Welcome to McMurry’s Class of 2016! The university is thrilled to have the new freshman class on campus this fall. These students promise to bring fresh new ideas and enthusiasm and contribute to McMurry’s academic and extra-curricular life.

The class of 2016 hails from all over the world! McMurry students come from the surrounding area of West Texas, as well as other regions and metropolitan centers in Texas. In addition, there are freshmen from Colorado, California, New York, West Virginia, Iowa, and Indiana. Some War Hawks have traveled to Abilene internationally from their homes outside this country. They are from Great Britain, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nigeria, and Brazil.

There is no questioning that the class of 2016 is diverse, but Megan Baldree, Director of Student Activities, has noticed diversity is about more than just where students come from. “We have a very diverse group of students, not just racially or geographically, but in terms of experience. They are coming from all walks of life.”

This was one of Baldree’s reflections after observing the freshmen throughout Welcome Week. She noted poignantly that the class of 2016 is enthusiastic about other cultures and new school.

“There were a lot of students who were very interested and came to most of the events,” Baldree said of student involvement in Welcome Week. “The orientation leaders were very excited by how excited the students were to get involved.”

Baldree, who herself is also beginning her first year at McMurry, noticed some unique aspects of this freshman class and the McMurry experience over all. “First, that students from a wide range of interests come together to help each other learn and grow. She noticed that there were a particularly large group of athletes, but that they were just as involved and eager as other students about the things outside athletes that McMurry had to offer them. She commented on how McMurry, as a small school environment, encourages athletes to go above and beyond that role while they’re here.”

“I’ve been at many big schools where athletes have been isolated, so it’s been neat to see them mixed in with everyone.” Another defining trait of the class of 2016 is its large percentage of students whose desire to become engaged in campus life at McMurry. Megan Baldree has had many students stop by her office and ask how they can get involved. “I don’t know if I’ve had that many of other institutions”.

The McMurry Class of 2016 is already leaving its mark on the McMurry community! If you see a freshman, or a sophomore, or fill anywhere in between, and would like to expand your involvement at the school, contact Megan Baldree, the Director of Student Activities, at baldree.megan@mcm.edu, stop by her office in Campus Center Room 105, or call (325) 794-8481.

Here’s to the Class of 2016 and what’s sure to be a colorful start to a fun-filled year on McMurry’s campus.

The first Rush Tea will be hosted on November 29th at The Oaks. You missed McMurry’s first Rush Tea but you didn’t miss the excitement to anyone passing by. Kathryn Elton, treasurer for GSA, expressed how she “loved getting to Gille’s name out there so that students know that we’re here and we are an organization on campus. Suicide prevention week is in the month so that kind of a big piece of my heart.”

If there are any students out there interested in joining, Kathy says, “I have enjoyed the inclusion that I felt even just being a straight ally.” The McMurry University Gay-Straight Alliance meets every Thursday in the Farr Welcome Center at 6pm, and they are always excited to welcome new members.

Hunter Hemfling, a freshman at McMurry University, was one of the students that took part in this Organization Expos scavenger hunt. The most fun organization her scavenger hunt lead to was The Oaks because they handed out tons books. And I’ve been to The Oaks and I really enjoy it! As described by Hunter, at The Oaks, “we worship and have fellowship on Wednesdays and Sunday nights.” All the students there out looking for a study group and some time in their days to worship, just walk across the street from Martin Residence Hall on Wednesday or Sunday nights beginning at 8:00pm, and you will be welcomed with food and fellowship.

If by chance any student missed McMurry’s University Gay-Straight Alliance, there are many other opportunities around Abilene to meet with local businesses. The Graduate and Professional School Fair hosted by the West Central Texas Career Consortium on April 11th at the Abilene Civic Center at 10:00am to 12:00pm. A Tri- University Teacher Job Fair will also be held on April 11th at the Abilene Civic Center at 11:00am to 12:00pm. Judging from McMurry University’s Organization Expo and the number of participants in its scavenger hunt, this is promising to be a colorful start to a fun-filled year on McMurry’s campus.

**A Colorful Campus**

If you were walking through the Quad on Thursday, September 6th, you might have been stopped by the bubbly voice of McMurry University’s Dean of Students, Sidney Gonzales, president, is eager to have the new freshmen at Abilene to meet with local businesses. The Graduate and Professional School Fair hosted by the West Central Texas Career Consortium on April 11th at the Abilene Civic Center at 10:00am to 12:00pm. A Tri- University Teacher Job Fair will also be held on April 11th at the Abilene Civic Center at 11:00am to 12:00pm. Judging from McMurry University’s Organization Expo and the number of participants in its scavenger hunt, this is promising to be a colorful start to a fun-filled year on McMurry’s campus.
The Good Old West Texas Fair and Rodeo!

There are many events that take place during the week of the fair, but one of the most remarkable is “Horse Raising,” which allows those who compete on a horse, show, push and flame protection, grab the back of a running sheep, and hold on for dear life as long as they can! There is also, of course, the traditional rodeo events, with the biggest prize going to the best in show in an astounding $23,000 dollar award.

Stomach growling? The fair food will surely take your taste buds on a ride offering a wide variety of interesting dishes from German sausages to find出现问题choo-choo on a stick. You’ll surely find everything and anything at the food stands! The food stands themselves have a history, at a food stand by the name of “Little Mexico,” they have been proudly cooking up Mexican dishes for the past 41 years. One of their secrets is the Elmwood West United Methodist Church food stand, which hosts a huge variety of food. The Elmwood West United Methodist Church food stand, one of the main fundraisers for the Kinesiology Club. Something remarkable she did do for all college students, yet few of us know about, is providing students with a free admission day at the West Texas Fair and Rodeo! Here she was part of McMurry’s newspaper staff in 1970 and turns 30 after that, as her story managed to land in the hands of the West Texas Fair Committee, and they granted college students free admission the following year. Still today college students can enjoy themselves at the fair for free!...thanks to Dr. Parris’ story in 1970.

Election 2012: Are you interested in your future?

In the next 57 days, the young people of America will have several questions to consider. Will there be Social Security for me when I’m old enough? Will my kids have the money to go to college? Will America be the same as it is today? As you can see the young people of today face a huge task when they go to the ballot box…if they vote at all. Our young people feel that our leaders don’t listen to them and they take their vote for granted. We see that young people don’t vote because they feel they no one listens to them. In a study done by Newsweek young people vote for Big Brother at a higher rate than they do for an American President, so I ask again, are young people engaged or disengaged? One of the things that face young people today is that they are truly disengaged, according to a study done by Pew Research, voting. I’m worried about getting a job in coun-

McMurry named top tier, Most Diverse in latest U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges Guide

McMurry University is proud to be recognized as a top-ranked institution for the 17th consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges Guide. The U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges Guide is one of the most racially diverse universities in the region. McMurry moved up one place to tenth in the top-ranked institution in the Western region. McMurry was ranked 51st in the most diverse category, with a Hispanic population of 20 percent. In all categories, the top 20 schools are nationally ranked, while tier 3 and 4 schools are not nationally ranked. According to U.S. News and World Report, rankings are based on a set of 17 measures, including assessment by educators at peer institutions, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance.

Editorial Policy:
McMurry University supports academic freedom as well as freedom of speech as protected by the Constitution of the United States. However, the content of the War Hawk/El踵 doesn’t necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the University or the Methodist Church. The War Hawk/El踵 encourages respectful responses and participation. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse to print articles or letters to the editor containing personal attacks, obscenity, defamation, erroneous information or invasion of privacy.

McMurry named top tier, Most Diverse in latest U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges Guide

Charles Barnwell, Student Editor

The War Hawk is the student newspaper of McMurry University.

DON'T MISS THEIR EVENTS!

THURSDAY
8:30 p.m. War Hawk Cheerleader Program and Event Planning
Sunset Ceremony & Tipi Raising
9 p.m. Trachon Dances and Sesame Seeds
FRIDAY
4:30 p.m. Student Senate
SATURDAY
2:30 p.m. Without More Standards
35th Annual McMurry 5000 Road Race
11 a.m. Boy (Jim) Carter Thomas Complex, west of basketball courts
The War Hawk Women’s PREPARE BBQ
SUNDAY
6 p.m. War Hawk Cheerleader Program and Event Planning
Return to the Student Activities Office
On Saturday, September 8, 2012, the Cowboy Church located on 4222 N 1st Street in Abilene, Texas, held the Gospel Singing Abilene #4. This was a chance for choirs, groups and individual singers from Abilene and the surrounding area to get together and share in praise and worship through different genres of music ranging from Christian Folk to Christian Bluegrass to Christian Gospel. “We have done this three times before but had bigger turnouts. It doesn’t matter though, because God brought everyone here today for a reason and we are trying to touch every unbeliever who walks in through the door in a way that, when they walk out of here, they are a believer in Jesus Christ,” stated Danny, the Assistant Pastor.

After a short prayer, the Graven Sisters, a duo from Eula, started things off with “Love is…” and “Be More Like You.” The Graven Sisters were followed by Linda and Peanut Hobbs, who drove in from Tuscola. More of the Bluegrass genre, they sang “Turn Your Radio On” and made the room relax tremendously with the fun, upbeat song. While setting up for the next song, Mrs. Linda Hobbs gave a testimonial about how the next song was laid on her heart by God. “Things were pretty bad. My husband was in the hospital and people kept telling me that he was going to need a long transplant. That night, I went into the bathroom, which I called the Prayer Closet, and God just dropped his peace on me by dropping the song ‘I Go to the Rock on my Heart.’ The Hobbs jumped into the song at that point and tears filled Linda’s eyes as the song went on. To bring their time up front to a close, the Hobbs invited the audience to sing with them as they sang ‘Heart’s Desire.’

A potluck dinner was served after the music came to a close. “This is only number four and we are going to keep on going with this until we hit number fifty or a hundred or until the Lord comes back to get us,” says Danny. For more information on when the next Gospel Singing Abilene is scheduled, call 325-893-2620.

Janalyn Boynton

**SPORTS INFORMATION**

Coach Crousen Receives Unexpected Honor

Every now and then, a person’s day is made by an unexpected surprise. McMurry track and field head coach Barbara Crousen had one of those kind of days on Tuesday.

That’s because Abilene resident Tai Ann McClendon (who’s only connection to McMurry University is that she lives just a few blocks from campus) decided to reach out to the War Hawk veterans coach in a simple – but meaningful – gesture of friendship.

McClendon, prior to Tuesday, had never even met Coach Crousen, but had followed her career and pioneering efforts in track and field through the media and the internet. Crousen was the first-ever female to guide an NCAA men’s team – in any sport and at any level -- to a national championship.

To McClendon – who enjoys studying and learning about women who are pioneers in their field -- following Crousen’s career has been. She has earned receiving (the wings) is a very heartwarming, kind and giving gesture. I’m genuinely touched by it.”

On Tuesday, McClendon dropped by the McMurry campus to present those wings to Crousen, who was both genuinely surprised and even taken aback by the gift.

“I don’t want people to come to you and expect something from you,” explained Crousen. “But receiving (the wings) is a very heartwarming, kind and giving gesture. I’m genuinely deeply touched by it.”
War Hawks – Making Memories

WELCOME WEEK