Memorial Service held for Kylie Pinheiro

By Pam Haynes
Editor in chief

A pink sunset with purple traces settled over the David Hayworth Chapel on the evening of Jan. 9. Inside the chapel, friends of freshman Kylie Pinheiro filled every pew and every balcony seat to pay tribute to the life that Kylie left behind after she died in a car wreck during winter break. Dec. 28 in South Brunswick, New Jersey.

The front rows of the chapel were filled with those who had shared the first floor of Yadkin with Kylie, a native of Dayton, N.J., all of whom were wearing black shirts with pink writing that they had made in her memory. "Yadkin Girls" was written on the front with "K." Kylie's initials, on the left sleeve.

Kim Soban, director of psychological services, gave a DVD presentation with pictures of Kylie and friends taken during her first semester at the university as the song "I Will Remember You" by Sara McLachlan played in the background. At first, sobs rose from the audience as the presentation played. Then, bursts of laughter and cheers. Some pictures showed Kylie dressed up for Halloween as a cowboy with a radiant smile and a toy gun holstered between her legs. Others showed the nineteen-year-old carrying a shower tote on the way to her half-bathroom.

When the presentation ended, Gail Tuttle, vice president of student life, took the podium and described Kylie's funeral, which was a traditional Catholic mass. "Thirty of us [administrators and students] went to New Jersey to honor our sister who is a part of our community," explained Tuttle. "It was a beautiful service."

"The things I keep hearing about Kylie is she loved the color pink, and she was always smiling," said Gig McGraw, Kylie's roommate. Before she turned the podium over to students who wanted to say something in memory of Kylie, Tuttle concluded, "This where you live, and we live together. This is your time to grieve."

Lauren McGraw, Kylie's resident assistant and neighbor on the hall, took the podium next. With the hot pink writing glowing from the front of her t-shirt, McGraw said, "I know that Kylie would be so happy to see everyone here. Our hall is strong, and High Point just has another angel watching over us now."

The ceremony closed with the recital of the Lord's Prayer as students stood hand in hand. Refreshments were served after the service in the basement for any students who wanted to talk with friends of Kylie.

When the residents of Yadkin's first floor left the chapel that night, they returned to their halls that is now quieter and missing a friend.

"As an RA, it was good to have her. She kind of ruled our hall and always made everyone feel comfortable," McGraw commented about Kylie, who was also a volunteer for the Big Brother Big Sister Program in High Point. "Someone in our family is missing, but we go on and remember her in everything that we do. She is a constant presence on our hall."

Kandy Reckling, a freshman who was Kylie's roommate and one of her closest friends, remembers the moments that she and Kylie experienced together during their first semester at the university.

"I've been an athlete since I was eight years old. I've been involved with High Point in some capacity since 1974. He started at HPU as a janitor, cleaning buildings such as the Alumni Gym, the modern-day Millis Center on campus premises. The first day he had on the job at High Point, he had the task of preparing the Alumni Gym for the upcoming graduation that was going to be held there the next day. He got in at 6 a.m. that first Saturday morning, and spent the entire day cleaning the gym, setting up chairs, boxing door handles, and spilling up the restrooms."

"That first 14-hour day not only foreshadowed the rest of Gibson's tenure in HPU Athletics, but would eventually be the reason for his resignation. Now, 59,

"He worked hard for everything, but she still had fun," said Reckling. "In everything I do, I miss her every day."

Reckling also laughs when she remembers living with Kylie. "She was obsessed with the color pink. She used to tell everyone that I liked it, too, even though I didn't!" Reckling said through a laugh. "I kind of adapted to that color, and now I love it, too."

Kylie's parents will join the university in the Chapel on Feb. 13 to worship with the student body and celebrate her life.

See pg. 6 for responses from Kylie's friends.

Kelleit takes over Athletic Director position

By Mike Nuckels
Sports Editor

In a move that came as a surprise to many in the High Point University community, Dr. Woody Gibson announced his resignation as director of athletics on Nov. 30. In a press conference on Jan. 10, Craig Kelleit was announced as HPU's new AD. Kelleit will officially take over on Feb. 1.

Gibson has been involved with High Point in some capacity since 1974. He started at HPU as a janitor, cleaning buildings such as the Alumni Gym, the modern-day Millis Center on campus premises. The first day he had on the job at High Point, he had the task of preparing the Alumni Gym for the upcoming graduation that was going to be held there the next day. He got in at 6 a.m. that first Saturday morning, and spent the entire day cleaning the gym, setting up chairs, boxing door handles, and spilling up the restrooms.

"That first 14-hour day not only foreshadowed the rest of Gibson's tenure in HPU Athletics, but would eventually be the reason for his resignation. Now, 59 years later, Gibson decided it is time to start unwinding and taking some things off of his overworked plate. Since he was named AD in 1998, Gibson says it has not been unusual to spend up to 80 hours a week on the job. Even in the summer months, he was known to spend at least 50 hours a week in the office and working in other capacities for the athletics department.

Now Kelleit will look to other opportunities HPU has to offer him. He will return to full-time teaching duties this fall in the Sports Studies graduate program and with the Sport Management undergraduate field - a major he founded in 1995. Throughout his role as AD, Gibson has maintained the esteemed title of associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science. "I've been an associate professor for 20 years. That department has grown by leaps and bounds, and they needed another professor. I hope to bring my expertise and experience as ten years as office, bookstore, retail shops, restaurants, bowling alley and other student spaces. The second building will be a 50-foot high residence hall with 500 beds.

The permit was granted at a 4-1 vote. Construction is slated to begin next academic year with an anticipated completion date of fall 2009.

Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers surprise children

On Jan. 21, more than 16 children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Piedmont program were on campus, hoping to participate in an annual service project as a form of their appreciation. The planned volunteer work was postponed because of the cold weather, but that did not stop the children from having a memorable day at HPU. They enjoyed a special surprise lunch with their big brothers and big sisters, followed by a tour of the Student Center.

HPU has been involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for several years. Each year, students involved have invited the children to numerous events, including soccer, basketball, volleyball and baseball games. The program matched about 150 students with area children this year.

Find the Chronicle in more locations across campus

The Campus Chronicle recently ordered nine additional newspaper stands that have been placed in domes and buildings across campus for easy access to the newspaper for all students. Look for the paper in places like the Sane Student Center, the Complex, and Blessing Hall.
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Contact us: (336) 841-9042, news@highpoint.edu

The opinions expressed by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the perspective of High Point University students, administrators, staff or trustees. Signed columns, letters and cartoons solely represent the outlook of their authors and creators. Unsigned editorials, which appear on opinion pages, express the majority view of the staff.

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The Campus Chronicle urges readers to submit letters to the editor.
The salutation should read: To the Editor. Letters should be typed and should not exceed 300 words. They must be signed and include the author's phone number and address for purposes of verification. No letter will be published without confirmation of the author's identity. Please do not send anonymous letters or form letters.
The staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and grammar, in addition to the right to reject a letter based on the judgment of the editors and their advisers.
Mail your letter to: The Editor, Campus Chronicle, Box 8111, High Point University, High Point, NC 27262. Email your letter to news@highpoint.edu

Staff Editorial
On Dec. 28, 2007 at 3 a.m. High Point University lost something special. Kylie Pinheiro's death struck hard for all. An 18-year-old only child, Pinheiro found a second family in her roommate and hall mates at Yadkin. Even with only a semester spent together their bonds were strong.

Kylie was killed after a drunk driver ran a red light, striking the Honda Civic she and her two roommates were in. She was pronounced dead at the scene while her roommates were treated at a nearby hospital. She was born in New Brunswick, N.J., and lived in nearby Dayton all of her life. In high school she was a four-year varsity member of the South Brunswick High Swim Team. Here in High Point she volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

She was considered the life of the party by all of her friends. Her nickname was Kylie Sinclair. She made sure everyone was dressed and was always determined to make everyone feel welcomed and invited in order to be included. Her dream was to own a bar in the Caribbean, and she was the go-to girl if you were having a bad day.

"Her door was always open when you walked by. You could go in there if you were having a bad day and she would listen," says freshman Kimberly Munton.

After her passing a wake was held on Jan. 3 in South Brunswick, N.J. It was filled with over 40 of her hall mates who travelled from various places including West Virginia and Florida. Many of the hall mates say that the wake was the hardest time for them.

"That's when it really hit me. I guess I just kept expecting to be coming back from break and her being here," says freshman Michelle Arrington.

With death comes a questioning of faith. They say that God works in mysterious ways and that everything happens for a reason. Her death happened for a reason bigger than can be explained at this moment. And many times, God does not work in mysterious ways. He works in obvious ways though we don't often listen, either by choice or by keeping an open heart throughout this time is important.

Through all this tragedy shine a few rays of hope in the lessons that can be learned. The most obvious one is the mistake the lethal driver made in choosing to get behind the wheel of a car drunk. With all the warnings of drunk driving we are exposed to, it is still a problem.

Also, something harder to do is to forgive the woman who took Kylie from this earth. The driver of the car that ran the red light can be forgiven.

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Gone but not forgotten: reflections about grief and the loss of young lives

Straight Talk From Dr. Nido Qubein

To walk a straight path, look to your principles.

The most stable and enduring source of core motivation is a positive, well-thought-out set of principles by which you choose to live your life. Your principles are based on your values, the most important things in your life.

When your life is activity-centered, the important thing is what you do.

When it is principle-centered, the important thing is who and what you are.

The principles we live by determine our character—the essence of who we are. When we live by our principles, we are being true to ourselves.

Your principles can be like a compass, quickly pointing in the right direction when crisis time arrives. They can be like an anchor, providing a source of steadiness amid tumultuous circumstances. They can be like the nozzle of a hose, directing the stream of our behavior.

Laws and rules may be flexible, for they must take into account a variety of circumstances. Hence, criminal laws specify different degrees of punishment for different levels of homicide. But in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Important principles may and must be inflexible." If principles are bent, they cannot serve as reliable guides to behavior.

You can choose the principles you want to guide you by first deciding on the values you hold dear.

First, think of the roles that are important to you in your family, field of study, community life and religious life. Next, think of the people, activities and qualities you value in each role.

For each value, write a supporting principle. Make it personal. State it in the form of a sentence describing yourself as you would like to be, in the light of those values. Do this for each of the roles that are important to you.

Several questions to ask if one of your values is honesty, you might write as your supporting principles in your role as a student:
1. I can be relied on at all times to study hard and meet my deadlines.
2. I never take time away from study when I should.
3. I never cheat on a paper or exam.
4. If one of your values is financial prosperity, you might write as your supporting principles:
1. I never miss an opportunity to take advantage of work study opportunities.
2. I take intelligent risks in investing my time and resources.
3. I look for ways to enhance the perceived value of my scholarship application in the eyes of the financial planning office.

When you have identified the principles you want to guide your life, use them in measuring each possible career and role choice. When you have found a pursuit that conforms to your basic principles while allowing you to do what you do best and enjoy most in your preferred behavior mode, you will have found your ideal calling.

WE LOVE YOU and THANK GOD FOR YOU.

Nido Qubein
nqubein@highpoint.edu
Cold Turkey: A year-long journey from meat-eater to vegetarian

By Samantha Hester

I have been a vegetarian for three months. This is not something I had planned. For years I pondered the idea of converting to vegetarianism, but never had the courage to do it (or the time, I could) to go through with it. The mere idea of giving up cheeseburgers and chicken nuggets, most young people’s entire diet, intimidated me, so I never made the attempt.

However, after feeling sick every time I ate for over a year and some encouragement from my already-vegetarian brother, I decided it was time to take the plunge, and one day I just stopped eating meat.

I knew that some people carry the belief that such a conversion may possibly be the most difficult change a vegan could undertake. I thought the same thing. However, I proved myself wrong. It wasn’t hard at all giving up the fishy substance. The word vegetarian comes from the Latin word vegetarianus, which means literally, “lively” is the perfect word to describe how I feel since becoming a vegetarian. I am no longer a walking zombie feeling off of McDonald’s dollar menu at 1 a.m., leading myself to an upset stomach at 3 a.m. Rather, I am discovering new vegetables to cook and vegan barbecue. I am living in the magical land of grilled cheese sandwiches. I am a facto-oro-vegetarian. This means that I don’t eat meat, including fish and poultry, but I do still eat eggs and dairy. I may have stopped eating meat, but I can’t give up the ice cream.

The most difficult part of becoming a vegetarian hails from my father. He enjoys mocking my decision to stop ingesting once-living creatures by both taunting me with meat product and pointing out the things that I cannot eat. He especially took advantage of my situation during Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. "This turkey’s so good, Sam. Try some." He made such boasts, knowing that I wasn’t going to eat meat. I’ve grown used to such frustrating remarks, and I am a healthier person for rejecting temptation. At one point in my life, I swore I could never give up meat, but now that I have, I would never go back. I feel better, food tastes better and I’m eating healthier—meat doesn’t even look good to me anymore. My only problem now is fighting the urge to commit each time I am at work (I work at a barbecue restaurant).

While America votes on Super Tuesday, North Carolinians are out in the cold

By John Winn

What a difference three weeks make. In roughly the same amount of time it took a bulk mail package to arrive in the State Center, the race for the White House has turned from a coronation into something resembling a steel cage match in the Octagon. 

Thank you to Obama/ Huckabee’s upset in Iowa, and Clinton/McCain’s resurgence in New Hampshire for the outcome of the nomination fight is anything but certain. Between now and Feb. 5, all the major candidates—and the purists who cover them—will traverse the continental United States on a whirlwind tour to win their quest to occupy 160 Pennsylvania Avenue. However, one state that the candidates will not be visting is North Carolina. As the last holdout, it is the least decisive in the Presidential race, and that’s a shame.

As one of the finest growing and most populous states in the nation, North Carolina, for what it’s worth, represents soccer stadium and athletic facilities, academics and student life. All too often I fear the one thing we need to improve student life is a football program. I know I go into the cafe and ask any student about football, 90 percent of you probably would not mind a football team and would be willing to be a fan of one. But are you really ready for that?

I think High Point University does NOT need a football team because it will be financially strapping. Most students support adding a football team but would not be willing to raise student fees $100 or more. You might think that sporting events are “free,” but in reality you are paying for them through student fees. Wintthrop University has published research about adding a football team to its athletic program: $5.00 million per year to host football games.

One reason the outcome of the nomination fight is so uncertain is that Super Tuesday is the last stopover en route to South Carolina and Florida. While America votes on Super Tuesday, North Carolinians are out in the cold.

Our soccer stadium is too small at 1,100 seats. The football stadium at the High Point Athletic Center holds 10,000 but needs renovation to meet standards. Are we really ready for this burden? Let’s focus on our current sports before we beg the administration to add another sport. Make the current 16 varsity sports the “high point” of the Big South!

We do not need football to have the atmosphere that the sport brings. How great was it beating Winthrop? It was amazing. Bring that atmosphere to countour home athletic events instead of maybe six home football games. I’m not trying to crush your hopes and dreams; I just want to raise the bar.

By Bryan A. Rothamel

It is intriguing that we are trying to make the best university possible without the sport that is most associated with college life. We are in the midst of a $235 million transformation to improve facilities, regardless of student life. All too often I fear the one thing we need to improve student life is a football program. I know I go into the cafe and ask any student about football, 90 percent of you probably would not mind a football team and would be willing to be a fan of one. But are you really ready for that?

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The problem with the word comes from the Latin word vegetarianus, which means literally, “lively” is the perfect word to describe how I feel since becoming a vegetarian. I am no longer a walking zombie feeling off of McDonald’s dollar menu at 1 a.m., leading myself to an upset stomach at 3 a.m. Rather, I am discovering new vegetables to cook and vegan barbecue. I am living in the magical land of grilled cheese sandwiches. I am a facto-oro-vegetarian. This means that I don’t eat meat, including fish and poultry, but I do still eat eggs and dairy. I may have stopped eating meat, but I can’t give up the ice cream.

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As one of the finest growing and most populous states in the nation, North Carolina, for what it’s worth, represents...
Nash ‘sings stories’; Nightwish is ‘darkly satisfying’

“IT Was Faith” is touching, and each song but “Livin’ off Borrowed Time” is harder. Every single song proves master...

Ben Gates at a conference presenting the story of his great-grandfather, Thomas Gates, concerning the night President Lincoln’s assassination. Since the first treasure was discovered, Riley, Abigail and Ben have been busy. Riley wrote a book that means solving an ancient mystery and searching for the world’s largest treasure to accomplish this.

Ben and Abigail have gotten married and are working on getting married; however, the two realize they need first to find the treasure and are able to reunite for the occasion. The audience realizes Ben and Abigail’s connection and that their knowledge and passion about history make them a perfect match.

The audience is touched by the character in Ben’s mother, Emily Appleton, played by Helen Mirren. Long divorced from Ben’s father, she is a professor at the University of Maryland and arch-enemy of Ben’s father, Patrick Gates, played by Jon Voight. The audience needs her to translate ancient writings on one of the clues so she is quickly swept into the hunt. There is certainly a parallel between Ben’s parents’ relationship and his own. The mother seems to be just like Abigail and Ben obviously takes after his father. Both relationships take twists and turns and the audience must wait until the end to see whether or not the couples get back together.

"Book of Secrets" contains all the components that an action film should - high speed chase, the enemy, running from danger, near death experiences, and surprises throughout. However, this action-packed motion picture offers a unique aspect that other films lack - an edge-of-your-seat journey to solução puzzles and gather clues for the first one to uncover one of the world’s biggest treasures. By the end of the movie all ends are tied up so for one little detail about what is written on page 47 of the President’s Secret Book. This leaves the audience quite satisfied and ready to find the mystery of page 47 in what could be a vital clue.

The sequel introduces a vital character for us to discover them. Their music is darkly satisfying. They have been popular in Europe and have been featured on several movie soundtracks, but they never got a record company to sign them. They have been searching for the world’s largest treasure to accomplish this. Their moods and lives. Every song leaves a listener inspired, jumping and at peace.

The sequel has gained the reputation...
The Theatre department is preparing for another season of outstanding performances

By Camara McLaughlin

Spring semester is shaping up to be an exciting and busy time for the Performing Arts department. Theatre productions are going up in February, March and April. First, the spring musical "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" opens Thursday, Feb. 21, and runs through Sunday, Feb. 24. In it, main character J. Pierpont Finch works for the World Wide Wickett Corporation, where in one week, he moves from window-washer to chairman of the board. Such a fast-paced journey wouldn't be complete without lightweight, catchy songs; you'll be sure to be singing for days after seeing the show, and there will be dance moves often involving notepads, office chairs and desks.

The next theatre production is one written by the chair of the Performing Arts department, "Electric City Suite." It is a play written by Kidd Simpson. It will be performed in the Black Box Theatre the weekend after spring break.

Because it is a radio play, the actors will only be using their voices to tell the story. Technicians will be doing sound effects, and there may even be live laughter and applause signs. Never before at High Point has a performance such as this occurred, where hearing is the only sense used to prove to be an exciting, unique theatre experience.

"Anna in the Tropics," a 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner in drama, is the final show of the semester. It will also be in the Black Box Theatre, running April 10 through 13.

The play is set in 1929 in a Florida cigar factory, run by a family of Cuban immigrants. A new lector, a well-dressed, well-spoken man who reads to the cigar rollers while they work, arrives from Cuba. The book he reads, Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina," ignites a new spirit among the family, changing their lives irreversibly.

Come to the shows, support the arts and experience the culture that is available right here on campus.
Students Respond

Friends of freshmen Kylie Pinheiro respond to her death by remembering what she taught them through her life.

“She would always come in your room and listen to you if you were having a bad day. She was open to listen to whatever anyone had to say even if she didn’t have a lot of time. She would make time, and if she couldn’t, she would remember and come back to you later.”
-Kimberly Mannion, freshman

“God doesn’t give you things you can’t handle. I would not have been able to handle it by myself. All the support from friends and family helped me through it.”
-Page Keeney, freshman

“She was the life of the party and always knew how to make everyone laugh. She was also really trusting.”
-Katie Criniti, freshman

“If she felt it, if she wanted it, she did it. She lived every day, she never put things off to for tomorrow. She also always made sure everyone was invited to whatever she was doing. She never liked to do anything alone.”
-Jenna Roby, freshman

-compiled by Jesse Kiser

Far left: Xandy Wreckling, a freshman and Kylie’s roommate, and Lauren McGraw, a sophomore and Kylie’s RA, wear a shirt made in Kylie’s memory with her initials “KP” on the left sleeve. Photo by Pam Haynes.

Left: Lauren, Xandy, and Kylie laugh and cut up while baking cookies together. Photo from the facebook group “R.I.P. Kylie Pinheiro.”

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Students’ excuses go to extremes

By Tara Dyer
Staff Writer

Teachers have heard everything from having printer problems to being sick as reasons why students have late or missing homework. After I interviewed several teachers on the variety of excuses students devise, it was unbelievable to hear the creativity.

"My mom went on a cruise during the holidays, so I had to see her this weekend since she wasn’t home for Thanksgiving. That’s why I couldn’t make it to class on Friday," said the first student.

This excuse was foisted on Dr. Judy Isaksen, associate professor of Communication. “I normally make it to class on Friday,” she said. “One day, the homework-eating dog became a reality for Isaksen. But it was her dog that did the nibbling—a lovable but dopey beagle-Basset mix named Blue. A student had submitted an essay in a folder that had the texture of a basketball. There were 19 other folders, but Blue liked gnawing the bumpy surface, mutilating the essay.

As Gaspeny looked at her with some surprise, the young woman said, ‘Didn’t you see the newspaper this morning, Mr. Gaspeny?’ She handed him the local paper. There was a picture of the car on the first page. She rescued the essay. The car was later auctioned off. Gaspeny said the car had a better design than the essay.

Next time you feel like sleeping in or skipping that quiz, think about all the excuses that your well-educated professors have heard! Don’t think you can get away with any excuse without proof.

Dr. Kinney exhorts the value of community

By Samantha Hester
A&E Editor

A perfect harmony of “Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I’m free at last,” flowed through the chapel. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service was delivered by Reverend Dr. John Kinney in a series of shouts and declarative sentences about community, centering on the theme “Trouble in My Way.”

“If trouble’s not in your way, you’re probably not on your way,” he stated, with a booming voice and hands in the air.

Kinney challenged the audience to move toward community— that is our Promised Land. We must remember that all of the Israelites crossed on dry land together. They didn’t cross by race or gender, but rather they walked beside one another. "You can’t reach the Promised Land and leave someone behind... We are in this thing together," said Kinney.

So, let us not forget one another as we walk this road of life, Kinney urged. Let us not judge, hate or laugh at one another, but rather come together in one body of love—one community. “I can start (building community) with a smile rather than a frown,” Dr. Kinney said. “Walk together children, and don’t you get weary.

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AHPU Annual Fund Phonathon
Survivor of Civil War in Sierra Leone gives back to those still under fire

By Tiffany MacTavish
Staff Writer

Imagine at the age of 9 being confined to your house for nine months straight and living every day in fear that you might be killed by the local rebel group or by a stray bullet passing through your house. This was reality just 12 years ago for HPU senior Namina Kamara.

In 1997, Sierra Leone experienced a 16-year war between the RUF (Revolutionary United Front) and the government at the time over back pay that the RUF claimed was owed to them.

"They target people who work for government, 'cause they feel like you're rich and benefiting more from the government," said Kamara. Namina's father being the minister of finance made her family a target for the RUF's death threats. At the outbreak of violence, which began in the villages, Namina and her family lived in the city of Freetown where their everyday life was unaffected. "They taught us in school what was going on, but because we were in the city, we never thought it would affect us," said Namina.

This would all change on Jan. 25, 1997, when the rebels arrived in Freetown. Kamara knew what was to come next.

Suddenly the 9-year-old who was once free to roam the grounds of her house became confined to one room.

Kamara and her family were on a strict routine because of the constant threats. At the outbreak of violence, which began in the villages, Namina and her family spent in Guinea was hard. The family was finished showering, her uncle showed up, we heard the knocking at the door and a gun blast. The usual 10-hour trip to Guinea took about two days because of the numerous checkpoints they had to go through.

The first of the RUF groups would frequently visit Namina's home, threatening to take her away. With bullets often striking the roof of her house, her mother made the decision that Namina, her sister, three uncles, aunt, grandmother and cousin would remain in the same room under the bed until help came. "My mom always said if we were gonna die, we would die together," Kamara said as she smiled. This became the daily routine for Kamara and her family for nine months.

Help came in the form of a stranger at the door. Namina's father, who was on his way back from a business trip, escaped the coup when the pilot of his plane decided to land in the nearby country of Guinea.

Namina's father hired a driver from Guinea to rescue his family.

"When we heard the knock at the door and a guy claiming to have been sent by father to drive us to Guinea, we were a little skeptical," said Kamara as she described the day she escaped. It wasn't until her mother saw the letter and the picture her father sent with the driver for validation that her mother knew the driver was telling the truth.

Namina's house was located on the top of a hill, and to avoid attention, the driver parked at the bottom of the hill. "The day we escaped we were dressed in all black dresses and veils. We crawled from the top of the hill to the bottom, passing by dead bodies. We were crawling on rocks and dead people," said Namina. Kamara said that she wasn't scared throughout all of this because she felt that "it was [as if she had a cold heart; she] did what she had to do to get out.""}

The usual 10-hour trip to Guinea took about two days because of the numerous checkpoints they had to go through.

Namina remembers one close call where a soldier recognized her and her mother's last name and started to ask questions. When the soldier started to ask her mother who her husband was, the driver stepped in and lied, saying that he [the driver] was her husband and Namina was his stepdaughter. They eventually arrived safely to Guinea, but their struggle for survival was far from over.

The first of the eight months the family spent in Guinea was hard. The family stayed in a hotel, but it became too expensive and they decided to rent a house. Because money was tight at the time, Namina's mother took a job cooking and selling food to refugees in the Sierra Leonean refugee camp in Guinea.

Namina and her grandmother were the first to leave Guinea and head to America. They moved to Alexandria, Va. to stay with family, and Namina completed middle school there. About five months later, her parents were moved to Chapel Hill, N.C. by a close friend. Her father took a job as a gas station attendant, and her mother became a housekeeper at UNC.

Two years later, Namina moved back with her parents, and she has been in Chapel Hill ever since. Her father went to Duke University and landed a position with the United Nations, and her mother earned a nursing degree from Durham Technical Community College.

Namina's year and five month ordeal has taught her a lot. The once comfortable lifestyle her parents' income provided is long gone, and Kamara says, "A lot of people that are from America take for granted the fact that they are rich, but with what I've been through, I've learned to appreciate everything I have." She also says, "I admire my mom more now. Going through all of that, I look up to her now, whereas before this my father was my everything/hero.""}

Namina remains humble to this day despite her struggle. She doesn't see her story as something short of amazing because in the put it "there is someone out there with a bigger story than mine. When I hear someone else's story, I think of mine as smoke when theirs is fire. I'm just thankful for where I am now.""}

She is collecting donations for orphans of the civil war in Sierra Leone. In December, she will go to her homeland and give money to a refugee camp to help feed, clothe and educate the uprooted children.

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Check HPU E-Mail for more information
Petal Points flowers into an official a capella group

By Brittany Roberts
Staff Writer

Since October, High Point University has had an "official" women's a cappella group—the Petal Points. Although the group has been around for several years, the Student Government Association recently sanctioned the group and it became official.

Formed in the early 2000s by alumna Amanda Troy, Faith Doles, and Brittany Suuko, the group began with the vision of starting an all-women's student a cappella choir. They received little support from the university for several years, and some would say that the group floundered after some of the original members left.

The name "Petal Points" is a play on words from the jazz term "petal point," which is a note sustained through harmonic changes in other parts, usually in the bass range. Using "petal" instead of "point" made the name more feminine. The name itself was coined by Dr. Alexa Schlimmer, the faculty advisor for the group, in coordination with the founding members of the Petal Points.

Over the past two semesters, President Rachel Sturm and other members of the group worked very hard to become sanctioned by the SGA. With recognition from the SGA, the group will have access to a school-provided budget and will receive more attention from the student body. Prior to being recognized, the women relied on campus fundraisers, like car washes, to provide funds for necessary items such as sheet music. Since they were sanctioned by the SGA in late October, the Petal Points have rejoiced in their new status on campus.

They have performed in several gigs around campus and off-campus, including singing the National Anthem at sporting events and performing at a market gig during the fall Furniture Market. They also made a guest appearance in High Point University's first-ever Christmas Cabaret, directed by Alexa Schlimmer. The faculty music director for the Petal Points is Krassen Karagiozov, who assists with warm-ups and helping them get their notes together, every little part that we made a difference in her life, sophomore Devon Anderson said, "It has taught me to come out of my shell and sing in a small group of people. It teaches teamwork, I enjoy being a part of it."

The Petal Points is composed of President Rachel Sturm, Vice President Jessica Cundiff, Music Director Natacia Graves, Assistant Music Director Ashley Workman, and 10 other ladies ranging from the freshman class to the senior class: Beckie Lesh, Valerie Payne, Shatrise Saunders, Devon Anderson, Brittany Roberts, Katie Bates, Sophanie Duhaime, Christina Goings, Casey Pantalone, and Marie Ventrone.

"It's really nice just to see everything come together," says Sturm when asked about her favorite experience during her time as a Petal Point. "I really enjoyed recording the CD and hearing us on the University website over the holidays."

Bottom from left to right: Nikki Lawson, Shatrise Saunders, Marie Ventrone, Steph Duhaime, Casey Pantalone. Top from left to right: Katie Bates, Christina Goings, Rachel Sturm, Ashlie Workman, Jessica Cundiff, Valerie Payne, Brittany Roberts, Devon Anderson, Beckie Lesh, & Natacia Graves. Photo by Pam Haynes

The Petal Points were featured on the High Point University Christmas CD performing "Carol of the Bells," which is also one of the songs they performed during the Christmas Cabaret. "It's really nice just to see everything come together," says Sturm when asked about her favorite experience during her time as a Petal Point. "I really enjoyed recording the CD and hearing us on the University website over the holidays."

When asked about how Petal Points has made a difference in her life, sophomore Devon Anderson said, "It has taught me to come out of my shell and sing in a small group of people. It teaches teamwork, I enjoy being a part of it."

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Sturm has been the president of the group since the end of the 2006-2007 school year, preceded by Alisyn Newell. "Being the president is very challenging and time-consuming," she says. "It can be very daunting, but when everything comes together, every little part that we worked so hard on, it makes it all worth it."

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Alpha Gamma Delta News:

The sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta are excited to begin the spring semester and wish everyone a successful recruitment.

We want to congratulate senior Kelly Price on her graduation in December. She will be missed, and we wish her luck in the future.

Alpha Gamma Delta is pleased to announce our eight wonderful, new sisters this spring: Ashley Plume, Ligia Vasquez, Sara Vitale, Heather Pedemonti, Toni Herron, Lindsay Mattingly and Kristen Lambeth, who have brought enthusiasm and great ideas to the chapter. Also, congratulations to Bri Tell, Alison Trask and Jennifer Powell who received bids from Alpha Gamma Delta in the fall.

We look forward to meeting all of the girls who participate in formal recruitment and are anticipating a great spring pledge class.

Friday, January 25, 2008
He has a 5-10 body, but the heart of a giant

By Turesha Jones
Staff Writer

Comedy and a few tears are what you can expect from Michael Jefferson, senior point-guard on the men’s basketball team. With impressive stats throughout his career, Jefferson has been one of HPU’s best players. He began the season only 100 assists away from the Panther record, and on Jan. 21 against Charleston Southern, he recorded his school-record 378th assist. His most impressive stats so far this year came in a lights-out, 23-point performance against arch-rival Winthrop and the Warren Wilson game where Jefferson scored 15 points, had 8 assists, no turnovers and 2 steals. Although basketball is one of his talents, he wants people to see him as "something different, not just a regular basketball player but someone who has defied the odds."

Jefferson looks to his Dad for support. A tear comes to Jefferson’s eye as he tells why his Dad has been so influential. “I talk to my dad before every game and after every practice. He’s been there through my whole career. He’s the one who keeps me sane. He’s one of the people who make me go out there and play as hard as I can because I know I am making him proud. “One memorable quote his Dad has given him for encouragement is, ‘Have fun. You love this game, but it is not your job. When you start looking at it like a job, that’s when the fun goes away.’”

Jefferson has also been favorably influenced by basketball player alum, Akeem Scott. “Keem took me under his wing when I first got to High Point and showed me how hard I had to play and how to deal with the politics and to have fun. Sometimes when you try too hard to be good at something, you lose the fun. He kept the fun going because that’s just the type of person he was.”

Jefferson has also been motivated by teammate Arizona Reid. “Trying to match his intensity every game and knowing that you’re playing with one of the best players in the country every day, every game, it makes you raise your level of playing. You don’t want to get left behind, so you have to step up when he steps up. That’s what makes me go on certain days when I feel like I can’t.”

When asked how it feels to play without fellow teammates Jerald ‘Pnut’ Minnis, who was injured in preseason and missing the year, Jefferson began to tear up. “This is the hardest situation I’ve ever been in when it comes to playing basketball. It feels like somebody killed my brother or I’m going to war over what my head soldier. He’s like my best friend on the team, so it makes it even more difficult to deal with knowing that we have to end our college experience without playing together. It’s been extremely hard, stressful, frustrating, disappointing, complicated and tough.”

Although Jefferson hopes to play overseas after college, he also has other goals. Giving a comedic response, Jefferson says, “Hopefully after I play overseas, I can come back over here and pursue a career as a basketball analyst, or a comedian, or an entertainer, but not a sexual entertainer, more of a Jamie Foxx. I want to be somewhere in the front of the camera... because I like to make people laugh and bring happiness to people’s lives.”

Jefferson concluded, “In a small way with a big heart—5-10 with the soul of a 6-9 figure.”

Up to speed with IM sports

By Jesse Kiser
Online Editor

The intramural fall 2007 soccer season came to a close on Dec. 5 just before exam week. A successful team in IM sports, God Squad, returned with a victory in men’s, while the newcomers to IM sports, Lucky Chams, walked away with the Co-ed/Women’s title.

The God Squad squeezed out a one to nothing victory over the High Point FC in the semi-finals. But they were easily able to hold off Beckham’s Spice Girls with a 4-0 victory.

The Lucky Chams were just that, lucky to be able to hold off the Alpha Gamma Delta’s Zeta Tau Alpha team with a 3-2 final score in the last game.

They owe their success to their hodgepodge team of friends, roommates and friends’ friends.

“I didn’t know but only a few of the players on our team we started, but when we were done, I had made some friends,” said senior defender for the Lucky Chams, Katie Tuma.

For all statistics, schedules, rules and to register for up coming events for everything IM sports, please visit, http://www.highpoint.edu/imrecre

Athletic Director, continued from pg. 1
of associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science. “I’ve been an associate professor for 20 years. That department has grown by leaps and bounds, and they needed another professor. I hope to bring my expertise and experience as ten years as an athletics director to provide the students with insight and information,” Gibson said.

In addition to teaching and serving as AD, Gibson was the school’s sports information director for 18 years and a long-time men’s golf coach; he created the women’s soccer program, and coached that team for the first three years of its existence.

While much of the informed High Point community is sad to see Gibson go, Keilitz brings in considerable experience, despite his relatively youth. As soon as he was born, Keilitz was involved in intercollegiate athletics. His father was the AD and head coach at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich., for several years, and Craig knew from a young age he would like to follow in his father’s footsteps.

“As a result of having the opportunity to work with my father, I had first-hand experience working with budgets, personnel issues, external pressures, and how to wear so many different hats. I can’t imagine doing anything else,” Keilitz said.

A graduate of CMU and Ohio University, Keilitz has spent the entirety of his career working in Division I athletics. He worked first for the University of Michigan as an Adj. in the compliance department, and after two short years was promoted to the Director of Compliance position. In 1996, after three years at Michigan, he was contacted by Wake Forest AD Ron Wellman about a position that had opened up there. Initially having little interest in the job, Keilitz and his wife visited the campus and fell in love with the atmosphere, the climate and the people. “I was really happy at Michigan, and I said I wasn’t interested (in Wake). Wake Forest’s athletics director called to ask me for some names for the position he had open. We talked for 45 minutes, and I was really impressed,” Keilitz said.

And thus began his long tenure with the Demon Deacons’ athletic program. He started as an assistant AD, and was eventually named as an associate. The job description officially called for marketing supervision, but in Keilitz’s words, deals with all external relations.

With the obvious confidence that Keilitz carries with him, it was inevitable that another promotion was forthcoming. When High Point announced Gibson’s resignation, Keilitz was in an interview for the AD position, and president Nido Qubein announced his hiring in the Student Center lobby at a special press conference on Jan. 10. While the old administration accomplished many things that were thought impossible, the new leadership brings a sense of freshness and optimism that should bring the program to even greater heights. To achieve his goals, Keilitz feels student involvement is the key to success.

“One thing about me is that I like to deal with the students. We want to hear what students want. We want every student at every contest. They come because they choose to go. With the students are around. Students do not come to the games because we ask them to. They come because they choose to. With so many different things to do on campus, our goal is to become the number one entertainment priority on campus,” Keilitz said. Originally Craig Keilitz earned his degree officially on Feb. 1, we will sit in the Dr. Woody Gibson Athletic Director Office in the Student Center where old traditions will meet new enthusiasm, and with any luck HPW will achieve more than ever in 2008.
Zsanett Kis: 5 KM from ordinary

By Jacob Peters
Staff Writer

"Don't back down." This is the team motto.

"Coach Mikki has preached that you can't back down at any moment, not even when you're feeling down. It's about taking the fight to the other team and playing as hard as you possibly can," post-county center Kenny George said in an interview with the Greensboro News & Record. "I don't think I would have bought into this if we didn't believe in it." 7'7" center Kenny George on lane-related officiating crew for not calling dominant south conference office about potential violations of the conference's conduct code. Following Liberty's announcement of its investigation into a fan's verbal abuse of a high point player, the athletic department released a statement expressing its support for the player and its commitment to upholding the conference's Ethical Conduct Policy. Public reprimand and $3000 fine. A second offense calls for an automatic suspension. "Stay classy, High Point."" McKay said in an interview reported by the Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance.

The Big South responded immediately by "publicly reprimanding" McKay. According to Rule IV.A.3 of the conference's Ethical Conduct Policy, public reprimand is the penalty for a first offense of "publicly and unkindly criticizing a game official." A second offense calls for an automatic suspension.

As far as High Point's transgressions go, if the conference deems that HPU "did not take appropriate preventative security and/or crowd control measures," the first offense's penalty is an automatic public reprimand and $3000 fine. A second offense would call for an automatic $5000 fine, along with a forfeiture of the athletic season. "Stay classy, High Point."" McKay said in an interview reported by the Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance.

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University's reputation damaged by physical, verbal assault allegations

By Mike Nickles
Sports Editor

As successful as a team is, it is always important to remember that how one conducts oneself is just as important as the outcome of the game. How a fan acts is the way in which one is judged. "In sports, winning is everything," said outgoing Director of Athletics Woody Gibson, who chaired an NCAA committee on sportsmanship for two years, this is the first time High Point has been implicated in a sportsmanship-related incident that has been reported to the Big South Conference office about potential violations of the conference's conduct code.

Unfortunately, the BSC has had to deal with multiple issues related to this code in recent weeks. Following Liberty's Jan. 12 loss to UNC Asheville, new head coach Ritchie McKay publicly criticized the officiating crew for not calling a foul against junior Kenny George on lane-related violations.

"I know I'm new to this league, but I'm really disappointed that people aren't held accountable for points of emphasis like sportsmanship and that kind of stuff. We've got two T's from that alone. We're doing that. We've warned them," McKay said in an interview reported by the Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance.

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Men's basketball beats Winthrop at home for first time

Team follows up historic win with back-to-back conference losses to UNC Asheville, Coastal Carolina

By Bryan A. Rothamel

Despite High Point's preseason ranking, the men's basketball team has dropped two of its first three conference games.

The Panthers were picked first in the Big South, which was expected from a team with a key victory over Winthrop University, 82-61. The win was second for HPU in 21 attempts against WU.

However, the historic win did provide some momentum into the next two games. The Panthers lost at UNCA 74-58 and against Coastal Carolina 66-61.

"There is not a natural team in the Big South," Head coach Bart Lundy said. "The league could easily be won with four or five losses."

UNCA has been the biggest surprise of the year. It entered the game against HPU ranked No. 20 nationally among mid-major teams by collegiemosnider.com. It has no players shorter than 6 feet including the largest man in NCAA Division I basketball history, Kenny George. George stands at 7'9" with shoes on, averaging 12 points and eight rebounds a game.

UNCA out-rebounded the Panthers 35-30 and shot 54 percent from the floor. High Point shot a dismal 38 percent.

"Our goal for the season has not changed since last year and our goal is to become Big South champions," Lundy said. "I think we are definitely capable because this is so far the best basketball we've ever played."

On the season, freshman guard Amber Manuel is tops in rebounds with 7.7 a game. Senior forward LaTeisha Dean leads the team in points scoring 13 points.

Women's basketball wins conference opener, improves to 9-7

By Mike Nuckles and Stephanie Prasnal

Despite losing four of the top eight scorers from the 2006-07 squad, the women's basketball team has kept up their winning ways. A season after seizing their first-ever Big South regular season title, the team is back near the top of the standings, currently sitting in second place, behind Liberty (16-2, 2-0 BSC).

Most recently, on Jan. 19, the team defeated the Bulldogs of UNC Asheville, 81-70 at UNCA's Justice Center. All five starters had at least three fouls, and all but freshman guard Andy Bodd - the Big South Conference's reigning Freshman of the Week - were foul from ejection.

Despite the 28 team fouls, the Panthers still held off a very good team on its home court. Every conference road win is a good win. We got contributions from a number of people. If we can continue that type of play it should be a fun conference season," Tomey Loy, women's basketball coach, said.

"Our goal for the season has not changed since last year and our goal is to become Big South champions," Lundy said. "I think we are definitely capable because this is so far the best basketball we've ever played."

On the season, freshman guard LaTisha Dean leads the team in points per game with 11.5, immediately followed by teammate Hargraves with 11.2 per contest. Senior forward Amber Manuel is tops in rebounds with 7.7 a game, and is sixth in the conference in three-point shooting.

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