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UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR

The Bells

RINGING IN THE TRUTH SINCE 1866

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“CUT!”: Behind the Scenes of UMHB’s Stunt Night Tradition



Photo by Allyson Hinkle/TheBells

Members of the sophomore class get in their opening pose for one their musical numbers. For this number they are performing to “Kung Fu Fighting” by Carl Douglas.

By Allyson Hinkle
Editor in Chief

As the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor kicks off its Homecoming week of festivities, another university tradition has been making its final preparations for its grand unveiling. Stunt Night will open the doors of Walton Chapel Sept. 21 and 22 as members of each class will perform skits for the student body as well as the community.

Though now clumped into Homecoming festivities,

Stunt Night originally was held during the winter break when first performed in 1909. Then physical education instructor George Rosborough initially created Stunt Night as a form of activity for students who were not able to travel home.

The purpose of Stunt Night is not only to entertain audiences but to “build a bond between [its] members and create class spirit,” as stated by UMHB. Sophomore class director Madelyn Tipton, a Christian ministry ma-

yor, shared the same sentiment stating:

“Last year at Stunt Night... I watched how our class got to work together and saw the growth between classes. It was so much fun to be a part of and after listening to people talk about how much fun they had... I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of and something I wanted to do with my class.”

Preparations for Stunt Night happen multiple months before the acts take the stage.

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Investment Club’s Guide to the Stock Market

By Xhaxany Cuellar
Assistant Editor

The McLane College of Business Investment Club is a vibrant and student-led organization. The club’s mission, according to their website is to empower its members to confidently navigate the intricate realms of markets, industries, and companies.

With an unwavering focus on financial stewardship, the club equips students with invaluable experience through hands-on investing in the dynamic and often unpredictable world of the stock market.

Central to this remarkable journey is an annual donation from an anonymous benefactor. This generous contribution forms the bedrock of the club’s investment portfolio, providing the capital that fuels their finan-

cial adventures. Every semester, students eagerly allocate a predetermined sum of this capital, their eyes filled with anticipation as they embark on a journey of financial growth and education.

Importantly, their approach is not one of blind faith or mere speculation; it is firmly grounded in the principles of fundamental analysis.

According to the club president, Matthew Schwab, a senior Finance and Economic major, fundamental analysis is the club’s compass, enabling them to delve deep into the intricacies of financial ratios and a company’s overall performance.

The ratios they employ aren’t one-size-fits-all; they adapt to the nuances of each sector and the stock’s position within it. This commitment to a nu-

anced approach aligns perfectly with their steadfast adherence to the principles of value investing.

Before committing any funds, club members meticulously scrutinize stock ratios to assess whether a stock is trading above or below its intrinsic value, ensuring that each investment is underpinned by sound financial reasoning.

In the realm of portfolio management, the club places a premium on democratic decision-making. Students actively participate in regular votes and discussions, fostering an environment where ideas are freely exchanged, and decisions are collectively made.

The club’s commitment to agility is exemplified by their approach to underperforming stocks.

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Golf Facility Rolls Along

By Brock Pfrommer
Volunteer Staff

Great progress has been made on the new on-campus golf practice facility at Mary Hardin-Baylor. The facility, which is officially named the Jane and Mac Hickerson Crusader Golf Club, looks to provide an on-campus space for both the men’s and women’s golf teams to practice their golfing skills.

Originally announced last fall, the practice facility is being completed at a blistering pace, with the expectation that athletes will be able to begin practicing on the greens next semester, with a clubhouse and additional buildings coming in the future. The speed at which the facility is being completed has been a major talking point amongst the men’s team.

“Whenever I first came here the golf facility was on (UM-

HB’s) to-do list, but I never thought it would be here so soon,” said Banner Scarborough, a sophomore entrepreneurship and small business major who plays on the men’s team.

Some of the features of the golf facility include four main



UMHB

greens, a special area of grass on the golf course that surrounds each hole, which will incorporate multiple tee pads to add variety and technicality to

the otherwise limited space.

In addition, the facility will include a dedicated putting and chipping green with lights to allow athletes to practice at night.

With the campus now having a practice facility within its borders, athletes will be able to practice more conveniently, as currently they must practice at one of three golf courses: Wildflower Country Club, Sammons Park Golf Course or Stonetree Golf Course, none of which are within a convenient distance of campus.

“I’m definitely most excited for the lit-up putting green, that’s going to be good for some late-night practice,” Banner added.

“I’ll get to fine-tune, we really need a facility for what we are working with, this is going to be really good (for the team).”

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Past to Present: A History of UMHB’s Alumni

By Xhaxany Cuellar
Assistant Editor

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor became an institution in 1845, over 178 years ago. Since then, over 26,000 graduates have created numerous paths to make the university what it is today.

Some of UMHB’s alumni include Jerrell Freeman, Lucy Wilson Rice and Buddy Groom; all of who, alongside their classmates, have gone on to have successful careers in professional sports, journalism and missionary work.

The UMHB Alum-

ni Center and Museum aims to preserve the history of the university while providing an experience for former alumni to visit and relive their experiences and allowing students to learn about the university’s past.

Director of Alumni Relations Jeff Sutton graduated from UMHB in both 2007 and 2019 and now works to connect alumni to the university years after graduating. Every month, Sutton sends out emails and letters to inform alumni members about university events and highlight traditions.

The Alumni Center works with multiple members of university staff to plan class reunions and networking opportunities.

One of the biggest events for alumni is Homecoming, with over 700 alumni members and 1,400 guests expected to attend. A year of planning goes into organizing Homecoming and this year, the Alumni Center has planned 22 events for students and alumni.

“The goal each year is for Homecoming to look effortless, but we have a whole team that dedicated months to preparing,” Sutton

stated.

In addition to Homecoming, the Alumni Center celebrates “The Charter” on Feb. 1 to highlight the day the charter of the school was signed in 1845.

This year, the Charter celebration will host the 50 year reunion of the class of 1974 and the reunion for Historical Phila, Royal Academia and Campus Boys. A celebration lunch and special message will be given for the induction of the 1974 class into the heritage club and will take place April 20, 2024.



The first students and staff moved from Independence to Belton at Luther Hall in 1886. Luther Hall housed over 200 female students, along with a kitchen, dining hall, chapel, and the presidents quarters. Luther Hall burned down in January 1929.

CAMPUS NEWS

Behind the Curtain of UMHB Stunt Night Performances

Continued from pg. 1

Before casts are set and directors are named, an overall theme for the show is selected. Afterwards an application process to become a class director is opened through Student Life two months prior to the show.

Although directors are limited to the overall theme, each class can pick out their songs and story line to help individualize each performance. Tipton explained that for the sophomore class once the theme was solidified, anyone who wanted to be involved was welcome to help write scripts and create sets before fully committing

to being a cast member.

Once teams are solidified, practices start. For the sophomore class practices were held three days a week for about an hour to two hours at a time. Practices, however, were flexible.

“Depending on everyone’s schedule we would change things around,” Tipton explained.

During these practices not only were the shows fine tuned but costumes and props were also created. A small budget was awarded to each class from the university in order for class directors to go out and find props outside of campus.

“It was so fun,”

Tipton said. “Everytime we go to checkout, there’s just like a conglomerate of things. So like, we have sparkly cowboy hats but also stormtrooper masks, so I’m sure anybody who watched us do the costuming was just like ‘wow I bet they’re having a good time’ and we did.”

Each class will perform their acts twice, once on Thursday Sept. 21 and the other on Friday Sept. 22. The winners will be announced on Friday for both the Judge’s Choice and the Audience’s Choice, and following the Friday performance the Homecoming Pep Rally will take place outside of Luther Memorial.



Photo by Allyson Hinkle/TheBells

Members of the sophomore class act through one of their musical numbers to Chris Douglas’ “Kung Fu Fighting.”

More Ground Broken for New UMHB Golf Course



Photo courtesy of Andy Zavoina

Junior business management major Trey Archer takes a tee shot at UMHB’s Men Golf Invitational on Sept. 27, 2022.

Continued from pg. 1

“It will improve the team,” said sophomore accounting major Luke Lohman, who won the UMHB Golf Team Rookie of the Year award last season. “The illuminated chipping green will be fun,” he added.

The practice facility greens are being designed by renowned golf course architect Ben Crenshaw of Coore & Crenshaw Architectural Firm, which has been behind many esteemed courses across North America. Crenshaw’s expertise will help provide the UMHB golf teams a competitive edge by allowing them to practice on world-class greens. Each green will have multi-

ple positions to tee off from, essentially turning a four-hole practice green into a full 18-hole course. The facilities’ accompanying clubhouse also has a renowned veteran as its architect, Earl Santee, whose architectural firm Populus has worked on several other prominent sports venues such as Yankee Stadium in New York, Minute Maid Park in Houston and UMHB’s very own Crusader Stadium.

The practice facility gets its name from former UMHB men’s golf coach Mac Hickerson, whose tenure as head coach from 1980 to 1999 is the longest by any head golf coach in UMHB history. The practice course will be dubbed

with Hickerson’s nickname, officially being called “The Mac” Golf Practice Course. The clubhouse, which does not yet have a window for completion, will be named the Connor Golf Performance Center after donors Mary Kay and Jerry Connor from Sugar Land.

The addition of the Jane and Mac Hickerson Golf Club hopes to boost the already esteemed men’s and women’s golf teams, with the men having won eight American Southwest Conference titles between 2008 and 2022 and the women having won the 2015 NCAA Division III Women’s Individual title as well as the 2013 NCAA Division III Women’s Golf National Championship.

UMHB Investment Club Dives Into Stock Market

Continued from pg. 1

Rather than clinging to failing investments, they act decisively, reallocating capital toward more promising opportunities.

Risk management is another cornerstone of the club’s investment philosophy. Students meticulously dissect their portfolio to determine the percentage of assets allocated to each sector.

This allocation isn’t set in stone; it’s a dynamic process that adapts to the evolving market landscape. If one sector falters, the club members swiftly reallocate resources to seize emerging opportunities. Prudent risk management extends to their entry into new positions, marked by cautious initial investments that gradually expand as investments demonstrate their potential.

In the ever-evolving world of finance, vigilance is paramount. Club members remain dedicated to tracking market trends and

staying informed about economic developments that could sway the fortunes of their investments. Armed with these insights, the club’s treasurer plays a crucial role in recalibrating the portfolio, reviewing calculations that affect percentage increases and decreases.

This meticulous approach extends to a thorough examination of companies, allowing the club to identify the variables driving stock price movements and make informed decisions on whether to hold or sell.

Presently, the investment club’s portfolio is a dynamic amalgamation of companies hailing from diverse sectors. From industry giants like Alibaba, Southwest, McDonald’s, Medtronic, Sony, and Walmart to technology stalwarts like Microsoft, Taiwan Semiconductor, and Intel, their holdings reflect a broad spectrum of market segments.

This eclectic collection positions the club to seize oppor-

tunities and adeptly navigate the ever-shifting tides of the stock market, reinforcing their unwavering commitment to financial education and the cultivation of savvy investment practices.

The McLane College of Business Investment Club is more than just an extracurricular activity; it’s a vibrant community of budding financial minds, united by their passion for learning and the pursuit of financial excellence.

Through their careful analysis, prudent decision-making, and unwavering dedication to growth, they not only enrich their own financial acumen but also contribute to the collective wisdom of their peers and the broader financial community.

In this dynamic journey, they stand as beacons of financial knowledge and opportunity, illuminating a path toward financial prosperity for themselves and those who follow in their footsteps.



The official logo for the McLane College of Business Investment Club.

The Bells

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Letters to the editor must include the author’s name, email address and phone number. The Bells reserves the right to edit grammar, punctuation, length and relevance.

The Bells mission is to represent the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor community through print and electronic media. The Bells strives to serve the campus and community through reporting fair, accurate and relevant news. The Bells adheres to the standards, policies and procedures established by UMHB.

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FEATURES

Campus Grows from COVID Low

By Allyson Hinkle
Editor in Chief

This fall semester over 3,500 students come to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to pursue higher education. Around 825 of them are incoming freshman, a significant increase from the reported 744 freshman last year. Of these freshmen around 67.88% of them decided to return to the university, a 3.54% increase of retention from the previous year.

The UMHB Admissions and Recruiting Office works year round to reach out to prospective students and interest them in the university.

"We start out with purchasing leads from different sources like College Board ... and if [they] meet our academic profile, then we'll say okay, I want [their] name. So that then enables us to then market and go after those students. We [also] do ... lots of different things ... [to reach] out to students ... [such as] traveling all over the state of Texas." Director of Admissions and Recruiting Dr. Brent Burks

said.

One of the main changes in recruitment techniques is the emergence of the digital age. With the opportunity to reach out to potential students, UMHB is no longer limited to in-person signups only open to those who showed interest, the freshman population has steadily increased.

This growth stalled once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, dropping the overall student population, from which the university has still not recovered.

"[In the] fall of '19, our freshman class was 868. And this freshman class, we were at 825. Our total enrollment before COVID was at 3,846, so we haven't quite rebounded to that level." Dr. Gary Lamm, Vice President of Enrollment Management said.

Despite the overall population decline, the population on campus has begun to notice a shift toward a more diverse environment. This year the overall minority population on campus is at 48%, a fact that is exciting to many faculty members as the culture of the campus continues to

grow and flourish.

Both Lamm and Burks expressed the significance of faculty also contributing to recruitment and retention of students.

"We're not a huge institution with these large endowments, so every tuition dollar and student matters. It's important for [faculty] to know because we're a student focus school, and it's everybody's job to help recruit and retain students." Lamm explained when asked why faculty members are important to the student body.

"Most tuition driven institutions have a really strong point of emphasis, [so] everyone is an enrollment officer on this campus; if you're employed, [you are] an enrollment and retention officer," Burks added when asked about the effect of faculty members in recruiting.

Overall the freshman population is estimated to eventually match the numbers of pre-COVID enrollment. The recruitment office is aspiring to expand freshman enrollment by around 50 students for the Fall 2024 semester.

Underrated Clubs at UMHB

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor



By Keely Mills
Volunteer Staff

At the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, there are countless student organizations to take part in. Student organizations are a means for students to meet others who are like-minded, interested in similar hobbies or have the same major.

Student organizations help students to branch out and get out of their comfort zone. Furthermore, they also bring awareness to various issues around campus or the central Texas community.

Every club on campus has their own unique slogan, standards, and values. Clubs plan numerous events, organize different gatherings and hold meetings.

There are a multitude of student organizations that are more under the radar, and should have more awareness brought to them. Three of these are Student Event Planners Association (SEPA), Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA), and Best Buddies.

All three of these clubs are wildly diverse from one another. This creates a more distinct campus life at UMHB. Each of these clubs strive for awareness of their ideals and desire their members to grow in learning about their passions and interests.

When asked about

their role on campus and why students should know about them, each of these three clubs had a different response.

The Student Event Planners Association said, "SEPA is an organization that meets once a month and creates space for students to learn more about event planning from event planners in our community. Anyone is welcome to join SEPA that is interested in event planning or loves being creative".

As mentioned, this club is for anyone who has a passion for creativity and wants to deepen their event planning skills, it is geared towards mar-

who are interested in criminal justice in general, or planning on being involved in law enforcement are encouraged to participate in this club.

Lastly, UMHB Best Buddies is completely different from any other club on campus. Their platform is very unique.

They stated, "We strive to foster relationships between people with the special needs and UMHB students by hosting events once or twice a month where we come together as a community and to enjoy fellowship with one another". The group's social media coordinator proceeded, "UMHB students should know about this club because our calling as Christians is to love one another as Christ loves us. This community is often underserved and overlooked, and we want to fight against the stigmas surrounding God's children and to show them love like we are shown love by our Heavenly Father".

These student organizations have a purpose on campus to help students understand their calling and participate in activities that deepen their passions. Most UMHB student organizations can be found on social media, more information is also available in the student life office on the second floor of Bawcom.



Clay Club Finds New Leadership

By Rachel King
Staff

This semester the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Clay Club has undergone a few changes. One of these being the introduction of their new president, Cameron Garcia, a junior at UMHB who has been a member of the Clay Club for about a year and a half.

Garcia's knowledge of clay and previous work in the club gave him an advantage when it came time to choose a new president.

"I spent hours upon hours here just learning about clay and the inner workings of the club itself." Garcia explained. "I was secretary last year and when both the president and vice president graduated last year, I ended up just sort of assuming the position."

Garcia took the position of president after former president Rhiannon Taff graduated in the fall of 2022.

While Garcia is excited to be president, the task can appear daunting at times.

"It's definitely a lot of responsibility," Garcia commented. "It's going to be a lot of work to keep up with everything and make sure it's all in order."

Garcia isn't planning on making any major changes to the club at this time, but he is always looking for ways to improve and make it a better experience for the members.

"I think that the way that it was before worked, but it wasn't as organized as it is now." Garcia said. "We're definitely trying to make more of an effort to establish ourselves on campus and create a bigger and stronger community than we've had in the past. I'm excited to be able to teach people and give them all a place to be creative."

Clay Club was started in the spring of

their ceramic pieces to other members of the UMHB community.

It's safe to say that the Clay Club has made quite a splash here on campus and Garcia was excited to see plenty of growth both in membership and morale this semester.

"We had so many sign ups at the Big Fair which gave me a lot of hope for the coming semester, but we were also kind of worried about how we would



Photo by Rachel King/The Bells
Junior, studio art major Cameron Garcia gives instructions to club members on Sept. 14

2020 before the pandemic began by several art students here at UMHB. Since then the club has flourished into an open and safe space for students to learn about ceramics and create art regardless of their fields of study. They meet on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Baugh Center for the Visual Arts. In years past the club has hosted a pottery sale on King Street once a semester. At this sale, club members and ceramics students sell

fit everybody in this one room." Garcia remarked. "We decided that we would just figure it out. Even if that meant going into the next room and us leaders spreading out to make sure everyone had someone there to help them. We just knew we would make it work."

This semester is looking quite positive for the Clay Club and they will continue to improve and grow with the help of Garcia and the rest of his team.



Each club at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has an official logo to individualize them. The logos are as follows: top photo - the logo of the Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA); middle photo - the logo of the Best Buddies club; bottom photo - the logo of the Student Event Planners Association (SEPA).

CAMPUS NEWS

Introducing the Arts Academy

By Allyson Hinkle
Editor in Chief

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's College of Visual and Performing Arts gained a new branch this summer with the emergence of the Arts Academy.

The Arts Academy, founded and overseen by Mrs. Cherry Garasi, offers a different kind of arts experience to students and to the community.

The Arts Academy was formerly known as the UMHB Conservatory of Music. Previously, the UMHB Music Conservatory offered lessons and classes in music to our community.

The Conservatory has been in existence for decades and has provided numerous opportunities for genera-

tions to study music on a non-collegiate level.

Yet over the summer the college of visual and performing arts decided it was time for a change. After vigorous rebranding, a \$100,000 renovation to the second floor of Presser and a full-time position offered to Garasi, the Arts Academy was born.

When asked how the Arts Academy differed from the other two branches of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the art department and the music department, Garasi stated the following:

"The Arts Academy exists to provide quality, innovative Arts instruction and experiences for all ages within a Christian environment, teaching skills and techniques

that will enhance not only the lives of our students but, in turn, the quality of life within the community in which we live."

The music and art education majors are

being as young as a couple of years old.

Not only does the Arts Academy offer a variety of classes, the program is also looking to build community relationships as de-

scribed by Garasi in the following statement: "I have a vision for this to be for us to make a difference in our community. We're going to do events, and different kinds of events. We are branching out into offering events to the

community and also to our music and art educators here in our public schools and private schools. We are [also] going to try to become more of a support for the big homeschooled population here."

Some of the events include an elementary bucket drumming competition on Oct. 3 and a community Christmas carol. The Arts Academy's other notable distinction from the other branches of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as its distinction from the past UMHB Conservatory of Music, is that Garasi is wanting to expand the program to highlight all of the arts.

"We're able to include visual arts, media arts, and eventually my dream is to have the-

ater, musical theater, dance, any form of art ... (as) the Arts Academy opens the door for us to include all forms of any kind. Even [further] I would like for us to get into creative writing, and publishing kinds of things," Garasi happily exclaimed.

Currently the Arts Academy is currently looking for more teachers as they expand their program further. The teachers they have currently range from students in the music or arts department to some of the department's faculty.

The Arts Academy are looking for teachers. Qualifications for becoming a teacher are that one is a current student in the music or art department or that one has graduated with a degree in the arts.

"Provide quality, innovative Arts instruction for all ages within a Christian environment"

not the only ones who benefit from the classes offered by the academy; several classes offered are geared towards younger children in the community who are looking to get involved in the arts, with some students

scribed by Garasi in the following statement:

"I have a vision for this to be for us to make a difference in our community. We're going to do events, and different kinds of events. We are branching out into offering events to the

Young Conservatives of America Help UMHB Remember 9/11



Photo by Brock Pfrommer/TheBells

MS2, junior, criminal justice major Darren Sandoval kneels in the flags by Luther Memorial on Sept. 8 while YCT sets up the 9/11 Memorial.

By Brock Pfrommer
Volunteer Staff

Exactly 2,977 American flags have been placed in front

of Luther Memorial on Mary Hardin's campus in remembrance of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

The number of

flags planted is equal to the number of lives lost on 9/11 in the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

The memorial flags were set up in the days prior to by UMHB's Young Conservatives of Texas student organization.

The purpose of the memorial is to offer a chance for students and those in the wider Belton community to pause and reflect on the impact that 9/11 had on the United States.

Emily Boyd, Vice Chairman of the Young Conservatives of Texas said of the memorial, "This memorial reminds us of the lives lost and why we push our values of freedom."

2023 Student Government Back in Office

By Keely Mills
Volunteer Staff

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's Student Government Association has served the school for many years with a well-respected and balanced student government.

The members have thrived in making campus a safe and exciting place for students and professors. This being said, that does not mean there is not more that needs to be done.

As the fall semester ramps up at UMHB, SGA members are becoming more excited about everything planned around campus and what all they have to offer.

In an interview with one of the members, sophomore class president Victoria Carr describes her enthusiasm and goals for this semester. As the cabinet meetings have al-

ready been convened several times this semester, Carr says, "We've done so much to improve already and there is not much to improve right now".

At the moment, SGA is focusing more on trying to obtain more recognition on campus in general. "We have a student government, which a lot of people don't know that," she relays.

Furthermore, Carr states that as presidents it is an important responsibility to interact with their classifications and speak for the students.

"Our main job is meeting people, like 'hey we do SGA and we fight for what you want'", she says.

Carr ran for the freshman president position last fall and won with no other competitors. Thus, she is incredibly passionate about SGA and

life on campus. She is feeling very energized about this semester. Her desire is for people to know that they can and do have an impact on campus.

Increasing school spirit is a high priority in Carr's position as the sophomore class president.

"I really want to let people have fun with school spirit. I think school spirit gets so many people out of their shell. I'm really wanting to build that up," she excitedly reports. She has a few new ideas regarding this which she states will be brought up in the next committee meeting.

This semester, SGA is striving to better their sense of community within the members. As always, they want students to know that they have a voice.

Students gather for ONE Worship at Walton Chapel

By Avery Kuhn
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 6, students of many Christian denominations filled Walton Chapel for ONE, an event that highlights Christian unity by inviting the leaders of local churches to conduct a night of worship.

Pastors and ministers from 10 churches attended, representing Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, and non-denominational beliefs. The theme of the night was intentional prayer modeled after Psalm 13, with emphasis on crying out to God, petitioning Him for our needs, and praising His goodness in all circumstances.

The night started with an introduction by Shannon Soard, the college life pastor at Temple Bible Church. Soard discussed the nine-year history of ONE and their goal of creating a space for Christ-followers to find unity.

One of the special resources available during ONE is the group of pastors in attendance, who stand

to the side during the music and take prayer requests from students throughout the night.

ONE is composed of three movements of prayer and worship. Students are encouraged to find one person they know and find two people they don't know to worship with before the first movement begins.

After the crowd mingled, Soard read the Apostle's Creed and prayed. The worship band from Vista Community Church led the students in song.

The crowd heard a short message from Hannah Brown, the college minister at First Temple Baptist Church, on Psalm 13 and the three phases in the night's prayer.

Students are encouraged to share their burdens and pray for one another, emboldened to bring their requests to the Lord. Many at the event clustered with their arms around each other's shoulders, praying together as the second set of songs began.

Meanwhile Kyle Shipp, Taylor Valley



UMHB Stock Photo

Baptist Church's discipleship minister, discussed the importance of praise and God's impact on our situation.

Students gathered in tight groups again to share specific praises about God's good-

ness in their lives.

After a last set of worship songs, Katie Lamoreaux, the associate pastor at First United Methodist Church of Belton blessed the crowd and offered up a closing prayer.

ONE ended with students linking arms across the chapel aisles to sing the doxology. As students left, many still sang snippets of worship music or cried with their friends.

ONE is an im-

pactful night of worship and Christian community-building for UMHB students and local churches.

PHOTO STORY

Family Weekend Vs. Whitewater

1)



2)



3)



4)



5)



6)



7)

Photo 1 by Keely Mills/*TheBells*: Sophomore elementary education major Avery Collins poses with her family on Friday Sept. 15 as the first day of Family Weekend wraps up with the Family Fun Fest at McClinton Family Intramural Fields.

Photo 2 courtesy of Lauren Turner: Families and spirit teams alike line up on King Street Saturday Sept. 16 for the Cru Creations Market. The market was open from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. before the shops packed up due to the lightning delay that postponed the game until 3 p.m.

Photo 3 by Keely Mills/*TheBells*: Families wait outside of the Bawcom Student Union for the Cru Spirit Drumline and the Cru Football Team to walk by for the CRUIse Pep Rally at 10:30 a.m. Saturday Sept. 16.

Photo 4 courtesy of Lauren Turner: During the Cru Creations Market Hometown Heroes such as the Belton Police Department shared King Street before the initial start time of the game. There were numerous vehicles open for people to explore, a drunk driving simulator, and a surprise visit from Smokey the Fire Dog, who is about a month shy of completing obedience training.

Photo 5 by Jackson Keenan/*TheBells*: The Cru Football Team huddles in the tunnel at Crusader Stadium at 3 p.m. Saturday Sept. 16 before starting the game against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Photo 6 by Jackson Keenan/*TheBells*: Freshman elementary education major Marin Lindsey twirls at her first game of the 2023 season. The feature twirlers performed during the Cru Spirit Band's halftime tribute to the band Queen.

Photo 7 by Jackson Keenan/*TheBells*: During the game's halftime, the Cru Acro and Tumbling team were awarded their NCAA Championship Rings for the 2022-2023 season. From left to right: Senior physical therapy major Kalyn Dujku, senior health science major Katelyn Kolodziejczyk, and Spring 2023 graduate with a Bachelors of Science in exercise and sports science McKayla Peck all react to seeing the ring for the first time.

OPINION PIECES

A Christian's View on Warner's *Barbie*

By Keely Mills
Volunteer Staff

As with most college age girls, Barbies were my favorite toys when I was young. My two sisters and I grew up watching Barbie dance and sing across our little box television in our small condo.

So naturally, when this new live action Barbie film began advertising, I along with the rest of my doll-obsessed generation of young girls, was ecstatic. Barbie had meant everything to me as a child during playtime, what would a live action movie about my favorite doll entail?

I went to the mall quite a bit over the summer with somebody who challenged my thinking in ways I never thought imaginable. At every shopping center or store we went into, there was always some sort of advertisement for the new Margot Robbie film. Every time I saw one, a little burst of excitement would bubble up in me.

"Look, Barbie!" I would say.

My friend's response was always the same, "Why do you care so much about that movie? It's probably not going to be very good."

I knew he was wrong, though I had not seen it yet. He had to be wrong, it was Barbie!

Soon enough, July 21st rolled around and my teenage sister and I excitedly rushed to the nearest theater to watch it. Then, a few weeks later I went to see it with some friends here in Belton. What the following entails is my reaction to both times viewing the movie, and how my opinion changed from the first time to the second.

A few days after Barbie came out, I was sitting in a movie theater as the lights began to dim and the British narrator began speaking. I smiled at my sister, thrilled that this was finally happening, I was watching the biggest movie of the year.

If I am speaking honestly, the movie affected me intensely the first time I watched it. I grinned when they showed Barbie Land, the glamorous dream houses every girl had when they were young, and all of Barbie's clothes. I cracked up when Ryan Gosling sang, "I'm Just Ken." I cried when Barbie had a severe emotional breakdown, after realizing all her strivings to make the world a better place were useless. The film's ending was beautiful and hilarious all at the same time.

I walked out of that theater with my sister completely stunned

with how much I enjoyed it, because there had been such negative talk about it from my close friends.

On the way home, my sister and I had a passionate conversation about how the movie was deeply moving and how it had touched on the aspects of society not many people like to discuss. It affected us to that degree because we could very much relate to some of it. Though parts were extremely and ruthlessly feminist, it grabbed my attention with how much women "struggle" in our culture these days. My sister and I spoke about how sad parts of the film were, how gorgeous the cinematography and all the sets were.

Moreover, as previously mentioned, prior to watching Barbie I had heard that there was much political nonsense in it. Now, initially I did not believe that after seeing it the first time. I did not notice much of it. This was until I watched it a second time a few weeks later.

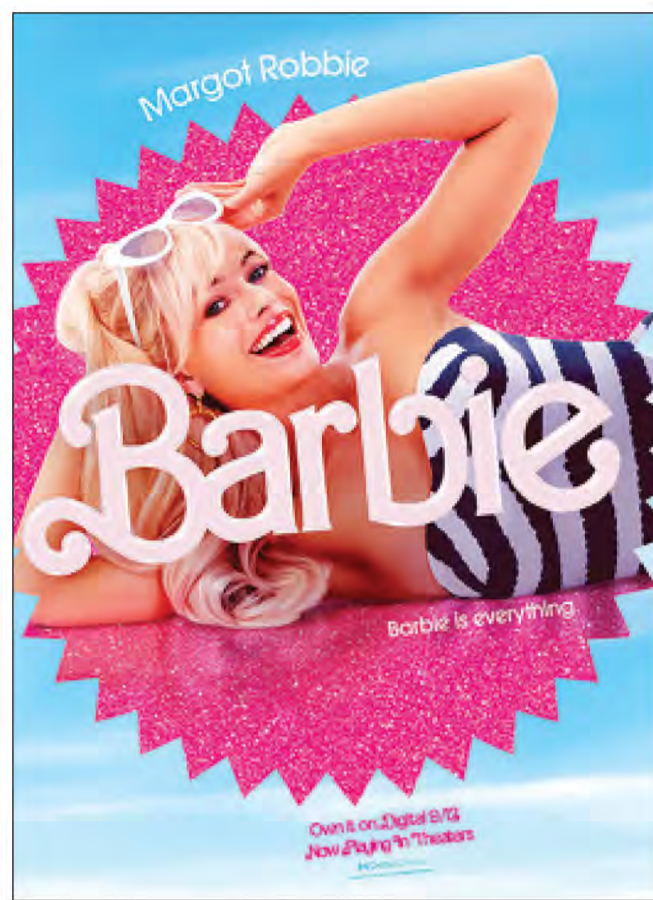
While watching it a second time, I still laughed and cried at all the same scenes. However, walking away from the theater afterwards, my passion for it all diminished.

Suddenly, I was disgusted with the way they portrayed femininity as a constant uphill battle for power and identity. As a Christian, the film was depressing to watch because I knew that people who did follow Jesus were utterly hopeless.

While the film showed that men and women have different roles in society, and those roles are necessary and fulfilling, it also showed how devastating life is without Jesus. It did not give any sort of lasting hope or redemption. It also left many other people, mostly women, in tears and a sense of hopeless abandonment after watching it. Women had emotional crises after seeing Barbie cry over her helpless existence, and it made real life women feel the same way.

After watching it a second time, I realized that the film never tied anything up at the end.

It had a funny tagline at the last scene, but as stated before, it gave no redemption or fulfillment. The only sure ideal it did give was that according to society, a woman's life is measured by how she feels about her social status, her goals, her looks and nothing else.



One of the posters for the film, which hit theaters on July 21. The film is the biggest movie release of the year, grossing \$1.34 billion so far.

In reality a woman's life, as well as a man's, is not measured by those petty things, but rather what their Creator says about them and the facts they do know about their value as a person. Everyone is valuable, men are not more powerful than women. That is yet a mere trick our society has always played on people.

I believed I would love Barbie because well, why wouldn't I? I adored all the princess movies when I was a

girl, this would be no different.

I was wrong, and my friend was right. I did what I had wanted to do; I saw the highly anticipated film for myself and it disappointed me.

The only hope it gave me was that I am safe in Christ, not the material world. More than anything, it gave me a desire to change the way women view themselves because the world's view of women is sickening.

Student Athletes: Do They Receive Special Treatment?

By Xhaxany Cuellar
Assistant Editor

It is no secret that the student body enjoys watching athletes succeed in their chosen sports, however some may feel concerned about student athletes receiving special treatment simply because they are athletes. Students may assume that because of the reputation associated with athletics, student athletes attain extra privileges.

Fans crowd into the stands to watch our skilled athletes, sporting purple and gold attire to show their support. The university arranges interviews with the team's leading players and will frequently broadcast team statistics.

In contrast, with a regular student, student athletes receive much more recognition. Subsequently, you can argue this puts an

extra strain on athletes who constantly have to juggle competition and training along with their studies

So do student athletes get special treatment? The short answer is no, though peers may feel that getting to make up missed assignments and missing class is special treatment.

In reality it is a huge trade off for athletes; missing a day at school for sports takes away time from their studies and athletes do it all because they love the sport of their choosing. They do not get paid for their time nor do they get breaks to catch up. University athletes are constantly on the go with no time for a break.

Even if an athlete is traveling constantly and missing out on class time, the same standards are expected of student athletes of any other student. At the University

of Mary Hardin-Baylor all students are required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and student athletes cannot participate in any activities unless their GPA is at the minimum.

In order for treatment to be considered "special" athletes would have to be getting some sort of head start others usually would not get. Free food, tutors and scholarships are not special treatments; they are benefits to being a student athlete and these are mandated by the National Collegiate Athletes Association.

While some students may feel that athletes receive preferential treatment, they have the same academic expectations as the regular student. When taking into account their busy schedules, it makes you wonder do student athletes really have any kind of advantage.

Is UMHB's Political Representation Limited to One Party?

By Rachel King
Staff

The Young Conservatives of Texas is a conservative youth organization that was founded in 1980 and has chapters at 20 universities across the state of Texas. One of those chapters resides here at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Their values align quite strongly with that of the Republican party and arguably could be quite contradictory to the beliefs of some UMHB students.

It is of course to be expected that such an organization would exist on a campus like that of UMHB, a university based in the Baptist faith, but some may wonder how accurately it represents the views and opinions of the student body as a whole. This is how we come to question whether or not there should be representation of other political parties on our campus.

In recent years we have seen politics sway back and forth depending on who is in office and what their policies may be. While this is not an entirely new occurrence, it is fair to say that the addition of cell phones and social media has given young people more opportunities to develop stronger and better individualized opinions on the issues of their day.

That is not to say that past generations have not had strong political views or been well informed; it simply means that in the past few decades, information has been easier to access and because of that access our generation has been given more insight into the political realm,

**“Other
Christian
universities ...
have
democratic
clubs on their
campuses.”**

giving us the resources and capabilities to develop our opinions further than we may have in years past.

Because of all this access to information and ability to form strong opinions, many college students are looking for ways to express those opinions and influence the so-called "narrative" of what is happening in our world today.

That is part of what makes the Young Conservatives such a great idea and why so many students are involved in the group. However for the part of our student body that does not consider themselves to be conservative, this can be frustrating. This is

why students may wonder why there is no club or organization representing any other political parties on UMHB's campus.

If you walked around campus for a bit asking people how they felt about important political debates, you would likely find that the majority of the people you ask respond with more conservative or republican answers, but there would probably still be a significant number of students who would give you more democratic views.

Simply because those political views do not represent the majority of the student body should they not have a place to discuss their opinions? Should they not have representation here on campus?

It does not seem entirely fair that we as a university have neglected to provide such a space on our campus.

Other Christian universities across the state such as Texas Christian University, Trinity, Southwestern and even Baylor have democratic clubs on their campuses.

It would appear that this is an issue UMHB is a bit behind on addressing and perhaps we should take a page out of said universities books and create our own democratic club. It certainly would not hurt to try.



Photo courtesy of David Morris

Senior quarterback Jackson Tingler, a finance major, won an American Southwest Conference Academic All-ASC award, given to players with a cumulative GPA of over 3.0. In 2023 Jackson Tingler also won a spot on the UMHB Provost Honor Roll, in which students are required to maintain a 3.85 GPA, proving athletes are able to balance their academics as well as their games.

SPORTS

The Downfall of the ASC



By Jackson Keenan
Sports Editor

For the past 27 years, the American Southwest Conference has had a consistent membership from Division III schools all across Texas and even into Arkansas, but now faces its biggest challenge as it tries to stay alive as many teams realign with different conferences.

As of Sept. 15, 2023, full ACS members McMurray, University of the Ozarks, Concordia University Texas, Sul Ross State, UT Dallas and football affiliates Austin College, Texas Lutheran and Southwestern have either left the conference or are planning to leave.

The exodus will begin in the fall of 2024 as McMurray, Ozarks, and Concordia Texas will become full time members of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. That same year the SCAC will sponsor a football conference which will see Texas Lutheran, Austin College and South-

western leave as football affiliates. Sul Ross State will move up to Division II joining the Lone Star Conference. Lastly, in the fall of 2025 UT Dallas will move up to Division II.

Schools such as Sul Ross State have stated in their press release that some of the main reasons for going to Division II is because of less travel, and the ability to provide athletic scholarships.

This differs between schools moving from the ASC to the SCAC, like the University of the Ozarks revealed in the following statement:

“The SCAC gives us a stable NCAA Division III conference whose member colleges fit us better in regards to enrollment size and facilities. Our coaches and student-athletes are excited about competing against new D-III programs and traveling to new areas. Another advantage is that we will have three conference schools that will be within a 5 hour drive and we currently don’t

have any that close,” said University of the Ozarks Athletic Director Jimmy Clarke.

While there are a multitude of reasons for the movement, there is another divide brought up by Cory Houge, a writer at Dave Cam-

other denominations want to have the ability to sell alcohol and provide a tailgate atmosphere for their fans,” said Houge.

Another reason for the departure, especially in football, is that either UMHB or

they will lose automatic eligibility to the NCAA tournament.

The ASC will need to either add teams into their conference or align themselves with another conference to secure an automatic bid. According to Houge, conference alignment is the only option.

“The only way to keep their automatic bid would be in alignment with other conferences. There’s been a couple of mentions of the coast to coast conferences, and there’s another one in California that’s been mentioned. The problem is you’re not operating from a position of strength,” Houge said.

An example alignment in the NCAA would be the Great Northwest Athletic Conference aligned with the Lone Star Conference allowing Simon Frazier, Central Washington, and Western Oregon eligibility to win LSC championships and weekly awards in football. While there is some hope for the ASC

to align with another conference there is still a legitimate threat of the ASC shutting down operations completely.

“It is a very unstable ground the ASC is on and it could go either way. Right now it’s UT Dallas leaving and moving up to Division II in basketball. That was a blow. I think it’s good news for the ASC that no one else has jumped ship since it’s kind of calmed down,” said Houge

With so much uncertainty, both ASC commissioner David Flores and the remaining schools will need to work together and find a way to keep some semblance of a future for the ASC. While there has been no announcement of realignment or adding new programs, the remaining schools will stay committed to the ASC through the 2024-2025 season.

“We are working through the process and are committed to our current ASC schedule for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons,” said UMHB.



bell’s Texas Football.

“The current American Southwest Conference alcohol policy has always been no alcohol at sporting events. This is where you start to see the separate denominations are involved. The baptist schools want to keep it that way, while some of the other schools with

Hardin-Simmons have won the ASC Conference Championship for 26 out of the 27 years the ASC has sponsored football.

While the reason for leaving the ASC may vary, the fact still remains that the ASC in the current state will be down to only five teams, meaning that

Cru Football Coach Hopeful for Team’s Future

By Bradley Melchor
Sports Editor

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Crusaders football team, hoping to build upon a successful 2022-2023 campaign and semi-finals appearance in the NCAA Division III National tournament, have somewhat stumbled out of the gate.

The Cru had three official preseason games scheduled for the month of September, all against nationally ranked Division III opponents. The Crusaders dropped their first two games on the road to then ranked No.23 University of Wisconsin-River Falls and No.5 Trinity University before dropping their home opener

against No.4 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Despite their 0-3 start to the season, it is not all doom and gloom for Harmon and his team. After getting routed by River Falls, the Cru have put in competitive efforts against two of the top teams in Division III, with the Crusaders falling short to Whitewater by a mere field goal.

Sophomore quarterback Isaac Phe has been thrust into a starting role due to injuries, and both he and his team have shown tremendous growth through the first three games. In his first two starts Phe has thrown a total of 423 yards, two touchdowns, and completed 60% of his

passes.

Despite their rough start, Coach Harmon says the mindset of the team and his message to them has not changed.

“The only guaranteed way to make it to the National tournament is to win your conference, and regardless of our record in the pre-season, we need to focus on these next seven games and focus on winning our conference,” Harmon stated at a press conference.

The Crusaders will hope to turn their progress into victory when they start conference play at 6 p.m Saturday as they host McMurry University at Crusader Stadium for Homecoming Weekend.



Photo by Jackson Keenan/TheBells

Kenneth Cormier Jr. senior running back stiff arms UW Whitewater linebacker as he runs towards the endzone

UMHB WOMEN’S SOCCER RESULTS



W, 1-0



W, 3-0



W, 1-0



W, 2-1



Women’s Soccer Dominates

By Bradley Melchor
Sports Editor

The Crusaders Women’s Soccer team have enjoyed a perfect start to their 2023 campaign.

The Cru started their season off with a long away trip to Duluth, Minn. where they defeated both the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and The College of St.Scholastica in shut-out fashion. The Cru-

saders then hosted their home opener against Ohio Northern University, keeping another shutout in a sound 1-0 victory. They then traveled to Georgetown to take on the Southwestern University Pirates in their most recent contest, winning the match 2-1 and improving their record to an impressive 4-0 this season.

Sophomore midfielder Jayme Dowell and senior forward Mackenzie Worthy led

the Crusaders with two goals a piece, while junior goalkeepers Ainsley Westlake and Raegen Williams have combined to keep three clean sheets in the opening four games, with only one goal conceded on the season.

The Cru will hope to extend their winning streak and continue their undefeated start to the season as they host Texas Lutheran University at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22.

FEATURES

Upcoming Events for Students

By the Intro to Media Writing Class

Unsure of any fun events happening within the next part of the semester? No worries! Here is a list of upcoming events we think you might be interested in!

Open Mic Night @ Arusha's

Arusha Coffee Company is restarting their Open Mic Nights every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 27. Signups begin prior to the show Wednesday at 7 p.m. There is no charge to register. Open Mic Night lasts until 10 p.m. The coffee shop is at 126 N. East St. in Belton.

Best Buddies Game Night

Best Buddies, a student organization centered on helping those with intellectual and developmental disabilities create life-long friendships, is hosting a game night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at Hardy Hall. The event is open to the public as well as catering towards their organizations' groups, which contains at least one community member with special needs.

Poverty Simulation

The University will host a poverty simulation from 7 a.m. to

5 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Lord Conference Hall of the Parker Academic Center.

The event is run by the Interprofessional Education Committee and their overall goal is to enhance learning and support student development in their respective professions.

Temple Bible Church Food Drive

The Temple Bible Church is partnering with the Temple Independent School District to host a Thanksgiving food drive. Temple Bible Church will start collecting food items between Oct. 1 and Nov. 13.

Items needed include non-perishable food such as boxed mashed potatoes, boxed stuffing, gravy packets, cornbread mix, canned corn, canned beans, and other items. Donations can be dropped off at Temple Bible Church, 3205 Oakview Drive in Temple, under the banners in the lobbies. A full list of food items being collected can be found online at templebiblechurch.org/events/tbc-food-drive-2/.

All donated food will be distributed to 50 local families in need in Temple ISD and Temple Bible Church congregation.

All Majors Job Fair

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is hosting an All Majors Job Fair from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 3rd. The event will be held at 3020 McLane Great Hall located in Bawcom Student Union. The event is open to all university students and has free admission.

The event will have various recruiters looking for recruits of all majors for a variety of positions. Some of the recruiters will include the Austin Police Department and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Fall Break: What to do in the area if you stay on campus

UMHB's Fall Break will take place between Oct. 5 and Oct. 8. There will be no classes, giving students the opportunity to go home. However, for those sticking around, there are a plethora of events and activities being held during that long weekend.

Schoepf's Bar-B-Que located on E Central Avenue in Belton will be hosting the 5th Annual "Rockin' for Youth" concert Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. It will include live music and a barbecue with an entrance fee of \$20.

Another activity is going to the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco. With an entrance fee

of \$14 per person, you can see a variety of animals while learning more about each species.

Belton also has a number of outdoor activities including Belton Lake, Chalk Ridge Falls Park, and Harris Community Park where you can get outside and discover more of Belton through nature.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is open to the Belton community and takes place Oct. 7 at 700 Veteran's Way Dr. This event is a major fundraiser and is to help support those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

There is no fee to walk, but participants are encouraged to register as a team and raise funds to help the research for this disease.

Multicultural Festival

Kicking off Missions Emphasis Week, sponsored by Global Outreach, a Multicultural Festival will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 9 on King Street. The event is free.

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy food, music, crafts and more that capture the heart of different cultures from around

the world. There will be opportunities for students to visit with missionaries and learn more about the work they are doing. Information on other MEW events will be available at the festival.

ONE Service

UMHB will be hosting an on-campus church service called ONE at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in Walton Chapel.

ONE is an intentional effort to demonstrate Christian unity in diversity. It is organized by a group of local college ministers, and is a dynamic worship gathering that is a forum to act out togetherness in the Gospel.

This service is held twice a semester. The musical worship and the teaching message for this iteration will be brought by two different churches in the Belton/Temple area.

One Voice Concert

The One Voice Concert takes place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 24, at the Sue & Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center. The admission is free and open to the public.

The One Voice performers are students involved with the premiere vocal ensemble of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. There will be many varieties of genres put

together throughout this performance. This event will be a Fine Arts Experience credit for students at the university.

Miss MHB Pageant

Continuing the decades-old tradition, the annual Miss MHB Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 4 in Walton Chapel. Tickets are \$7 and can either be pre-purchased or bought before the show.

Many organizations on campus nominate a female student to represent both the organization and her own campaign. They compete in several categories, with the winner becoming the reigning Miss Mary Hardin-Baylor for a year.

Belton Market Days

Belton Market Days see the streets of downtown Belton crowded with music, food, and vendors. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 17 on the streets of Downtown Belton.

This event is a great opportunity to see and support many small businesses. The event is run by the Downtown Belton Business Association, a non-profit that promotes economic growth in the Downtown Belton area.

ROTC Cadet Completes Nurse Summer Training

By Xhaxany Cuellar
Assistant Editor

Over the 2023 summer, Cadet Alexia Brown, a senior Nursing major and MS-5 (super senior) in ROTC participated in the voluntary 28-day Nursing Summer Training program at Carl R. Darnall Hospital at Fort Cavazos, Texas.

The program consisted of 156 clinical hours, where Brown participated in clinical rotations in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit), ICU, Medical Surgery floor, and behavioral health unit. Since starting her nursing career at UMHB, Brown has expressed interest in working in the emergency department.

During her clinical rotations at Baylor Scott and White Memorial Hospital, in Temple, Brown stated, "I fell in love with it there, and then when I got the opportunity to do it again this summer, it solidified my decision of wanting to go," Brown stated. She decided to join the program to gain confidence in herself and her skills. Brown has only worked in civilian hospitals and this was her first time working in a military hospital. "I got to see what my life is, see what my life is going to look like for the next how many years I want to be in the army," said Brown.

When asked about what inspired Brown to do both ROTC and Nursing, Brown stated

she was inspired by her parents. Both Brown's parents served in the army and she did Junior ROTC in high school. "I just knew in my soul, that's what was going to happen," Brown stated. However, Brown did not consider nursing until her junior year of high school, where she participated in a CNA (certified nursing assistant) program.

Brown has a lot more to juggle than most students at UMHB. Being a cadet in ROTC, you must enroll in a three-hour course every single semester on top of a tremendous academic load. During Brown's sophomore year, she held the position of platoon leader and became commander her senior year. This

requires mental and physical agility, which Brown said "tested my limits" at times. Brown participated in the ranger challenge, a two to three-day, intense, physical competition. Every semester cadets also do field training exercises, where the cadets go into the woods to train for two to three days at a time. "All of that, on top of also trying to excel in my academics, was the biggest challenge I faced so far being the ROTC program," Brown stated. However, every experience has made Brown stronger and a better cadet. "I've had an amazing experience, and so many amazing opportunities were given to me during this program," she said.



Courtesy photo

MS3, senior, nursing major Alexia Brown poses in front of American flag.

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