

Alderson Broaddus University Campus Reports Low Crime Rate

STEPHA-TERESE POULIN
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

When it comes to guns, there are multiple perspectives one can take. Despite the rise in school shootings, Alderson Broaddus University proves to be one of the safest schools on the east coast.

In 2014, the only crimes reported at this university were burglaries. Meanwhile, at multiple other college campuses students had to witness crimes such as aggravated assault, vehicle theft and much worse.

A former military member who is currently on the staff at Alderson Broaddus believes that we should not allow guns on campus, and that there simply is not a need to have any form of a firearm. “I think there’s other ways to protect yourself,” said AB’s own veteran.

Many people may have firearms in order to protect themselves from wildlife, or simply protection in secluded areas. It is important to acknowledge that certain people require firearms for multiple reasons.

However, this veteran does not be-

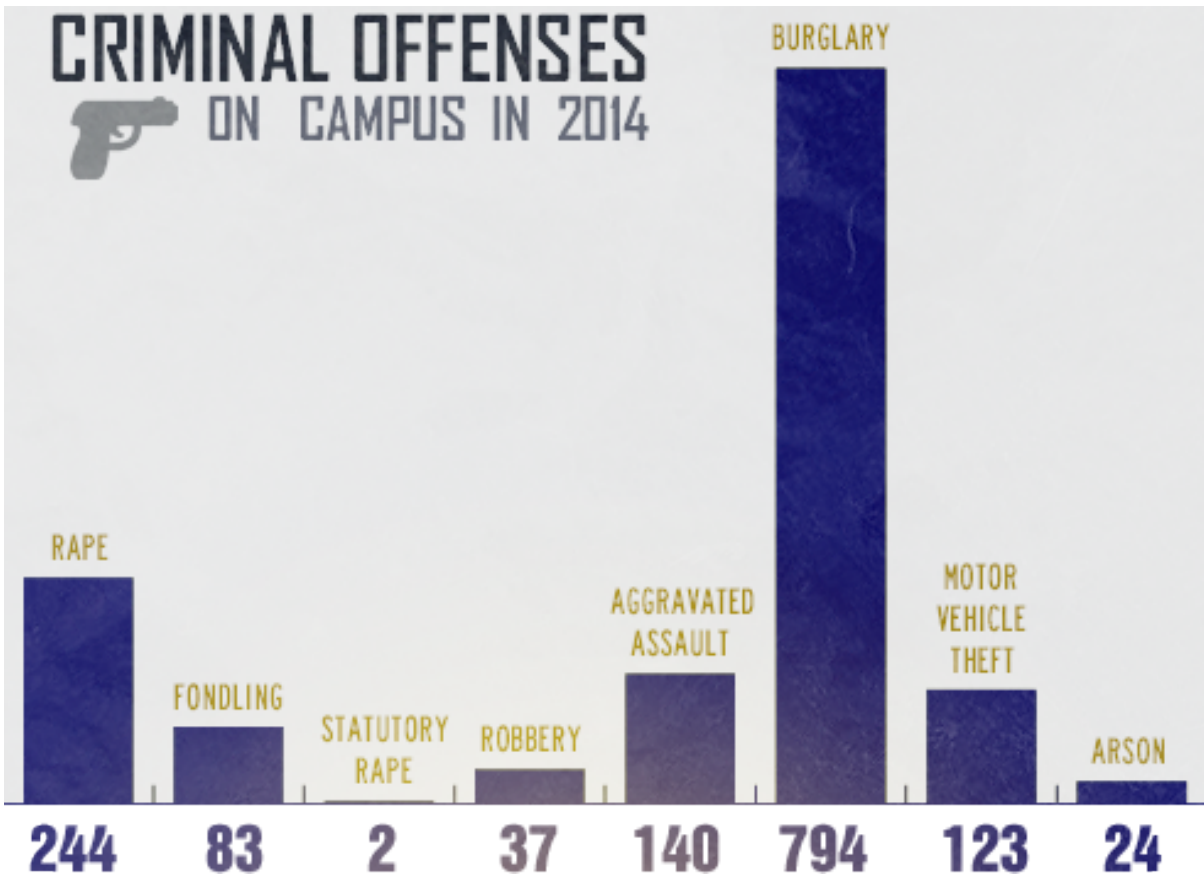
lieve that every citizen should carry a gun. “Being in the military you look at it as protection, and the destruction that it really is,” she explained.

For multiple people, the potential of taking a life is too much to handle. A firearm carries the responsibility of possibly killing a living thing. Due to this, it is important to trust in those intended to protect us, like our police force.

The veteran stated, “I don’t think there should be any negative connotations to reporting [crimes]...people shouldn’t have to live in fear like that.”

When it comes to the proposition of armed guards, this particular service member does not believe Alderson Broaddus University would benefit from them. Our little mountain community seems safe to students and staff alike.

“I don’t feel that you need a gun on this campus,” said one student, “I feel pretty safe on campus. Way safer than at a larger school.” When asked about the possibility of a roommate carrying a gun, this student provided a hilarious, yet interesting perspective. “If there was ever a point we needed a gun for any possible reason [it would help], but if she ever turned on me...” said the student. Alderson Broaddus University has done a wonderful job of keeping its students safe. While other schools are plagued by crime, this small college has proven to remain safe.



Above is the total count of crimes at schools with >1,500 students. AB accounts for 10 burglaries in 2014 (U.S. Department of Education)
Graphic by Lora Owston, Assistant Editor

Discovering the Color Behind the Orange

MAKENZIE ROSE
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

Bright orange, rusty orange, pumpkin orange. Some might imagine that they are taking a walk through an October pumpkin patch or looking at a bag of mismatched California oranges. These are the colors people are faced with when meeting Pastor Jonathan (Jon) Villers who, in addition to his love of the color orange, has many unique interests that make him quite unlike any other person one will ever meet.

The brown-eyed preacher’s kid grew up in Elizabeth, West Virginia, which is located near to Parkersburg WV. His hometown is “the county seat of the smallest populated county in West Virginia” said Villers.

A graduate of AB in the class of 1989, Villers met his wife, Koreen, while at AB. But despite his graduation from the institution, Villers would eventually find himself once again in Philippi, West Virginia.

“I married my beautiful bride the Saturday after my graduation!” says Villers. “We moved five times over the next year! One of those moves was back to

Philippi to be an admissions counselor for my beloved alma mater.”

Villers was student body president his senior year and his enthusiasm for spreading the word about higher education at AB leaked into his job as admissions counselor. Villers said that he was willing to talk about AB to anyone that would listen.

Part of Villers’ post-graduation journey was ministry. He found himself in several different areas of West Virginia, including Athens, East Bank, Charleston and Ripley. “After spending five years in each area and earning two master’s degrees, we were invited to serve at Philippi Baptist Church,” Villers recollects.

Koreen Villers, Jon’s bride of 26 years and the second half of this dynamic duo, says, “I was with Jon when he took his call into full-time Christian Ministry at a BCM Retreat. Although we weren’t even engaged yet, he looked at me and said, ‘I can’t do this without you.’ I knew from that day that I would be a minister’s wife.”

Philippi Baptist Church has had Villers as its pastor

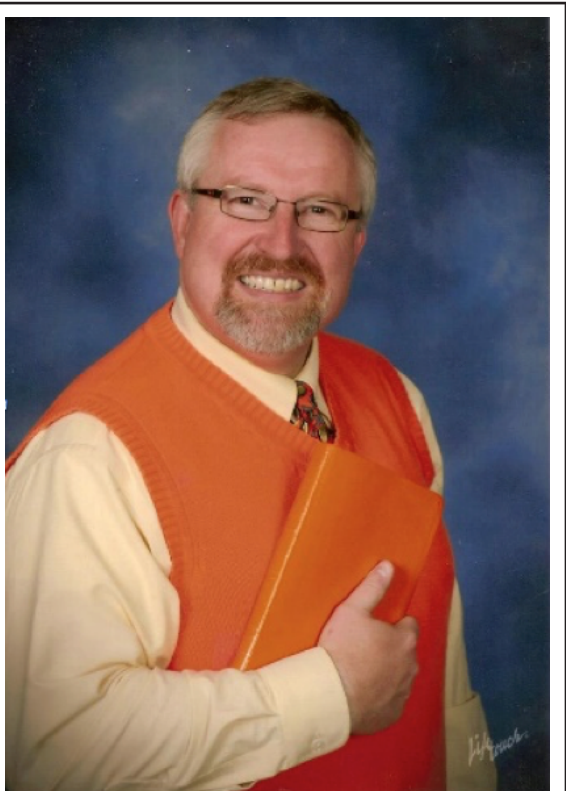
since February 16, 2010. Jennifer Weyandt, a member of Philippi Baptist since May 2014, says that she has actually known Jon since she started attending Philippi Baptist her freshman year of college in 2011.

“Right away I knew Jon as a fun, upbeat, and outgoing individual,” Weyandt said. “I mean how could you not smile at the smiling man dressed in orange walking across campus.”

Weyandt says that Jon was a father figure of sorts to her when she entered college and throughout the transitions and changes that come with post-graduation.

“He has checked in on me regularly and made sure I am doing well,” Weyandt commented.

As Weyandt mentioned, one of Villers’ most noticeable characteristics is his love of the color orange. When asked why that particular color, Villers explained, “When I was six years



Pastor Jon Villers, “The Orange Man”

old, my grandmother let me wallpaper a room in her house with this orange and yellow psychedelic design. My high school colors are orange and when I took all that orange to AB, it became a signature color!”

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Campus News

THE
BATTLER
COLUMNS

*The student-run
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Alderson Broaddus
University*

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Submission
Standards

All articles sent in will be considered for publication. However, the paper does reserve the right to refuse publication due to any reasonable editorial objections. Furthermore, all articles will be edited for factual accuracy, spelling, writing style, and grammar. All articles and letters to the editor can be sent via e-mail. Photos can be sent via e-mail as well.

Student Conduct Coordinator Leaves ABU

DOMONIQUE JOHNSON AND EMILY PORTER
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTERS

On October 23, 2015 the Alderson Broaddus University Office of Student Affairs said goodbye to Student Conduct Coordinator, Nicole Talbott. Although a search for a new Student Conduct Coordinator has not been officially announced, the Student Affairs Office has implemented a temporary system for the process. Currently, Koreen Villers and David Falletta have taken the task of all student conduct issues. As students, the process has not changed much. After getting documented for a violation, students will still receive a letter in their campus mailboxes containing a judicial date. On this date, students will either see Mr. Falletta or Dean Villers, depending on the issue.

Talbott also held the position as Resident Director (RD) of Battler Hall. As the RD, Talbott oversaw Residence Life staff and ensured the safety of the building. She says, “I have enjoyed working with students across campus and hav-

ing meaningful conversations that my job uniquely allows me. I will miss my RA staff and seeing them grow, however, it was time for me to be with my husband and move onto the next phase of my life.”

Since her departure, senior Emily Porter was hired as the Interim Resident Director. This means she will fill the position until another professional staff member is hired. She says, “I’ve found the position to be an interesting learning experience for me. I was the Assistant Resident Director for almost two years and now, I’m able to do so much more. In the future, I’d like to go into Residence Life as a career, so I found the opportunity to be very rewarding.”

These changes are temporary, of course. The Office of Student Affairs will be seeking a new Resident Director for the fall of 2016 and a new Student Conduct Coordinator will be hired in a timely manner.

Greek Life Flourishes on Campus

MAKENZIE ROSE
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

For many college campuses, AB included, Greek life is an option that is well-explored by students. It gives students an opportunity to experience the closeness of tight-knit groups, community service projects, and ultimately the fun of being involved with Greek life. Fraternities and sororities have been active on AB campus since the early 1960s.

On AB campus, there are four sororities: Phi Kappa Delta, Sigma Alpha Iota, Lambda Sigma Phi, and Zeta Eta Theta. AB’s three fraternities are Epsilon Tau Eta Sigma, Theta Tau Upsilon, Sigma Delta Nu.

The Delphics were founded in the spring of 1959. The Phi Kappa Delta sorority was chartered in 1962 and had their first meeting in 1963. Lambda Sigma Phi came some years later in 1979. Founded in 2006, Sigma Alpha Iota is celebrating their 10 year anniversary this year while Zeta Eta Theta, founded this year (2015) and Theta Tau Upsilon, founded in 2012, are still fairly new on campus, but are making their mark, none the less.

Each semester, the Greek organizations host rush parties to bring in potential members, who upon acceptance of bids, become known as “pledges”. Within the sororities, there are 19 new pledges and among two of the three fraternities, there are 15 new pledges. Including current members and pledges, there are about 150 involved in

Greek life. Sororities average about 19 members per chapter and fraternities average about 22 members per chapter.

Lexi Elliott, coordinator of Greek Life on AB campus, has been working professionally with sororities and fraternities for the past four years.

“The Greek experience can provide students with leadership experiences, focus on campus involvement and academics,” Elliott said. “And friendship that last beyond campus.”

When asked if there was anything she would change about Greek Life, Elliott said, “Nationally, there are many things I would like to change about Greek life: hazing, sexual assaults, drug/alcohol abuse, etc. These are serious issues surrounding fraternity and sorority life.”

As far as AB campus though, Elliott says she would like to see each chapter eventually become more involved in community service projects, engaging their alumni, or hosting professional development and educational workshops for their members.

“Greeks make up about 10% of the student populations and can have impact on the campus community,” said Elliott.

Greek Life on campuses provides students with many opportunities to expand their horizons and have experience that leave lasting impressions.

ABU Revives Rural Business with Entrepreneurial Incubation Center

STEPHA-TERESE POULIN
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

Alderson Broaddus University is continuing its multiple renovations with a new business incubation center to be housed in part of the old hospital. The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) made the decision to grant AB \$773,750 in order to jumpstart economic growth in rural West Virginia. The EDA works to use economic development to give residents the potential to use their skills and talents to improve the quality of life of all citizens.

President, Dr. Richard Creehan remarked, “This investment will also help jumpstart the entrepreneurial heartbeat inside our students as well as innovative job creators in the region and across

West Virginia. ...[it] will change the entrepreneurial culture of our great Mountain State, providing low cost state-of-the-art incubator space for budding rural entrepreneurs.”

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, or CenRe, intends to bring over 180 jobs. CenRe will provide services to a great deal of the state, including; Barbour, Braxton, Randolph, Upshur, Lewis, Gilmer, and Tucker county.

“EDA understands that a great idea can happen anywhere, and the agency is committed to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in rural communities,” said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams. “The EDA investment

announced today will provide new opportunities for the people of rural West Virginia and support local efforts to diversify the economy to become more competitive in the global economy.”

In a community devastated by coal-related unemployment, EDA intends to support workers affected by changes to West Virginia’s coal mining industry. More often than not, the coal industry is not given the chance to show innovation and new ideas. With a proposed \$2.5 million, and a potential \$8 million total going towards the development of such industries, the EDA plans to reverse the setbacks that rural works and businesses have experienced.

Campus News

ABU Beats Out Ivy League, Local Colleges in New Ranking

PHILIPPI, W.Va. – Alderson Broaddus University has been ranked eighth in the nation for adding value to a student’s degree by The Economist, the prestigious international newspaper which has a global emphasis and scope.

This is the first-ever college ranking for the newspaper which took a different approach than most publications; it looked at over 1,200 institutions across the country that do the most to boost graduates' salaries, representing the economic value added by each school. As stated, the rankings are “for students who want to know which colleges are likely to boost their future salaries by the greatest amount, given their qualifications and preferences regarding career and location.”

The article also stated that instead of publishing rankings based on influencing where students should attend, they sought to review and publish rankings based on how much universities help their students, focusing exclusively on economic value. The Economist defines economic value as the gap between how much money its graduates earn and how much they might have made had they studied elsewhere.

Alderson Broaddus University, a rural, small, private college in North Central West Virginia that is affiliated with the American Baptist Church, was ranked No. 8 in the nation, beating out all local competitors as well as Ivy League schools such as Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale Uni-

versity to name a few and other notable schools such as Bucknell University and Stanford University. This is because the difference between what graduates were expected to earn and what they really earned – the "value added" – was greater than more than 1,000 colleges in the country. ABU was the only West Virginia school named in the top 50, let alone the top 10.

“This is a remarkable testament to not only the strong liberal arts education a student receives while attending ABU, but also affirms the high quality a degree from Alderson Broaddus holds in the workforce,” said President Dr. Richard Creehan. “This is just another confirmation that the nation, and now the world, is taking notice of the great things that have been taking place on our mountaintop the past few years. Our alumni are becoming successful in their chosen fields and should be proud of the foundation their alma mater has provided them.”

The ranking system used characteristics to create a statistical model of what a school's expected earnings for its students "should" be in the workforce upon graduation.

ABU’s "expected earnings," based on The Economist's model, were supposed to be \$31,766. The actual median income of graduates was \$ 43,400. This means Alderson Broaddus added a bonus of more than \$ 11,634 to its graduates' salaries. To determine this difference, The Economist pulled data from the Department of Education's “scorecard” website.

They found that certain factors correlate with high earnings, like SAT scores. The Economist created a model to combine all of these factors and determine what alumni should theoretically make after graduating from a specific university.

The Princeton Review recently published the Top 10 College Majors, compiling this list “based on research covering job prospects, alumni salaries, and popularity.” The article can be found at www.princetonreview.com. Of the 10 majors that made the list, Alderson Broaddus offers seven including: biology, business, computer science, communication, nursing, political science, and psychology.

“Historically, Alderson Broaddus University has been known for its strength in the health science related fields and currently, the number one major on campus is biology,” said President Creehan. “Most of these students work in our pre-professional programs and go on to medical school, dental school, veterinarian school, or optometry school. Others, who major in biology, work in research, become an ecologist or environmentalist, or find themselves in one of the many growing fields such as genetics and biotechnology.”

According to data from the University’s Office of the Registrar, other popular majors at ABU mentioned in the Princeton Review ranking include business which lands in the number two spot; third is nursing; psychology is in seventh; and computer science is one of the

fastest growing majors. “We are excited for the new initiatives we have in the works that satisfies the need of today’s students and meets the demand of today’s workforce,” said President Creehan. “We are in the development stages for new master degree programs, one in anatomy and the other in education. For the past few years we have set the groundwork in establishing the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and have received stage one accreditation for a doctoral optometry program and are currently applying for stage two.”

Creehan states that by offering a major that will be desirable for students, knowing that after graduation, they will work in a field of their interest, in high paying jobs, graduates will also become valuable members of their community.

“The information reported from places like the U.S. Department of Education and The Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as our own campus statistics, cannot be ignored,” said Creehan. “Alderson Broaddus must continue to be competitive in the academic programs that we offer; and colleges and universities today must be sensitive to the demand of twenty-first century, market-driven programs. With that in mind, for the past three years, the faculty at ABU have been hard at work making significant revisions to academic programs and innovating new initiatives.”

To view the complete list of rankings by The Economist, please visit www.ab.edu.

ABU Poised to Create Bright Future

PHILIPPI, W.Va. - Alderson Broaddus University Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Ron Burbick is addressing recent campus events on behalf of the Board with the following statement.

"In 2011, ABU envisioned a transformation as it embarked on an ambitious program of enrollment growth. We put this plan into action with the development of the Alderson Broaddus Strategic Plan. The initial phase was a period of very rapid growth in enrollment (doubling enrollment in four years) accompanied by construction of new residential halls, a multi-sport performance stadium, renovations to several existing buildings and creating a vibrant campus. These are outlined in the Strategic Plan as Priorities One and Two.

Given the health of our enrollment which has contributed to financial stability over the past four years, thanks to the affinity bonding model, we have set the foundation to create a sustainable future.

We have also begun Priority Three which is “Growing the Academic Experience” by adding several new academic initiatives. This phase of the Strategic Plan was expertly led by Dr. Creehan.

The focus now, however, is on moderate enrollment growth; more of which will come from graduate level programs (several of which we hope will receive final accreditation soon and others to come in future years), online programs, and cooperative arrangements such as our Petroleum Management completion degree, continuing Priority Three of the Strategic Plan. With the rapid growth, the ABU Board of

Trustees and President Creehan came to the realization and understanding that ABU is entering a different phase of its Strategic Plan.

We have been examining and working on restructuring some of our finances to ensure ABU continues on a viable and financially stable path. It will also be a period of closer monitoring of expenditures than is typical in a rapid growth phase.

Consistent with our goal to operate more efficiently, and in accordance with the ongoing academic audit of all programs started in 2012, the Board of Trustees also voted on October 24, 2015, to discontinue two music majors: musical arts and music performance. While we have stellar faculty who have truly provided a conservatory level of experience for our students in these two majors, they are not viable going forward given program enrollment levels. Students currently enrolled in these programs will be able to finish their degrees.

We will still offer a Music Education major along with music ensembles, including our popular, long-standing “The West Virginians” made up of the most talented students in the region. These ensembles are currently populated by not only music majors, but students from across many of our curriculums.

Given the progress of the past four years under the leadership of President Creehan, we are poised to continue progress according to our strategic plan and continue to provide a high quality education in a liberal arts institution based in Christian values, as has always been the case."

POW Raises Awareness for Human Trafficking

MORGAN LEAF
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

On Thursday, October 29th, Alderson Broaddus University students were able to participate in The Man Hunt Challenge. This campus event was hosted by the Power of Women (POW) organization. Alderson Broaddus’ Homecoming Queen, Nicole Goldsby is the President of Power of Women. The purpose of the event was to make students more aware of sex trafficking, which has recently become a problem in West Virginia.

According to the Trafficking website, www.traffickingresourcecenter.org, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.

The game was tied into sex trafficking by having a hunting team hunt the pedestrians and the team that caught the most pedestrians won the game. There were also distractors who caused the pedestrians to be distracted. The 'distractors' helped the hunting teams catch the pedestrians. This challenge is set up very similar to the way that sex trafficking occurs.

People that participate in sex trafficking look for individuals that appear defenseless and take them in as hostages. These hostages are later sold for slavery. Along

with looking for defenseless people they will have additional people who are distractors and may appear friendly to people and invite them to parties, offer them rides, offer to walk them home, etc. The goal of the distractor is to take targets in as hostages as well.

The Man Hunt Challenge was planned to involve student-athletes that cannot leave campus frequently or must return to campus early. The event allowed students to have fun in the gymnasium after hours. This year’s Man Hunt Challenge attracted over 200 students to play the game. There were seventeen student actors who played the role of the distractor and several students helping with waivers. Campus Safety and IT also helped to make this event successful with set up and crowd management.

Sophomore, Faith Grimmett stated, “It was so much fun, and I can’t wait to participate in it again next year.”

Goldsby felt that the event helped POW by bringing awareness to the students about sex trafficking, especially since females are the main targets of sex traffickers.

When asked if the event will occur next year Goldsby stated, “Yes, I will be doing it again next year. I want to put the event on a larger scale with bigger props, more distractions, and more students signing up to play.”

Campus News

ABU Names 2015 Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award

PHILIPPI, W.Va. – Alderson Broaddus University is proud to honor Rev. Dr. Archie R. Snedegar, with the 2015 Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award. He has been serving as interim pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Charleston, W.Va. since 2012; and it is where he celebrated his 50th anniversary of Gospel ministry in 2013.

Alderson Broaddus Chaplain Rev. Dr. Carl Gittings presented the award at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention held at Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna, W. Va. on October 15, 2015.

This award is given annually by Alderson Broaddus University in memory of the ministry of Reverend Dr. Ward W. Hibbs. This award is presented to an American Baptist minister who has made outstanding contribution to the ministry of town and country churches.

“Honoring the memory of Ward W. Hibbs, Alderson Broaddus University desires to strengthen the work of our town and country churches by recognizing the effective, hard-working pastors who serve small town, and open country churches,” said ABU President Richard Creehan. “This year’s recipient

has not only served the church, but Alderson Broaddus for several years and I am proud of his accomplishments and humbled to call him a friend.”

The Reverend Dr. Archie R. Snedegar committed to the Gospel ministry on February 2, 1954 one year before he graduated from Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. He graduated from Morris Harvey College, now known as the University of Charleston, in 1959 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He then attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity in 1963 and a Master of Divinity degree in 1973.

Ordained April 23, 1963, by the Chaplain Fork Baptist Church in Chaplain, Kentucky, the Reverend Dr. Snedegar went on to serve the following churches in West Virginia: First Baptist Church in St. Mary’s; Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Huntington; Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston; Poca Baptist Church; First Baptist Church in Clendenin; and the Charleston Baptist Temple in Charleston. He has been serving as interim pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Charleston, West Virginia since

2012; and it is where he celebrated his 50th anniversary of Gospel ministry in 2013.

Reverend Dr. Snedegar has served as a field representative for the American Baptist Foundation and currently serves as a field representative for the WV Convention Foundation. He has served as pastor counselor for the American Baptist Men’s Ministries of West Virginia, as president of the West Virginia Baptist Ministers’ Council, as chairman of the Christian Higher Education Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. He is currently a member of the Alderson Broaddus University Board of Trustees and Governors, serving on the Board since 2011, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Alderson Broaddus University in 2012.

One of the most important criteria for an individual to receive the high honor of being the recipient of the Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award is to be involved in the formation of and improvement of community.

Reverend Dr. Snedegar has been active in the communities where he has served as minister. His participation has included Parents Without Part-

ners, the Charleston Police Civil Service Commission, the Charleston Rotary Club, and A. F. and A. M. Chelyan Lodge 158. He served as chaplain of the American Rose Society, president of the Kanawha Valley Heart Association, president of the Charleston Rose Society, president of the Huntington Rose Society, and Master Consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society.

Dr. Snedegar resides in Charleston, West Virginia with his wife Linda. They are the parents of four children and 10 grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening and tennis.

The Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award honors the ministry of Ward W. Hibbs which spanned more than a half-century having served churches in all sections of West Virginia. As the first director of Town and Country Work for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Hibbs inaugurated an in-service collegiate training program for ministers at Alderson Broaddus in collaboration with the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

In honor and memory of Ward W. Hibbs, his legacy continues with the annual presentation of this award.

Alderson Broaddus University President Resigns

PHILIPPI, W.Va. – On Friday, October 23, 2015, Alderson Broaddus University President Dr. Richard Creehan informed the campus community and Board of Trustees that he will resign as president, effective December 18, 2015.

“I am honored and extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve Alderson Broaddus for I have developed a deep and abiding love for this University,” said Dr. Richard Creehan. “I want to thank the board of trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni for their unwavering support over the past four years. I also had the pleasure of living in Philippi, a town that has embraced me, and appreciate all the support I have received from the citizens of Barbour County.”

Creehan took over as the 9th president of Alderson Broaddus on June 1, 2011. Prior to joining AB, he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Adrian College in Michigan since 2005. Under Creehan’s leadership, the University’s enrollment has grown from 500 in August 2011, to 1,201 in just four years. The largest freshman class in the school’s history entered in the fall of 2013 with a staggering 447 new students, surpassing 2012’s record-breaking class of 406 freshmen.

“I have made the decision to resign with the intention to keep Alderson Broaddus continuing and moving forward,” said Creehan.

“I have taken Alderson Broaddus through extraordinary growth and completed the first part of our strategic plan. As we enter into the second phase of our strategic plan, which will require some financial restructuring, it is time to hand over the reins to someone new with a different perspective and skill set. This has been the capstone experience of a career and the thrill of a life time and I will depart in December with nothing but fond memories.”

Massive construction projections including a nationally recognized multi-sport performance stadium; four brand new residence halls, including apartment and suite-style options; campus-wide renovations including the Campus Center, the Coliseum, aquatics center, the three existing residential halls, and the refurbishment of Funkhouser Auditorium and the Joan Burbick Lecture Hall as well as the dedication of Cunningham Plaza were all completed under the direction of President Creehan.

He also supported the Board of Trustees decision in April 2013 to move from college status to that of a comprehensive university including the creation of the Council of Deans, and the associated realignment of the University into five colleges.

President Creehan’s vision in support of the AB mission has brought new vitality to the campus. The mountaintop community is once again thriving and AB is stronger than ever.

The culture has turned into one of vibrancy and the dynamic atmosphere can be felt by current and prospective students, alumni, faculty and staff, and throughout the local community. Since his arrival, Alderson Broaddus has been recognized across the country. The University was named the region’s Success Story of the Year for 2014, and continues to rise in national rankings.

Dr. Ron Burbick, Chairman of the Board said, “We are grateful for Dr. Creehan’s service to Alderson Broaddus and the advances he has made to the school and its programs. We wish him and his wife, Beth, all of God’s many blessings in the future, and we are now looking forward to entering the next stage of our strategic vision.”

A Pennsylvania native, Creehan earned his bachelor’s degree in Education from California University of Pennsylvania in 1976 and a master’s degree in Educational Administration from The University of Dayton in 1981. During commencement on May 11, 2013, President Creehan was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Alderson Broaddus.

ABU Hosts Third Annual Color Run

Ciera Nestor
Battler Columns Reporter

On October 11 the annual Color Run 5K for cancer took place. The event was held under the direction of a group of Sport Management students from Professor Lara Foster’s class.

Brandon Jones, Tyler Benner, Samantha Fletcher, Maureen Muth, and Tanner Cebula were the selected group of students to organize the event.

“All of us as a group were really looking forward to hosting the Color Run and sharing in what it represented”, said Samantha Fletcher.

Around 60 participants attended and completed the 5K. During the 5K around campus, all participants were showered with assorted colors of paint to recognize and represent the various types of cancer.

Registration started at 9:30 am, followed by a pre-race ceremony and moment of silence for those battling and those who have lost their battle to cancer. The race then started around 11:30 am.



Features

Discovering the Color Behind the Orange

...Continued from page 1

While there are many other colors in the world, Villers has to say with a smile, “God made all the colors of the rainbow I can’t deny, but orange has always been the apple of my eye!”

In addition to his fascination with the color orange, another interesting facet about Villers is his love of unique games. It is not unusual to find him sending a Frisbee whizzing through the air for a game of Frisbee golf or coaching a fellow player on the correct throwing technique for a game of Kan-Jam.

“In little ole Wirt County there wasn’t much to do, so I discovered Frisbee throwing early on,” Villers said. “So every time I ran across another game that involves throwing a disc, I latched on to it as well!”

As for Kan Jam, Villers accredits this discovery to one of his nephews: “One of my nephews got me my first Kan-Jam set as a Christmas present,” he reminisces. “And I discovered disc golf over twenty years ago,”

Even more recently, Villers has brought his love of all things Frisbee to the mountain top community of AB. There is now a fully functional disc golf course on campus.

When asked where the idea came from, Villers said, “I was fortunate to help put in a nine hole course in Ripley where we lived before moving here! When we got here, the campus was 'calling' out to me!”

But AB campus has been “calling out” to Jon for more than just the realm of sports.

“Philippi is where God first called me to be in ministry when I was a student here,” Villers explained. “This is where I met my amazing partner in life, Koreen Villers and am so thankful to be in ministry back here where so much of my life began!”

As the years progress in the small mountaintop town of Philippi, Villers says he is not sure what is next for the institution or the town. But one thing that he is sure of: “I want to be a part of where God is already working all around us!” Pastor Villers says.

This attitude is echoed by Koreen Villers who says that she never thought that she would marry an orange man who loved the Lord.

“But I did and do not regret it for one moment,” she said. “I love serving in ministry with Jon. He has such a passion for Christ and a huge heart for others. I love to see him share about God’s love and His saving grace.”

Over 20 years ago, AB set a man dressed in orange, and a personality just as bright as his favorite color, off into the world. But not long afterwards, Jon Villers would return to his alma mater armed with his brilliant smile, unique games, and an attitude that ensures that the campus of Alderson Broaddus, and anyone who comes in contact with him, will never be the same.

You Can Do That Here

6 Tips for Conquering No-Motivation November

EMILY PORTER
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

Thoughts of summer are long gone, midterms have passed, and the mid-November blues have kicked in. Alderson Broaddus students know the feeling. Early morning classes keep getting earlier, homework and studying starts piling up. Beating the blues can be tough but with just a little push, passing classes and finishing the semester strong can be a breeze.

1. Call Home

Calling home can not only be a stress reliever for you, but it can make your family really happy, too! Conversation usually leads to asking about your academic and social life at school, so this will motivate you to knock out that school work, study harder for those tests, and make family proud.

2. Color

As childish as it sounds, coloring can take your mind off of everyday tasks like homework, practice and studying, Companies even make adult coloring books now! Amazon offers a variety as cheap as \$5.99 a book. Low on cash? Pinterest has plenty of free printables at your convenience.

3. Stay Active

Taking a break from studying and hitting the gym is a great way to get your mind off of things. Even if you only lightly jog or bike for twenty minutes, your body is moving. This allows your body to relieve stress, and it keeps your mind active as well!

4. Utilize Secret Study Spots around Campus

Studying in a Residence Hall can be difficult, and the library can be distracting at times. Finding a study spot that fits your academic needs can really benefit you and your grades in the long run. The library, Student Center, and many other buildings offer plenty of nooks and crannies for you to discover and take advantage of.

5. Take a Bottle of Water to Class

Having trouble staying awake in class? Carry a bottle of water with you. Water is proven to keep you alert and active and if that doesn’t do the trick, you’ll have to head to the bathroom eventually! Having a full bladder will keep your mind alert and cause you not to doze off.

6. Set Time Aside to Do Something Fun

Setting goals, trying to stay active, and taking study breaks are proven to keep you motivated, but no one knows you like you. Take some time to do something you enjoy. Whether that be playing a video game or grabbing some food with friends, taking time to yourself is always a good way to get your mind off things and recharge.

USAF Langley Winds Perform at Alderson Broaddus University

PHILIPPI, W.Va. – The United States Air Force (USAF) Langley Winds of the USAF Heritage of America Band performed at Alderson Broaddus University in Wilcox Chapel on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The concert was open to the public and free of charge.

Langley Winds is a pioneering woodwind and percussion ensemble offering innovative programming covering a wide array of musical styles. Employing a unique blend of instruments, Langley Winds performs creative arrangements and new compositions. Enjoy hearing these orchestral solo instruments in an intimate chamber music setting.

Alderson Broaddus was honored to host this prestigious event. Al students, faculty, staff and community members were invited to attend. The University also hoped the event would attract musicians from schools in the county and music enthusiasts from the community.

Activated in 1941, The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band has a rich history of inspiring public patriotism and enhancing esprit de corps among all the US military service branches. These world-class musicians are stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. They travel throughout the Carolinas, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, presenting over 300 events annually for the general public and in support of Airman morale and protocol events. The USAF Heritage of America Band remains at the forefront of communicating Air Force core values and preserving and enriching America’s military and musical heritage into the 21st century.



The USAF Langley Winds of the USAF Heritage of America Band.

AB’s Growth Affects Some Local Philippi Businesses

BRITTANY PACE & MORGAN LEAF
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTERS

Over the last five years, the small town of Philippi, West Virginia has been impacted by the rapid growth of Alderson Broaddus University. With the campus enrollment more than doubling in size, Philippi has begun to evolve into a college town.

The small town population of under 3,500 people and the rural environment makes it difficult for big corporations to franchise. However, thanks to the school’s expansion, some local businesses have seen more attention. Philippi is known for Lil’ Moes, the “go-to” bar in town, and Dairy King, which serves ice cream and some fast food. These restaurants have become very popular among students. Many restaurants are student-friendly and offer special discounts to those enrolled at the university.

One business in town, The Marketplace, is known for its coffee, fresh food and great prices. While some might think an establishment like this would thrive in a college town, The Marketplace has still not gained

much of a customer base from the student population. Brenda Hunt, one the of founders of The Marketplace said that she has not seen much expansion in business, even with the increase in student. “That is due probably to several factors. Many students still don’t know who we are, where we are, or what we do,” Hunt said. “Some students don’t have transportation and are not likely to walk all the way to our end of town just to visit the market.”

Photographer, Sam Santilli, owner of Santilli Photography has felt the effects of ABU’s growth. “Yes I have seen a change in my business within the past few years due to the school expansion, but the school also dropped me after 17 years of service with the college” stated Santilli.

With the school expanding some businesses, local restaurants in particular, have seen a significant increase in consumers. However, for businesses that have not drawn a student clientele, they will see fewer increases.

Local, State, & Nation

West Virginia EMS Responders Continue their Education at the 2015 EMS Conference

Canaan, W.Va. – The 2015 West Virginia EMS Conference – an annual educational training that offers a variety of management and clinical sessions – is being held this week at Canaan Valley Resort. The conference, which has attracted more than 150 EMS personnel from across the state, focuses on instruction directed toward improving patient care and ambulance squad operations.

The conference, sponsored by the West Virginia EMS Coalition, is designed to keep medical first responders operating at high efficiency levels and informed of policy changes that affect the Mountain State’s emergency medical service community.

“Ambulance squads across West Virginia are increasingly challenged by burdensome health care regulations, rising costs and stagnant reimbursement rates from health insurance providers,” said Chris Hall, Executive Director of the WV EMS Coalition. “The 2015 WV EMS Conference provides the opportunity for the emergency medical services community to hear from national and regional speakers that can offer assistance in facing these challenges and preparing for all situations.”

The conference’s management courses offer information for EMS supervisors to help them gain and grow critical skills to help them lead their squads. The clinical courses focus on trauma response and

field situations. All courses are geared to ensure that the EMS members in attendance will receive the most up-to-date information and training available in the state. The training will also focus on how to handle real-life scenarios.

“Extensive efforts have been made to diversify our speakers and ensure that we are providing educational opportunities that might not otherwise be available,” said Hall.

“There are few opportunities in the state for our EMS personnel to expand their education and network in order to share experiences and industry best practices. This conference offers these opportunities.”

Dr. Rahul Gupta, Gupta, Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Health and West Virginia State Health Officer, will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker. Gupta formerly served as executive director of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. In his role as Commissioner of Public Health, Gupta oversees the Office of Emergency Medical Services, which is responsible for licensing of ambulance squads and the certification of EMS personnel. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, has won several medical awards and has authored more than 100 scientific publications in medicine.

Severo Rodriguez will highlight the second day of the conference. Rodriguez, the executive director of the National

Registry of EMTs in Columbus, Ohio, has been a paramedic for over 20 years. Rodriguez has been involved in EMS-related research for more than a decade and has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications. Rodriguez will provide attendees with an update of the National Registry of EMTs and how the NREMT functions as a part of the EMS Community.

Courses will be taught by a combination of national and state presenters with histories and current resumes in the EMS Field. Raphael Barishansky, director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, will highlight the conference presenters. Barishansky has authored more than 300 articles in publications such as the EMS Magazine, JEMS, and EMS Insider. Dan Batsie, education director for Atlantic Partners EMS in Bangor, Maine, oversees licensure education for two regions of Maine EMS. Batsie has been an EMS educator since 1994 and has published two EMS textbooks and been a contributing author for several others.

Other presenters include Steve Murray, Holly Treen, and Leslie Willard. Murray is the current Assistant Director for Cabell County EMS. He has been with CCEMS for more than 22 years and has functioned as EMT, paramedic, CCT paramedic, as well as a training coordinator and operations director. Treen has been a regis-

tered nurse for seven years and serves as Pediatric Trauma Coordinator at the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center. Willard has been a registered nurse for more than 30 years, with a focus on emergency medicine. She has worked in the Emergency Department at WVU Healthcare, as a flight nurse with HealthNet Aeromedical Services and is the Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator at the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center.

Attendance for the 2015 WV EMS Conference is double the size of last year’s event. More than 30 vendors are also attending the conference.

“We are excited to have such a great turn out for this year’s conference,” said Hall. “The quality of the education and the great speaker line-up we have are helping this conference grow each year.”

WVU Medicine sponsored a conference break and two of the courses. Air Evac Lifeteam and J&J Emergency Vehicles are sponsoring wi-fi for the conference.

The West Virginia EMS Conference is a yearly gathering of the EMS community to educate and update attendees on training and policy information that is vital to successful emergency response situations. The 2015 conference is held at Canaan Valley Resort from October 28-October 30. For more information, visit: <http://www.wvemsconference.com/index.html>

The Salzburg Chronicle

AURORA WINWOOD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Each fall, Alderson Broaddus University offers students the chance to participate in a semester abroad. The semester of study in Europe is the capstone of the Alderson Broaddus University international studies programs. This program offers the students the best opportunity for international study, travel, and experiencing international culture.

This semester there are eight AB students studying abroad. They are accompanied by Professor Aaron Maxwell, and his wife Julie Maxwell.

The Austria Program provides the students with 12 credit hours of study at the Alderson Broaddus University Campus in Salzburg, Austria. The campus is located at Haus Wartenberg, where students will attend class, dine, and reside.

While abroad, students travel to a number of countries each weekend. It is up to the students to craft their own travel agendas and manage every detail of travel from train schedules, to hotel reservations, to museum tickets. Although weekend travel is not mandatory, students are encouraged to make the most of their time in Europe by exploring each city’s culture and history.

Students interested in learning about the program can contact Dr. James Daddysman, program director for the Semester in Europe program by email at daddysmanjw@ab.edu.

2015 SEMESTER IN EUROPE

AB Alderson Broaddus UNIVERSITY

TRAVEL IN EUROPE

Since our arrival to Austria on September 7th, we have traveled to the following countries:

Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, and Greece.

We have also visited the following cities:

Salzburg, Vienna, Innsbruck, Munich, Prague, Budapest, Dublin, Cork, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cardiff, London, Barcelona, Athens, Santorini, and Los

Legend: Visited (orange), Not Visited (Yellow)

2015 Semester In Europe

The collage includes photos of students: a student diving underwater, a student holding a piggy bank, a student in a red shirt, a student in a white shirt, a student holding a Scottish flag, a large yellow building, and a bridge over a river.

Athletics

Student-Athletes v. Non-Athletes

LUIS VELASCO
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

With 22 sports teams on campus, a large portion of Alderson Broad-dus University students are considered student ath-letes. With the student-ath-lete population significantly higher than that of non-ath-letes, some question if non-athletes receive the same treatment on campus.

Discrimination of athletes or non-athletes is not openly evident at at ABU; however many non-athletes feel isolated at times without a team envi-ronment. Athletes have an easy opportunity to make friends because they are automatically included in a group that shares a com-mon interest.

Non-athletes do not have this option, and must search for friendship through other clubs and or-ganizations. Non-athletes play an important role in campus life, such as organ-izing activities, collaborating in fund-raising campaigns, and helping faculty and staff with their rough schedules.

The collaboration on campus life activities is im-portant for non-athletes be-cause it provides them with a busy and entertaining schedule. The organization and structuring of an activity requires responsibility, and helps non-athletes break out of their comfort zones. Fundraising is one common activity around campus that attracts students.

Students who aren't playing a sport may have decided to come to Alder-son Broaddus University because of the academic programs. The opportunity to focus just on their ca-reers gives students an edge when applying to graduate schools. Some main goals for a non-ath-letes are to have good grades, develop their knowledge and make im-portant contacts for their fu-ture.

Normally students who do not play sports have a different financial situation than students who do. Some of the non-athlete students receive a presi-dential scholarship, which adds up to \$32,000 for four years based on grades from high school. A student's GPA has to be 3.7 or higher to obtain this financial award.

Students with the presidential scholarship said academics are more important for their future than being involved in a sport during college. Most non-athlete students played a sport in high school but chose to focus their time on academics rather than ath-letics in college.

Athletes and non-athletes have the same op-portunities in job openings and interviews. For ath-letes, they can utilize their coaches for professional contacts . Coaches have an important status in their sport, and many have well-positioned friends in a spe-cific sport-related business who may help student-ath-letes to get hired. For non-athletes, it is their teachers that they turn to for assis-tance and knowledge.

If an athlete is look-ing forward to working in the sports industry, the likeli-hood of attaining a job will be higher for them than for someone who didn't play a sport in college. Sport man-agers will prefer a student-athlete who knows a particular sport from the in-side. Bosses will choose to hire someone who knows the game and what it takes to be a part of a team. Real knowledge comes from playing that sport, not just watching it.

Treadway Leads Battlers Though an Impressive Season

JOE SMITH
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

Freshman Taylor Treadway (Ravenswood, W.Va) rounded out an impressive freshman year with a runner-up finish at the 2015 Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) Cross Country Championships as the men's and women's cross country teams competed for a conference title. Treadway's second place result on the championship course at Davis and Elkins earned her G-MAC Freshman of the Year honors for women's cross country.

Treadway's 23:51 mark led the Battlers, with senior Kyria Yanoviak (Selinsgrove, Pa.) earning a sixth place finish with a time of 24:15. Freshman Ashleigh Martin (Capon Bridge, W.Va.) gave the Battlers a trio of top-15 conference finishers, earning the fifteenth finishing spot with a mark of 24:51. Junior Hannah Surface (St. Clairsville, Ohio) and Freshman Taylor Mace (Pennsboro, W.Va.) also placed for the Battlers, finishing in 23rd and 34th place respectively. The women's performance earned a third place finish in the conference, finishing 11 points behind runner-ups Trevecca Nazarene while Cedarville defended its conference championship.

On the men's side of action, the Battlers were paced by sophomore Scott Nesland (Moatsville, W.Va), who finished 20th in the field with a time of 28:34. Freshman Caleb Pell (Looneyville, W.Va.) came in second for the Battlers with a mark of 29:14, good for 23rd on the day. Sophomores Tyler Torman (Buffalo, W.Va.) and Paris Vaughn (Upper Marlboro, Md.) and junior Ethan Malcomb (Chester, W.Va.) also placed for the Battlers, with respective finishes of 27th, 31st, and 28th. The men's squad took home a sixth place finish for the event.

The 2015 men's and women's teams were headed by coach Jesse Weiner and assistants Earl Graves and Colin Murphy. The Battlers' runners will return to action for indoor track and field season beginning on Dec. 5 at the Marietta Open.



Freshman, Taylor Treadway

Battler Wrestling Opens Season Sunday

PHILIPPI, W.Va. -- The Alderson Broaddus University wrestling team opens up their third season this Sunday, November 1st, at the PSU Mont Alto Fall Classic.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how this team comes together and responds to this first test," said first year head coach Sam Gardner. "I know two of these teams are pretty solid traditionally, and I'm not too familiar with what the others bring to the table, so it will be a good first challenge for us. Five matches in a day, regardless of the competi-tion, isn't a joke, and we will be tested for sure."

The Battlers' endurance will be tested early on this year, with a marathon five dual meet day set for the opener.

The day begins at 9 a.m. when AB will face Temple University, followed by a dual against PSU Greater Allegheny at approxi-mately 10:30 a.m. At noon the Battlers are slated to face a traditionally strong and well-travelled Newport News Apprentice School, followed by a 1 p.m. tilt against PSU Fayette. The day ends with a dual against the host school, an up and coming PSU Mont Alto.

"Fortunately we have a few weights where we can spell some guys and try out a few different line-ups," said Gardner. "These first few competitions will be an evaluation period for us, as we've implemented a style of training that is different from what some of these guys are used to. We'll use these matches to get a good handle on what is working for us, what areas we need to have a greater focus on, and get some overall feedback on where we are developmentally."

AB returns a number of wrestlers from last year's club and hope that they will be able to provide a spark to start the new season.

"I'm excited for these guys. They've put in some solid work in preparation for this weekend, and I like their attitudes," said Gardner. "Each week is another step to-wards the ultimate goal of standing on the podium in March at the NCAA's. I think we have guys who are up to that challenge."

Following this weekend, Battlers re-turn to action November 6th when they wres-tle at Southern Virginia before wrestling in the Southern Virginia Open on November 7th.

Spinks Shows Talent in Junior Season

JOE SMITH
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

J u n i o r ished the week gain- ing a pin in a duel against Southern Vir- ginia and the title in the 184 lbs. weight class at the Casper- son Classic with a 2- 0 finish. Spinks finished the week with three pins total.

"Cody Spinks is one of the most physically tal- ented kids I've ever coached," said Gard- ner after the Casper- son Classic. "He can do things that defy convention, if not physics. Even though he's ranked at 174, I think if he continues to perform this way at 184 with this energy and pas- sion, we'll keep him at that weight."

Spinks will lead the Battlers when they next hit the mats on Nov. 21, when they will travel to Westminster, Md. For the Green Terror Duels.

Spinks began his week at the Penn State Mont Alto duels, where the Bat- tlers wrestling squad began their season 4-0, including a win over D1 Temple. Spinks finished 3-0 on the mats at the event. Spinks fin-

Athletics

Men’s and Women’s Swim Fall at Malone

JOE SMITH
BATTLER COLUMNS REPORTER

The Battlers men’s and women’s swim teams suffered losses in dual meets at Malone University on Nov. 7. The men’s team fell 117-78 while the women suffered a 95-61 loss.

On the men’s side, sophomore Paolo Mesde (Pittsburgh, Pa.) scored a first place finish in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:48.98, and added a second place finish in the 100 free with a 49.07. Freshman Troy James (Ormond Beach, Fla.) earned a second place result in the 50 freestyle with a 23.34. Juniors Joseph Guthro (Las Vegas, Nevada) and Ryan Nicklous (Cherry Hill, N.J.) turned in second place finishes in the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke respectively. Junior Tyler Drake (Hobbs,N.M.) recorded a runner-up finish in the 100 backstroke, and sophomore Jed Rodriguez (Tampa, Fla.) took home second in the 500 free to round out the runner-up placers for the Battlers.

Two Battler relays teams earned second place results as well, taking home runner-up honors in the 200 medley and 400 free relays.

The women’s team scored three first-place finishes, with sophomore Elizabeth Creech (North Augusta, SC) earning first in both the 50 free and 100 free with respective times of 25.93 and 57.04. Sophomore Crystallynn Rathvon took home a first place finish in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:19.52. Junior Rose Wyse (Palo Cedro, Calif.) brought the Battlers a second place finish in the 200 free, while junior Alexa Pigliacampi (Ormond Beach, Fla.) recorded two second place finishes in the 200 individual medley and 100 fly. Junior Kayla Grudowski (North Huntington, Pa.) rounded out the women’s second place results by tallying a second place result in the 100 breaststroke. Wyse, Pigliacampi, Grudowski and Creech also earned a second place result in the 400 free relay.

The Battlers will return to the pool on Saturday, Nov. 14 when they travel to West Virginia Tech.

Small, Wildish Named to G-MAC Second Team for AB Women's Soccer

GREENWOOD, Ind. – Lauren Small and Britney Wildish were named to the Great Midwest Athletic Conference all-conference second team announced by the conference on Wednesday.

Small, a sophomore from Saint Johns, Fla., finished the season with eight goals to lead the Battlers and also tabbed four assists.

A season ago, Small was named to the all-conference second team and was named the ECAC Rookie of the Year.

Wildish, a senior defender from Hamilton, Ontario, was a key member of the AB defense in her four years with the Battlers as a starter. She finished with three assists this season and finished with six in her career for AB.

The Battlers fell to Ursuline 4-2 in the quarterfinals of the G-MAC tournament on Saturday. AB finished the season with a 7-12 record and finished with six conference wins.



AB Wrestling Set for 2015-2016 Season

PHILIPPI, W.Va. -- Entering its third season of competition, the Battler wrestling program is poised to make great strides under first year head coach Sam Gardner.

“I am excited to see what this season holds,” said Gardner. “This team has plenty of talent, and although I don’t want to make specific predictions, I know the capability is here to be pretty darn good.”

The addition of several strong recruits combined with a number of successful experienced returners has this team poised for a breakout year. Gardner, who was instrumental in the revival of the WVU Tech program in the NAIA, believes that this team is capable of producing a number of program “firsts.” Included among them would be the first winning dual meet record, first National Qualifier(s), and first All-American(s).

AB is led by a trio of strong middleweights, juniors Keith Stednitz (157) and Cody Spinks (174), and Sophomore Logan Shurina (165). They are the three top returners.

Stednitz has won numerous tournaments and owns a dual meet win over the 2014 NCAA Champion in his time in Philippi. Spinks, a two-time state champ from Mussleman (W.Va.), has won 20 matches in back-to-back seasons and also has a number of tournament titles under his belt. Sophomore Shurina is coming off of a strong freshman season which saw him win both the Casperson Classic and WV Collegiate States. These three will provide leadership in and out of the room.

Former Pennsylvania state qualifier Cody Buchanan returns at 125lbs, for his third season at that weight. The 133 lb. class will be manned by freshman Jacob Monn, a state champion and multiple time finalist from Ritchie County (WV), and returner Michael Stokes. Micah Powell will use the experience he banked the previous two seasons and looks to have a breakout year at 141 lbs. The 149 lb. weight class will be manned by the dichotomous duo of Matt Harris (Gov. Mifflin, PA) and Chris Brent (Huntington, WV). Harris, tall and lanky, is a strong rider, while Brent is a stocky powerhouse who likes to aggressively attack on his feet.

The 184 lb. weight will be decided through competition performances, with four athletes looking to establish themselves as the number one guy. Nate Cunningham, Tyler Cross, Josiah Solak, and Davis Solak will all see considerable time in an effort to determine who will represent the squad at the Regional Championships.

Jake Bennett, a southwestern regional champion from Hyn-dman, PA, will man the 197 lb. weight. Bennett is a strong hand fighter who keeps a high pace for an upper weight.

Heavyweight will be represented by Nick Nester, a lanky heavy from Roanoke, VA and the stockier Tyler Arnett, the 220 lb. West Virginia state champion in 2015.

"Transitions are never easy and simple, but these guys have made it very easy to come in and get the ball rolling,” said Gardner. “They work hard, have good attitudes, and know that the sport is supposed to be fun. Battler wrestling is on the precipice of having a great year, but it will be up to these guys to seize the opportunity in front of them and make the most of it.”

A schedule heavy in individual tournaments and dual meet tournaments will provide every member of the team ample opportunity to get quality competitive experience and prove that they should be the No. 1 athlete on the depth chart.

The 2015-2016 edition of the Battler Wrestling schedule is markedly different from previous years. The emphasis has changed from battling it out in dual meets with the nation’s top Div. II squads on a weekly basis to one based more on performances in tournament settings.

Depth is a limiting factor in a dual-meet heavy schedule, especially one as top-heavy with the nation’s elite as last year’s schedule was. The shift in emphasis will allow each individual on the team the opportunity to develop in the kind of environment that mimics the tournaments that determine the National Championship.

As depth and experience grows the team will likely shift back to the weekly gauntlet of wrestling the nation’s top-ranked teams, until then a schedule heavy in tournament opportunities will best serve the current needs of the program.

The team opens competition when they will wrestle in the Penn State Mont Alto Duals on November 1st.

Alec Andall, Scott Phipps Honored by G-MAC Ahead of Men's Soccer Championships

GREENWOOD, Ind. – Alec Andall was named the Great Midwest Athletic Conference defensive player of the year while Scott Phipps was named the coach of the year as the G-MAC annoucned its season awards on Wednesday prior to the start of the semifinals and finals this weekend.

"Alec is a special type of player," said head coach Scott Phipps. "We are very lucky to have him. He is going to continue to get better."

Andall, a sophomore from Paradise, Grenada, was a key member of the Battler defense all season. He started in all 17 of AB's games this year. With injuries to a number of players, Andall's workload changed as the year progressed.

"Personally I think I think his ceiling hasn't been reached yet," said Phipps. "When he gets to the realization that his ceiling is higher than it is now, he could become even a more special player. It's very exciting to see what he has done and the hard work he has put in."

On the offensive side, Andall finished with five goals in the regular season, four of which were penalty kicks.

Phipps was named the coach of the year after leading the Battlers to a 10-6-1 overall record in his second season at the helm.

"It's nice to get recognized for the work that you have done in a short time," said Phipps. "I think a big part of that recognition is that it really shouldn't be coach of the year. It should be coaching staff of the year. I wouldn't get this honor without my coaching staff and without my players putting in the hard work it took to get to this point."

The G-MAC all-conference teams were released Wednesday as well. Joining Andall on the first team wereDeshawn Parker, Marco Profumo, and Ricard Lao.

"As I've mentioned before, our guys just want more," said Phipps. "Like any other team, you're going to have some adversity and we have dealt with that adversity. We're still in a position moving forward that we can get positive things out of the season."

Parker scored five goals in 14 games played this season while Profumo added three in 11 games played. Lao finished the regular season with an 8-5 record in goal with two shutouts.

On the second-team, Kevin Bucardo Hernandez and Jose Tabares-Ochoa made the list. Tabares-Ochoa was also named to the all-freshman team.

AB had the most (four) players named to the first-team.

"It's an atonement to those guys and to the guys that they train with every day that put that competitive nature into this program," said Phipps. "It's a total team effort that got us here and we're just very blessed to be where we are at."

The Battlers will face Davis & Elkins in the semifinals of the G-MAC tournament at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night.