

Invisible Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and pursuing a solution for the plight of the children in Uganda who are abducted and forced to serve in a rebel army, the Lord's Resistance Army, under the leadership of Joseph Kony. It is a crisis more than 20 years old and is now receiving attention through documentaries and awareness movements, such as The Rescue.

The Rescue event began with the participants meeting at Little Rock's capitol building, the "abduction site." Pictures of the participants were stapled to a board, and the "abducted" groups walked connected by a rope for two and a half miles to the "Lord's Resistance Army camp," the War Memorial Stadium's parking lot. Once there, they set up a miniature encampment, rolling out their sleeping bags to prepare for the

coming night with the knowledge that they would not be "rescued" until certain qualifications were met: coverage by the media and attendance by a cultural or political leader.

Little Rock was one of 100 cities participating in The Rescue across 10 countries, including the U.S., South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, UK and Ireland.

see RESCUE page 3a

Clifton holds his first SA meeting

by SARAH KYLE staff reporter

With the 2008-2009 school year coming to a close, President-elect Bryan Clifton led his first Student Association meeting Wednesday, April 29, to discuss ideas and plans for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

Clifton said students could look forward to a variety of things next year, including new additions to make daily chapel more exciting and useful for the student body.

Among these additions are plans to have one completely student-led chapel each week. Clifton said he hoped this would make students more interested in the chapel program.

Clifton said he would like to get students who have never spoken in chapel to speak, and students should give suggestions for possible speakers.

Also new next fall will be chapel videos every Monday to announce an event or theme on campus for the week. Topics for these videos are currently undecided, but they will be made by Harrison Dell, Brett Ellis, Nathan Dullnig, JT Hill, Brett Fielder and others.

"That's the stuff that people really remember. Everybody loves chapel videos," Clifton said. "It's Monday morning, setting a good tone, good mood, getting people to wake up, get them ready for the week.

All videos will be posted on the SA Web site, which Clifton said would be up and running by early this summer. The Web site will also feature a Google calendar for events across campus and SA meetings, as well as pictures of all SA officers, class and dorm representatives and committee chairs.

Clifton said students could also look forward to the return of the HUD Cup, a series of games and competitions between different dormitories across campus. Clifton said the HUD Cup will be especially aimed at incoming freshmen and the sophomore class and will be a way to get students more involved and excited about campus life.

Other possibilities for the fall semester include an involvement fair for service and interest organizations, an all-school retreat and tailgates to increase school participation at athletic events.

Guest professor speaks on economic development

New interdisciplinary major in international development planned between Colleges of Business, Bible

photo by NICK MICHAEL | Petit Jean

Dr. David Bronkema, the Director of International Development at Eastern University, speaks to a group of Harding students and faculty during a presentation cosponsored by the College of Business Administration and the College of Bible and Religion. This discussion was the latest of several events on Harding's campus focused on economic development.

assistant copy editor

Dr. David Bronkema, Director of International Development at Eastern University, spoke about economic development April 23 in the McInteer building. The College of Bible and Religion cosponsored the event with the College of Busi-

ness Administration. "In some ways, it was symbolic of business having a purpose and business as missions and also the Bible department being concerned with social justice as well as evangelism," said Chris Cochran, a senior accounting and finance major.

Bronkema is also an associate professor of international development at Eastern, a Christian university in Philadelphia. According to Cochran and Dr. Monte Cox, Dean of the College of Bible and Religion,

Bronkema was well received. "I believe the audience response was positive," Cox said. "Many of our students are exploring minis-

try opportunities in international

development. So it was great to

have a guest on campus with Dr.

by JORDAN BAILEY Bronkema's expertise and experience."

Some of the focuses of the speech were on developing a balance between evangelism and social action. Cochran said Bronkema spoke about God's concern for the oppressed and the responsibility to meet people's needs in conjunction with sharing faith.

"For me, it bridged the disparity I had felt before between those who say evangelism is more important and those who take action," Co-

Cochran worked with Cox and Dr. Bryan D. Burks, Dean of the College of Business Administration, to bring Bronkema to Harding. Bronkema hosted Cochran and Burks on a trip to Philadelphia in November 2008, and Eastern also hosted a Harding spring break

campaign in 2008. Burks said he agreed with Cochran and Cox about the success and acceptance of Bronkema's presentation.

"It was obvious from the evening presentation with a crowd of over 100 students that there is an interest from our student body," Burks said. "The questions were thought-provoking and relevant to today's discussion of this issue."

Burks announced at the event that the College of Bible and Religion and the College of Business Administration are looking to begin an interdisciplinary major and minor in international development.

We do plan to look at our curriculum in the near future,"Burks said. "We will investigate undergraduate as well as graduate opportunities in economic development."

Cox said he and Burks have been discussing an interdisciplinary major in international development for the past few years.

"We do want to explore the possibility of offering a B.A. degree in International Development," Cox said. "In the meantime, we are investigating ways of offering an interdisciplinary degree according to guidelines in the current catalogue."

Bronkema's presentation was filmed and is available on iTunes U for students who are interested but were unable to attend the event.