

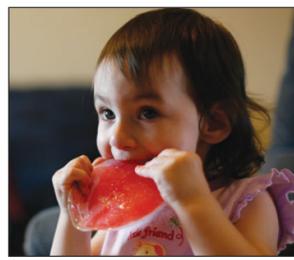
# Bison *the*

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**PEOPLE**  
Harding strives to raise money for toddler's lung transplant.  
Page 6B



## University House opened to female students

Burks and his wife, who built House, move off campus

by **JORDAN BAILEY**  
copy editor  
**NICK MICHAEL**  
staff photographer

Despite the economic downturn, Harding has another record enrollment, which has caused continued overcrowding in residence halls. One of the administration's responses to this problem has been to place 11 females in University House, the former residence of President David Burks and his family.

Last year, 10 girls were housed in the Ulrey House,

which was called Oak Cottage, because of overcrowding, and this year that overflow was transferred to University House.

The number of girls was decided upon based on bedroom and bathroom space. Assistant Dean of Students Sheri Shearin said they have no more than four girls to a bathroom to mimic the dorms.

Shearin was told in June that the house would be used as a residence hall for females. After the Burkses moved out, Shearin had to organize furnishing for the house and

arrange parking for the girls. According to Shearin, most of the furniture was transferred from Oak Cottage, which is now being rented by a family. Some items were purchased from the Burkses' garage sale, and nothing was bought new.

Burks made the decision to use the space as a female dormitory, and the Board of Trustees agreed with his recommendation.

"There were some other options, but it seemed to be that the best option would be for girls to live in it because it's close by, and it just seemed

like a good functional use of the space for right now," Burks said.

Burks and his wife made the decision to move approximately 18 months ago, and the decision was motivated by their desire to own their home. They have owned the land where they built their current residence for about 20 years, and they decided that the timing was right to make a move before he retires within the next five years.

"It also gives me the see HOUSE on page 6a



photo by NICK MICHAEL | The Bison

Eleven female students reside in University House because of overcrowding elsewhere,

## 7 DAYS ACROSS AMERICA



photos by NOAH DARNELL | The Bison

Andrew Baker, director of the Encouragement Foundation, recognizes teens for their good works in Detroit, Mich. Baker and representatives of the foundation flew to 14 cities across America to share such teens' inspiring stories.

### The search is on for the most encouraging teens in America

by **KYLIE AKINS**  
assistant news editor



How would a life be changed if discouragement was met with optimism? What would that kind of cycle do to the world?

Two years ago, Andrew Baker, executive director of the Institute of Church and Family at Harding and director of the Encouragement Foundation, presented students at the National Leadership Forum with the question, "What is the biggest problem in your high school?" The students agreed that drugs, alcohol and bullying have always been major problems, but at the root of it all was discouragement. Discouragement to them is a constant force on their lives, from both the media and their families.

The solution they presented was the National Day of Encouragement, and the Encouragement Foundation was created to support the newly recognized day.

"It was an opportunity I saw to spread a message that I think is in the DNA of all people," Baker said. "We all have the ability to encourage, and we all have the need to be encouraged. Everyone is just at a different level."

On Sept. 5 representatives for the Encouragement Foundation began their trek across America, stopping in 14 cities to share the inspiring stories of local teenagers. Called 7 Days Across America, the trek will lead up to the National Day of Encouragement, Sept. 12, at the finale in New York City to award one of the teenage finalists a \$5,000 college scholarship.

"The idea is simply that nine times out of ten in the mainstream media when you see a teenager, they killed somebody," Baker said. "And we want to change that and show that is not most teenagers. There are a lot of amazingly talented and gifted teenagers out there just doing awesome stuff."

Baker said he hopes telling these stories will inspire people to encourage each other genuinely in an active way.

see 7 DAYS on page 6a

## Swine flu virus caught on campus

by **KIM KOKERNOT**  
features editor

Harding officials confirmed Wednesday that the H1N1 virus has found its way to campus and has infected several students.

Better known as swine flu, this rapidly spreading virus has caused mild flu symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Many people infected by the virus have also reported vomiting and diarrhea.

Students with confirmed cases of the flu have been asked to self-isolate by staying in their dorm rooms and limit their contact with other students in order to deter the spread of illness.

Because the H1N1 virus is new, the World Health Organization said they expect few people to have any immunity to it.

An estimated 30 percent of people who are exposed to the H1N1 virus will become infected, Ed Barham, spokesman for the Arkansas Health Department, said Wednesday.

But health officials and Dean of Students David Collins have urged students not to be alarmed.

### Swine Flu 101

- This virus strain was discovered in people in the U.S. in April 2009.
- A vaccine is being produced and may be ready for fall.
- One-third of adults 60 years old or older may have antibodies against the virus.
- The virus mainly spreads via coughing or sneezing.

"We want [students] to understand that it's not something to panic about because the symptoms that we are seeing are less severe than in the common flu in most cases," Collins said. "We feel the responsibility to educate students in what the reality of the circumstances is, and how they can take care of themselves and others."

The flu is thought to be contagious for a full day before symptoms develop, which generally last from five to seven days. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that anyone who has had flu symptoms stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone.

According to the CDC, the virus is most commonly transmitted from person to person in the respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. When a sick person sneezes, virus-infected droplets can travel a distance of about 5 feet. The CDC also said that the virus can survive on contaminated surfaces for two to eight hours.

Practicing unhygienic habits like sharing food and drink, along with living in close quarters, has caused this disease to spread across college campuses nationwide.

Cases of flu-like symptoms have been reported in every Arkansas county, but Barham said the virus is so widespread that there is no longer any benefit in saying that there is "a case here and a case there."

"You're not going to be able to stay away from it anymore, so you have to protect yourself," Barham said.

To prevent illness, students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently, use hand sanitizer and avoid contact with sick friends.

Director of Health Services Lynn McCarty asks that students who test positive for the flu to practice the Golden Rule and "do unto others as

see SWINE FLU on page 6a