

# 26th annual light show gathers community

By Lex Goutyon  
Staff reporter

Isle of Lights is a holiday attraction that not only brings the community together, but the students of Southwestern College as well.

A team member and team leader, Todd DeMint, staff accountant, said, “The setup and tear-down events of course are ways to bring people together, but it also becomes a gathering place as different groups tour the display together or work at the gate each evening.”

DeMint said many groups invested in the displays through their purchase, and have a bond through that effort.

DeMint said, “Just having the display in town gives us all something to be proud of, and we can be proud of each other for joining together to create it.”

This is the 26th year Isle of Lights has been set up in the community.

Many individuals helped with the set-up, including many SC students.

Tylor Morehead, biology sophomore, is a part of the football program. Morehead said, “To me, the Isle of Lights means hope. It shows that, even in darkness, a little joy will bring a lot of light and enjoyment into your life.”

Morehead said, “It feels really good knowing that we were able to be a part of something that brings joy and entertainment to people around the community. It is also fulfilling knowing we are helping to keep the tradition that Winfield has with the lights alive.”

Kaitlin Patulea, health science sophomore, is a part of the volleyball team. Patulea said, “This event is important to me because it shows me how to build

connections within my community and give back to the members of Winfield. It also gives them something beautiful to look at.”

Patulea believes that this event not only helps to bring members of the community together, but members of Southwestern as well to form lasting relationships.

Kelsea Kill, health science senior, is a member of the women’s soccer team. Kill said, “Knowing my little bit of contribution to the big picture helped in some way is very rewarding. Being able to go to Isle of Lights and seeing the displays I helped

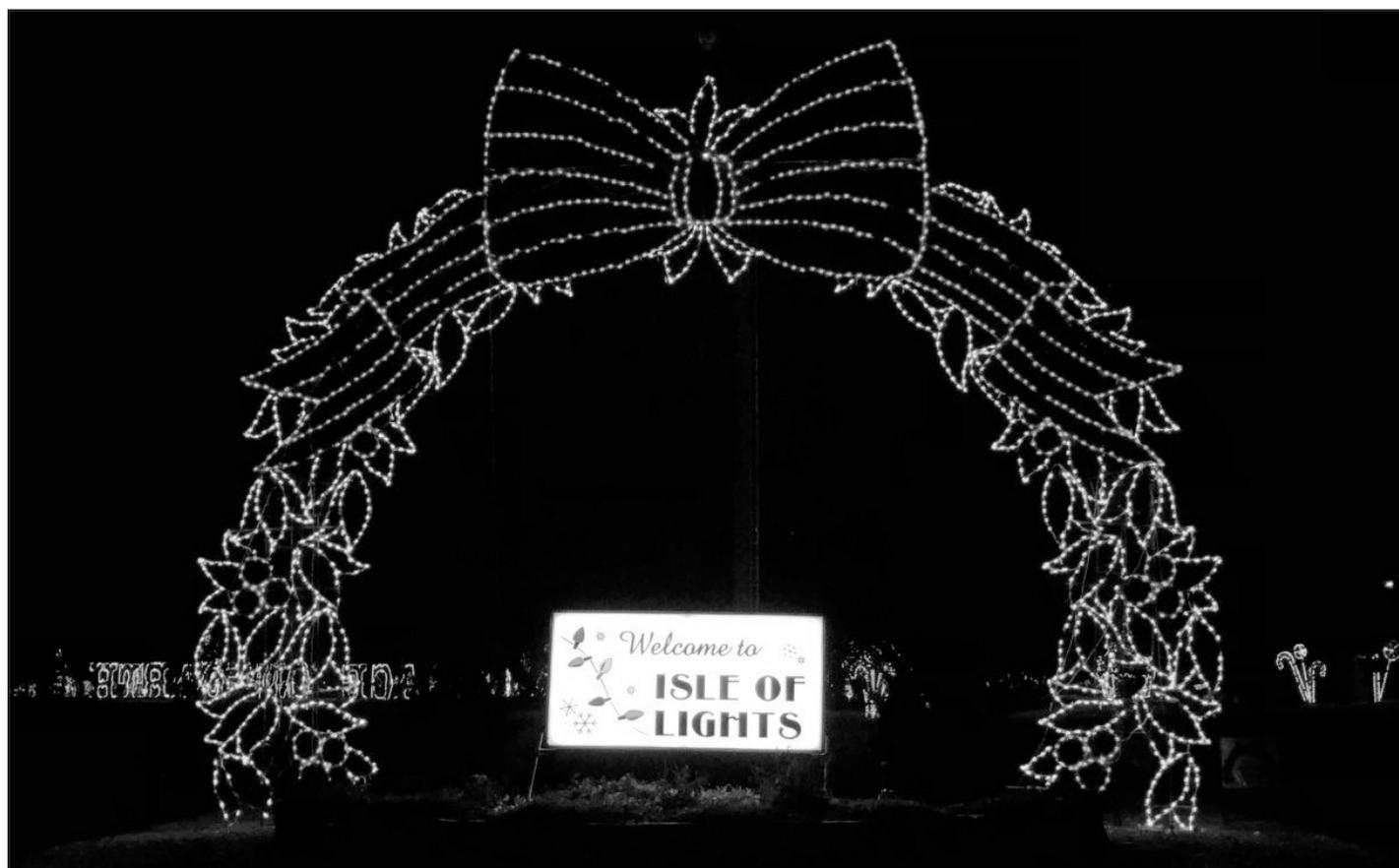
with is a very fulfilling feeling. It makes me happy knowing families of all ages will be able to enjoy the lights too.”

In the pamphlet available upon entrance of the Isle of Lights, there is a memorial dedication to long time board member, Michael Wacker. The memorial states, “Mike was the heart and soul of the giant animated Christmas Tree in Winfield’s annual Isle of Lights display in Island Park. He loved the organization and was an excellent volunteer. He truly upheld the mission of the Isle of Lights by spreading joy and goodwill to the community. He

will be sorely missed.”

Many volunteers and donations make this event possible every year. This event brings individuals and members of the Southwestern College organizations and athletics together and brings a sense of closeness throughout the community through the volunteering and the light display itself. You may head to Island Park from now until the end of December to see the display.

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The Isle of Lights takes place annually in Island Park for anyone to drive through and admire. The attraction is open from 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 30.

Lex Goutyon/Staff photographer

# Diversity drives different holiday customs

By Mallory Graves  
Staff reporter

Christmas is one of the most popular holidays in the world. Almost everyone in the United States celebrates this holiday.

Christmas started out as a religious celebration happening around the end of December, but more than just Christians celebrate the holiday. There are many people who look at Christmas as a cultural holiday, or as a tradition.

However, there are individuals that don’t celebrate Christmas at all for religious

reasons.

Nisa Muhummad, business sophomore, said, “I don’t celebrate Christmas, because in the Islamic/Muslim culture, it is a man-made holiday.”

“Instead, I celebrate a holiday called ‘Savior’s Day,’ which is Master Farrad’s birthday,” said Muhummad. “Master Farrad is the person that we believe is God, and who came to save us.”

In Islamic culture, Savior’s Day is celebrated during the month of February.

“The dates and times always change, but it is a conference where we all come together, celebrate and enjoy ourselves,”

Muhummad said.

During the usual Christmas times, in the month of December, Muhummad’s family participates in similar activities as everyone else.

“We visit and eat with family,” said Muhummad. “The only difference is that we do not put up a tree or any sort of Christmas decorations.”

Essa Alateeq, computer science sophomore, said, “Since I am from Saudi Arabia, I have only been through two Christmas seasons in the US. The first year, I went with a friend to his house and I saw how people celebrate Christmas since I

don’t. It was interesting.”

Back home, Alateeq said he and his family do not put up a tree or open presents. He has continued that tradition in America.

“December 25 is just a normal day for me,” said Alateeq. “I watch my favorite shows on Netflix and cook for myself. I usually would invite friends over, but everyone is with their families and stores and restaurants are closed so I stay in, alone.”

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