

2004 // petit jean
established // 1924

petit jean

1924 // **established** // 2004

Petit Jean, Volume 80
Harding University
Searcy, Ark.
2003-2004
Enrollment: 5,354

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■ Harding celebrated its 80th year of existence this year. Arkansas Christian College and Harper College joined forces in 1924 to begin Harding College on the campus of Arkansas Christian College in Morrilton, Ark.

Administrators hoped traditions from the first student body would be passed down to future student bodies.

“It has been your privilege to establish precedents for future student bodies,” J.N. Armstrong, Harding’s first president, wrote in the 1924 edition of the *Petit Jean*.

“Traditions of the doings of the first student body will be handed down from year to year and from generation to generation, even so long as the institution shall live.”

The 2004 version of Harding reflected the mission of the 1924 founders — to uphold a Christ-centered university.

Freshman Amy Evans said while at Harding, Christ became the center of her attention.

“I notice that I think about my relationship with Christ more often,” Evans said.

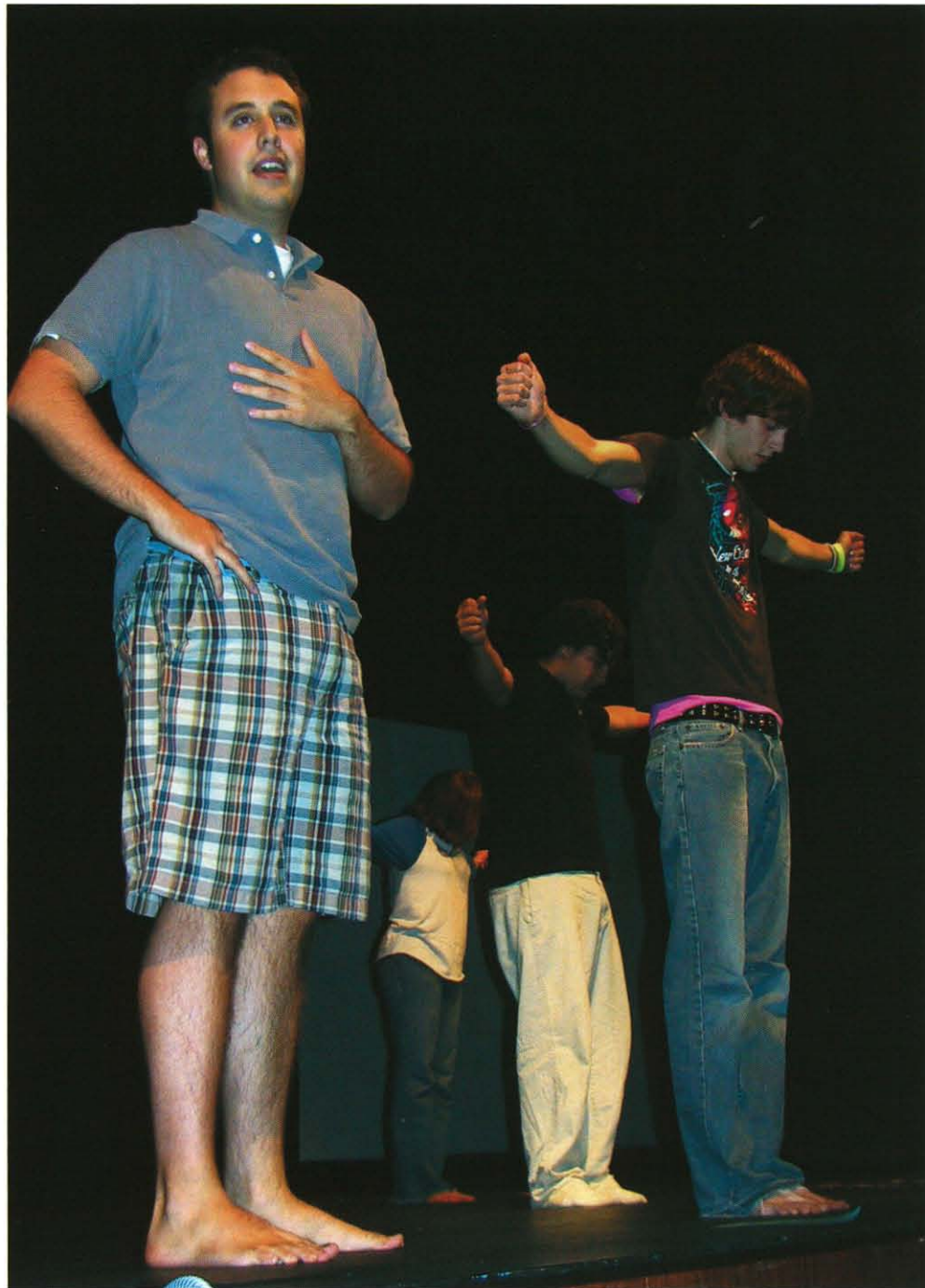
established 1924



Freshmen Eric Young and Tasha Turney sing praises to God at the All-School Retreat Aug. 29 at the White County Fairgrounds. The service allowed students to worship, share with each other and listen to Rich Little, preacher at the Naperville church of Christ in Naperville, Ill. (Photo by Melissa Wilson)

continued 2004

Senior Tim Davis and sophomore Phil Burrows, Theatron members, perform "Leader" during Student Impact Aug. 23. "Leader" was a skit designed to convince people to leave earthly pleasures behind and pick up Jesus' cross. (Photo by Russell Keck)



established 1924

■ Among the new building projects and academic programs, President David Burks said what set Harding apart from other universities was the emphasis on Christ.

“The really significant part about Harding is the fact that we continue to be Christ-centered,” Burks said.

Through mission opportunities, chapel and service-oriented activities, students received an education based on Christ.

“Harding has blessed me with many opportunities to serve both in the community and other places,” sophomore Laura Rifenbark said. “Also, the daily reminder to seek God has been so helpful.”

Burks said the spiritual aspects found on campus were not only traditions, but staples of the university.

“One of the things that has always been a part of Harding, in my opinion, is an emphasis on missions, and an emphasis on service,” Burks said. “Those are important concepts to Harding.”

Rifenbark said the teachers contributed to that emphasis.

“The teachers are always teaching from a Christian perspective and encouraging students to do everything for God,” she said.

continued 2004

Dr. Kevin Klein //

chosen for honor

The faculty member who completed his first year as the new history and social science department chairman, also was voted by the senior class as the recipient of the *Petit Jean* dedication.

Dedication Glance

- // bachelor's from Harding in 1986
- // doctorate from Florida State University in 1993
- // wife, Lori; two sons, Sam and Seth
- // 2003 first year as history and social science department chairman

Dr. Kevin Klein received his bachelor's degree from Harding in 1986, and his doctorate in southern history from Florida State University in 1993. He came back to Harding to teach in the history department soon after.

Senior Micaela Rolen said Klein's teaching stood out from others because of his excitement for the subject.

"History's not one of my favorites," Rolen said. "It's difficult for me to keep myself interested ... It wasn't hard in his class because he was always so into it."

Klein said the reason he liked to teach history was because he wasn't just teaching wars and names, he was teaching God's word.

"It's more than just a truth about history; it's a truth about God," Klein said.





Dr. Kevin Klein, chairman of the history and social science department, works in his office Nov. 4. Klein, who was chosen by the senior class as the recipient of the 2004 *Petit Jean* dedication, completed his 10th year as a member of the faculty this year. (Photo by Renee Lewis)