

Cat captures mice, claims Field House Grand Grant offered

By Clinton Dick
Sports editor

He is the king of his domain. The idle of Southwestern, the jinx cat, struts about his castle every day, making Stewart Field House his prized kingdom.

The first official jinx cat came on campus in the late 1980s when Nancy Durbin, former athletic secretary, asked Bill Stephens, former athletic director, if she could let the cat stay in the building.

"I said it was fine as long as she took care of it," said Stephens.

Durbin's black cat would not only start a tradition at the school, but help out with some of the problems around the field house.

"I remember sitting in my office and the cat would come in carrying a mouse in its mouth to show us he was doing his job," said Stephens. "Since then, we haven't had any mice."

Jinx had a way of adding to the pressures of playing in Stewart Field House for opposing teams whenever there was a basketball

game taking place.

"He would sit under the stage and watch the game," said Durbin. "The opposing teams would get mad because the cat would sit under the goal where they were trying to shoot. It was the cat's gym."

The same black cat no longer roams the cavernous field house, but Jinx still lives on through a black cat watched over by Jeanice Lowry, athletic secretary.

"I have always enjoyed cats and dogs," said Lowry. "I feed and water him every day, clean his litter box and make sure he gets his vaccinations every year. Other than that he is pretty maintenance-free."

Jinx lives much like his predecessors, roaming his castle from day to day, finding certain spots that he enjoys the most.

"I was here alone last summer and I went into the gym to call for him and he was sitting up by the stain glass window," said Lowry. "He likes windows because he likes to look outside."

Jinx will not be running away from Stewart anytime soon despite his interest of the outside

world.

"I tried setting him outside one day, but he wanted to come back in immediately," said Lowry. "He doesn't like the outside."

Throughout his time in the building, the cat has made a great deal of friends as well as those who may not be as fond to touch him.

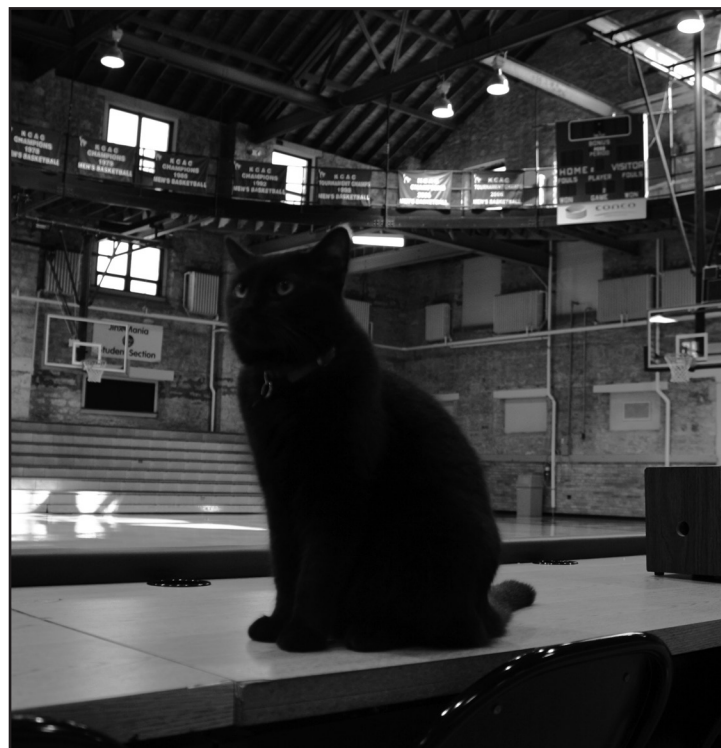
"I have some coaches who are allergic to cats," said Lowry. "Who do you think he tries to go and rub up against first? A lot of times he will also go up to where the assistant basketball coaches work and hang out there on their sofa."

Jinx spends a lot of his time in the office with Lowry as well, greeting those who come in.

"He likes to sprawl out on the desk and when people come in the office he stands up and wants them to pet him."

Though he is friendly around people, Jinx does not usually stick around during basketball games. Lowry says he is not fond of loud noises and usually finds a place to hide when the games pick up.

Jinx is another tradition at



Clinton Dick/Collegian photographer

The Jinx looks over his territory in Stewart Field House. A black cat has lived in the gymnasium since the late 80s.

the school and at Stewart Field House that continues to live on. Lowry says that she finds it unique that the cat makes the building his home.

"I get excited when I think

of how we take the tradition at Southwestern seriously."

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—Chicago from page 1

was also in need of a lighting designer, so they asked Smith if he knew of anyone who would be willing to help.

"Roger asked if I knew anyone who would be able to be a lighting designer," said Smith. "Luckily, they agreed to hire one of my New York University colleagues, Aaron Mooney, to do the lighting design."

There was still one more spot to be filled before the theatre department could start putting "Chicago" together.

Yvonne Marcotte, costume designer, said, "They were looking for a costume designer, and I've worked with Roger [Moon] and Allyson [Moon] in the past with many musicals. When they said the musical was going to be 'Chicago' I couldn't pass up an opportunity like that. I knew it would be challenging, and that is how I like it."

Three guest artists will be helping with the musical. Allyson Moon, associate professor of theatre, said, the idea of having three guest artists was to bring a surprise to the students.

"They bring knowledge that the students can use later down the road," she said. "Yes, we did need the help, and that is one reason we contacted them. But, the most important reason was for the students."

Moon said that the students spend more than 20 hours a week just rehearsing, but all together there will be more than

700 hours of hard work put into the musical. "Everyone has put in so much work," she said. "Having the three guest artists has been a blessing."

Because of the construction on Richardson Auditorium, the musical was moved to Messenger and the new location has its limitations.

Smith said, "One of the toughest challenges we had to face was the fact that we don't have the space to build the show in Richardson due to the renovation there. As a result, our technical director has to build the set outdoors and in the space itself."

With less than a few days left before the first performance, more planning starts to happen. Moon said, "We still have a little ways to go with set design and costumes, but now I have to start planning for Performing Arts Day."

High school students visit campus to learn about performing arts, and this year the theatre department is incorporating musical theatre and "Chicago."

The students will go to different workshops ranging from acting to singing, and then at the end of the day they will have the opportunity to see "Chicago."

"Every aspect of the day will revolve around musical theatre. It will show them how to create a production and what all goes into a musical theatre piece," said Moon. "They have an opportunity to learn about SC, and be involved with interactive



Carly Budd/Collegian photographer

Arden Moon, business junior, and Cody Davis, music senior, practice a scene of "Chicago," on Monday in Messenger Recital Hall. The first show will be at 7:30 p.m. on March 3.

workshops."

As this long process is starting to end, for one of the guest artists, "Chicago" will be an experience they will never forget. "It has been amazing working with Brandon and Aaron," said Marcotte.

"When you're a professional, and you get to work with another professional, you then grow more as a person. Working on this musical helped me remember how fun it is to be a designer. Also seeing the students grow in the past weeks has also been a great experience. I'm blessed to have been given this opportunity."

Erica Dunigan is a junior majoring in convergent journalism. You may e-mail her at erica.dunigan@sckans.edu.



Carly Budd/Collegian photographer

Lenita Krejci, theatre education senior, performs in the spotlight during dress rehearsals on Monday in Messenger Recital Hall.

Liberation from relentless daily grind wriggles closer

By Alejandra Rojas
Online editor

Come March, two words come to mind ... spring break.

The idea to hit the road and take the mind off school is getting close as students wait patiently for a time of relaxation and for a week free of homework.

Josh Plummer, business administration senior, said he begins the process for planning a spring break trip in January. "That is, if you plan on going to a big travel destination and where rooms are limited. It allows you time to get friends and family plenty of time to know

their schedule and to begin saving money," he said.

Plummer said he usually bases his travel on transportation, activities and cost.

Plummer will be traveling to Lake Havasu City, Ariz. "It's a huge spring break spot out west, plus it's only two hours from where I live," he said. "For one, it's close to my hometown, two, it's cheaper to stay with family."

Morgan Constantine, digital arts junior, said she also thinks January is the best time to plan for a spring break trip. "That way you can get all the details and know how much you have to save up," she said.

This spring break, Constantine

will travel with Amy Buxman, accounting junior, and Katie Gomez, communication senior, to Colorado.

Buxman said she didn't have a strategy for planning her trip. "We didn't want to do anything big or extravagant, so we could save our money for a trip this summer," she said. "I chose to go on this trip because I knew I would have a blast being with my best friends and I love Colorado."

Although spring break is a time to travel and leave campus, a group of students will experience this time of the school year a little differently.

Morgan Stacy, biochemistry

senior, is on the softball team. Members of the team have to practice and play games. Stacy said she still gets to go on spring break.

"Usually we take a trip someplace I have never been. For example, last year we went to Springfield, Mo., and this year we are going to Nebraska," she said. "A lot of people wouldn't consider this a 'spring break,' but I certainly do."

Stacy said she enjoys her spring break because she gets to be with her team and play softball.

"In my opinion, playing in a softball tournament, in a place I have never been before, is the

ultimate spring break," she said. While students are excited to travel, they consider spring break a stress reliever.

"Usually by this time of the semester I am really burnt out on most of my classes," said Stacy. "Spring break provides a week of relief from school and a chance to have some fun."

Plummer said he thinks it's important to go on a trip to help "get away" from school, sports and other stresses. "Plus it's nice to see family and friends," he said.

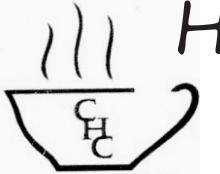
Constantine said she uses spring break to change up everyday life by doing something new. "It gives you a nice relief

for a week and to not care about anything except where you are and who you are with," she said.

Buxman also said she thinks it's important to have a break. "It's bonding time for you and whoever you're with. You get to see other parts of the country that are usually prettier than Kansas," she said.

"Traveling during spring break gets you away from the mundane routine that comes with school and it's refreshing to get away from everything for a while."

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