



Jeff Montgomery



There are aspects of our lives at Harding that we, as students, take for granted. We sometimes forget the unique opportunities that are available to us. Year after year, a new freshmen class is introduced to Harding's campus, groups of students travel abroad for three months at a time, spring break campaigns allow students to experience mission work and thousands of people flock to Searcy to watch Spring Sing. The traditions of Harding are unique. For only four years of our lives, we are able to break away from home, develop our individuality and experience the opportunities Harding has to offer. If we let them, taking part in these traditions will help shape us into the person God wants us to be.

Hannah Ware

student life

the unsung heroes of spring sing



With the lights dimmed and the curtain pulled, the expectant audience shuffled through the aisles and into seats as they flipped through their programs. Little did they know that a completely different world existed behind the scenes of Spring Sing. Props needed to be set up. Microphones needed checking. Lights needed to be cued.

Craig Jones, the choral director for Harding Academy, was one of the people working behind the scenes, training the hosts, hostesses and ensemble to sing to the best of their ability. Jones helped with Spring Sing vocal training for the past five years.

"It's a joy to watch all of the areas come together to make a show, and the energy the college students bring is fantastic!" Jones said.

Jones began the vocal rehearsal process of

Spring Sing very early. The theme and potential song selections for the 2008 show were chosen before the 2007 performance. After being selected, the hosts and hostesses went on a weekend excursion to Branson, Mo., to see shows and come up with ideas that they could utilize in their performances.

Actual vocal rehearsals began in early January before the March show and continued up to three times a week to prepare for the choreography. Jones trained the students with scales and pronunciation exercises.

"I constantly reminded [the hosts and hostesses] of little tricks to help them remember words or notes or how we want a certain phrase sung and to put that together with the choreography so that every spot of the song 'sells,'" Jones said.

Event Specialist David Robison, another



behind the scenes contributor, was the sound technician for Spring Sing.

"My job is to make everyone else sound good," Robison said.

Robison had to start working as soon as the set began to develop so that he could make sure the two integrated. He said that his team drilled holes, laid cables and set up wireless microphone systems for everything to work, while also making none of it visible. There were around 56 different channels and two sound operating boards that Robison and his team had to control. There were also two different sound systems, one for what the audience needed to hear and one for what the performers needed to hear. Robison also helped the clubs record the vocal tracks for their shows.

Two weeks before Spring Sing premiered, Robison attended each rehearsal, making sure all microphone levels were correct and balanced.

"If I do my job right, no one notices, and my reward is seeing the students enjoy themselves and put on the very best performance they can," Robison said.

Staff member Sue Moore was in charge of selling the tickets for Spring Sing. According to Moore, more than 9,000 people watched the four different Spring Sing shows. It was the fourth year for the tickets to be sold online, which made Moore's job a lot easier. Students and locals were given a chance to buy tickets a day before the general public could.

"[The ticket booth] is definitely busier around Spring Sing time," Moore said. "[On] the first day, there is always a long line of people at one o'clock ready to buy the tickets."

Since she was in the ticket booth for the first 30 minutes of the show making sure the spectators got their tickets and were in the correct seats, Moore rarely got the opportunity to see the beginning of the show.

Members of Chi Omega Pi and Delta Gamma Rho perform in their show "Can You Hear Me Now?" on March 22, 2008. More than 90 members of Chi Omega Pi, Delta Gamma Rho, friends and beaux participated in their show about mimes at a fair. *Jeff Montgomery*

Hosts and hostesses May 2008 graduate Jillian Shackelford, senior David Walton and juniors Haley Jane Witt and Logan McClain introduce the Iota Chi, Pi Theta Phi and Gamma Sigma Phi show "New York Minute" on March 22, 2008. The hosts and hostesses performed short musical introductions for each of the seven shows. *Jeff Montgomery*

Junior Rachel Williams sings along with her group on March 22, 2008, in "You Just Got Served." The show, which benefited FishNet Missions from Little Rock, featured members from GATA and OECE. *Jeff Montgomery*

Graduate Jillian Shackelford ends the matinee show on March 22, 2008, in the finale featuring all acts from the show. Shackelford was the first student to be a hostess for four consecutive years. *Jeff Montgomery*

"If you can get the people here and in the auditorium, then it doesn't matter what seat they're in — they will enjoy it," Moore said.

Also working behind the scenes was Steve Martin of Benson Auditorium Technical Services. Martin was in charge of all the lighting that went into Spring Sing. He researched, rented and coordinated all the different types of lighting and made sure they went on and off at the right times. Martin began preparing for Spring Sing in January as well. Because he also ran chapel, his days consisted of going straight from working chapel to preparing for Spring Sing.

These behind the scenes workers and a conglomeration of many others had to work together long before opening night to ensure successful performances.

"A cooperative spirit [must be] among all parties, particularly backstage," Martin said. "This can make or break Spring Sing."

Christie Cronk and Rachel Klemmer

Members of Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju stare into the distance as deer caught in the headlights on March 22, 2008, in their show, "The Night Before Christmas." Members included sophomore Jordan Stephens, senior Ali Standridge, recent graduates Abby Wilson and Tiffany Berken and senior Emily Burroughs. *Jeff Montgomery*

Singing a solo, junior David Walton performs March 22, 2008. Walton sang Josh Groban's "Machine" accompanied by the Harding Jazz Band. *Jeff Montgomery*

Sophomore Todd Sanders and senior Catherine Canterbury salute in the Zeta Rho and TNT show, "When 'Over There' was Over" on March 22, 2008. The show portrayed love sick girls searching for their U.S. soldiers and soul mates after World War II. *Jeff Montgomery*





spring sing unfinished



As the opening of Act II, hosts, hostesses and members of ensemble perform "After Today" from "A Goofy Movie" on March 22, 2008. "After Today" allowed members to relive their awkward early teen years as they sang about life as misfits. *Jeff Montgomery*

Senior Katherine Milner dances in Regina and Chi Sigma Alpha's Spring Sing show "Weird Science" on March 22, 2008. Milner portrayed a lonely robot looking to make friends. *Jeff Montgomery*

Act I

"Come So Far, Got So Far To Go"
Hosts, Hostesses & Ensemble
"You Just Got Served"
GATA, OECE & Friends
"That's All" by Logan McClain
"When 'Over There' Was Over"
TNT, Zeta Rho & Friends
"Point Taken" by Harding Jazz Band
"Weird Science"
Chi Sigma Alpha, Regina &
Friends
"Gimme, Gimme" by Haley Jane Witt
"The Night Before Christmas"
Ju Go Ju, Ko Jo Kai & Friends
"The Song That Goes Like This"
Hosts & Hostesses

Act II

"After Today"
Hosts, Hostesses & Ensemble
"Can You Hear Me Now?"
Chi Omega Pi, Delta Gamma Rho
& Friends
"Machine" by David Walton
"New York Minute"
Gamma Sigma Phi, Iota Chi,
Pi Theta Phi & Friends
"I Know Where I've Been" by Jillian
Shackelford
"Gotta Thrive, Not Just Survive"
Chi Kappa Rho, Kappa Gamma
Epsilon, King's Men, Shantih & Friends
"Full Count" by Harding Jazz Band
"United We Stand"
Hosts & Hostesses
"All for One"
Hosts, Hostesses, Ensemble & Clubs

beginning the year with service

In late August, hundreds of new students arrived in Searcy a few days ahead of schedule to attend Student Impact. The week consisted of an array of activities designed to prepare new students for the school year and help them become oriented with the campus and its amenities.

Beyond showing students where the library was located, where they could purchase their textbooks and how to use their DCB, Impact also included activities that correlated with Harding's Christian mission, such as participating in service projects around the Searcy community.

"Our service projects show incoming freshmen that service is important to Harding and a big part of what we do here," junior Melissa Ritchie, the Impact service project director, said.

Ritchie said that many Impact group leaders helped her prepare and supervise several service projects, which took place Sunday afternoon, the day before classes began. The service projects ranged in variety and included activities such as recycling, picking up trash, visiting residents at nursing homes, crushing cans and writing letters of encouragement to those in need.

While Ritchie did not have an official count of how many freshmen participated in the seven different projects, she and her staff were extremely pleased with how many students were willing to help.

"I think the service project shows that Harding students really care about the community," Ritchie said.

Second-year freshman John Muhlhauser, an Impact group leader, helped supervise a project to clean and crush a mound of cans so that the Sunshine School, a local program aiding individuals with special needs, could turn in the cans for money.

"Not only did we get the chance to serve others, we had a great time doing it," Muhlhauser said. "We also got a little creative by using a truck to crush some of the cans."

Freshman Emily Betts helped with the service project at the Sunshine School. While she felt that crushing cans could be gross at times, she was glad to help out.

"Doing a service project for the first time at Harding within a Christian setting was a unique experience for me," Betts said. "I'm looking forward to further opportunities."

Student Impact went beyond allowing students a smoother transition into the first week of classes. Not only did they learn their way around campus, but they saw first-hand that service was an integral part of the Harding community.

Zach Welch





Freshman Mary Beth Byrd puts on a Hawaiin lei at the annual luau at President David Burks' house on Aug. 22. Student Impact participants ate a luau-style dinner in the backyard of Burks' home as a way of getting to know more students on campus. *Noah Darnell*

Braden Kehl, a sophomore, gets a drink in the cafeteria at the Student Impact theme dinner on Aug. 23. Students were encouraged to come dressed in the style from their favorite decade. *Noah Darnell*

Sophomore Eric Sudeath and freshman Jacob Brown follow instructions given by the hypnotist, Dale K, during the show on Aug. 22. "Whenever the hypnotist would [make a suggestion] I would be like 'Well, I am a princess'," Sudeath said. *Noah Darnell*

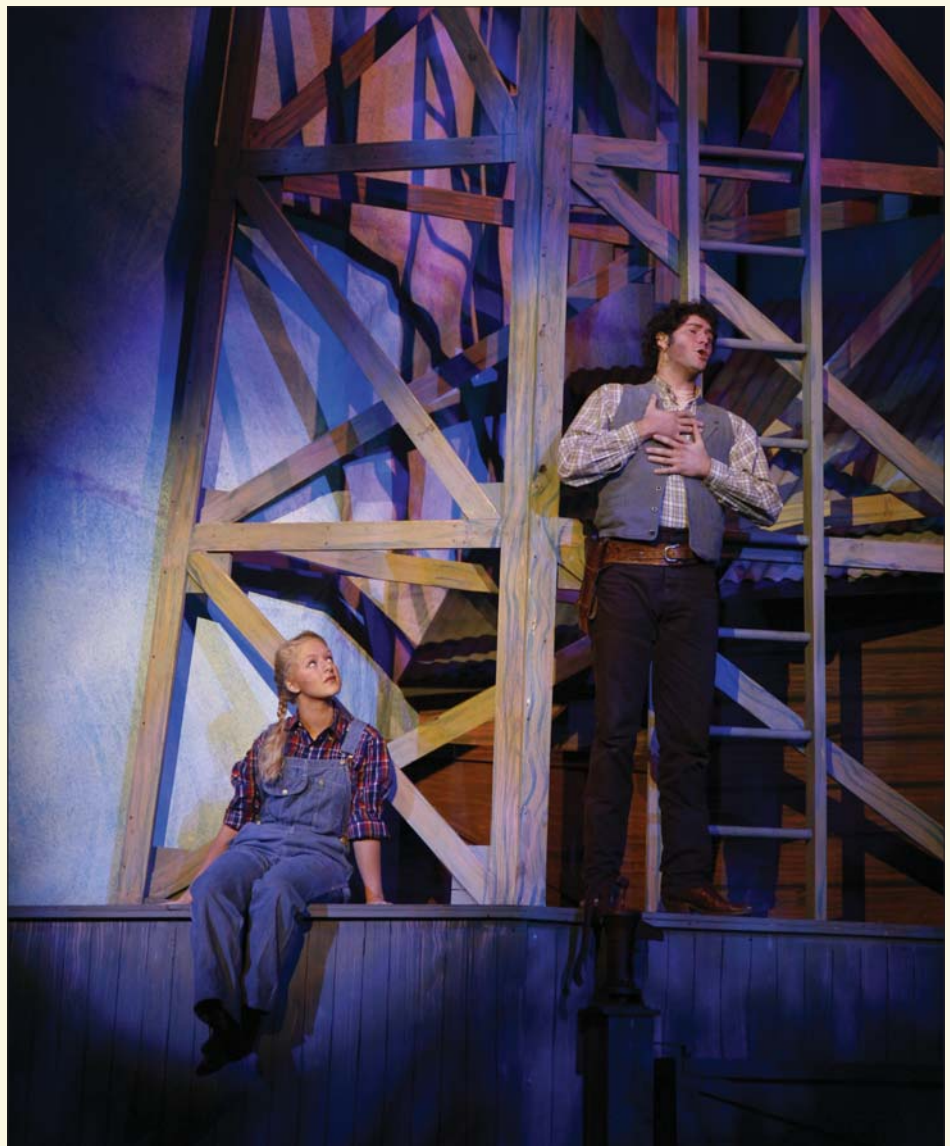
Second-year freshman John Muhlhauser crushes a can during a service project on Aug. 23 at the Sunshine School in Searcy. By crushing cans, students helped clean the grounds of the Sunshine School and saved its employees from having to do it themselves. *Noah Darnell*

Performing in the Homecoming musical "Oklahoma!", senior Elizabeth Harrell is serenaded Oct. 23 by senior David Walton. Harrell and Walton played Laurey Williams and Curly McClain, two of the leading characters in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. *Noah Darnell*

Rachel Filbeck, a junior, sings a section from "The Farmer and the Cowman" in the musical "Oklahoma!" on Oct. 23. Filbeck portrayed Aunt Eller, a witty older woman who was not afraid to put even the toughest of men in their places. *Noah Darnell*

Robin Miller, director of the Homecoming musical, instructs a member of the cast during practice Oct. 9 in the Benson Auditorium. For 23 years, Miller directed Harding's Homecoming musicals. *Noah Darnell*

While trying to give senior Linzi Lawson a "Persian Goodbye", Jared Cook, a senior, is caught in the act by sophomore Sam Barker. "It was difficult to get the timing right with the kissing scene even though I didn't have to do much throughout the scene," Lawson said. "I was just supposed to be there and let them do their thing." *Noah Darnell*



The Homecoming musical "Oklahoma!" attracted many students, faculty, locals and alumni during the Oct. 24-26 Homecoming weekend. Many knew friends or relatives that played the lead roles or participated in the ensemble, but one man who held all of these pieces together could not be seen center stage. Professor of communications Robin Miller was the director for the musical and had directed many previous Homecoming musicals.

Miller came to Harding as a student in 1973, graduated in 1977 and returned in 1980 as a professor in the theater department. In 1985, Miller began directing the Homecoming musicals and directed most of the musicals since that year. Miller said that working with the students was his motivation for staying at Harding for over 20 years.

"[I'm still here because I'm] working in a

place to see students grow and in a place I can share God," Miller said.

Over the years, Miller always wanted to teach. He said it was a part of who he was, and he could not get away from it.

"Many years ago I thought about changing [jobs], but it's what I'm drawn to," Miller said. "It's working with people that I care about."

Miller did not always have the most conventional class settings since some of his classes were held in the rehearsal hall, but he still felt that these times with students were vital. He enjoyed seeing students use their skills and learn something new at the same time. Miller had one big lesson that he wanted his students to learn.

"[Their] identity is not in their job, their role or the applause when the show is over," Miller said. "It's in Christ."

rockin' Robin



Miller and the others he worked with started planning the next musical nearly a year before its debut. In December and January, they were already heavily involved with the planning and decision-making. Even after so many years, Miller kept the creativity flowing.

"In ways, [staying creative] is not difficult," Miller said. "Each show has a different script. Even when you do the same show again, you look at ways to improve it."

Many of his students and coworkers appreciated the things that Miller offered the theater department.

"Mr. Miller is acutely aware of the students' need to balance their spiritual, emotional, academic and social lives," Dr. Morris Ellis, professor of communications, said, "but his greatest concern is about their relationship with God."

Producer Cindee Stockstill agreed that Miller

had a holistic view of the musical, theater and life in general.

"He is able to see the whole picture and not get caught up in one aspect of the show over another," Stockstill said. "He teaches his students about this [as well]."

The faculty told stories about how Miller was able to admit his faults and ask for help and advice and how he focused more on the students' spiritual and emotional lives than any of their performance skills. It was evident to many that he did not focus on himself, but that his whole focus was on the students he taught and mentored each day.

"What I enjoy most about Mr. Miller is his example," junior Tessa Tunnell said. "He always looks to the Lord for guidance in selecting the musical and in directing it. He truly models for us how to be good role models and examples to others."

Farron Martin

homecoming in pictures



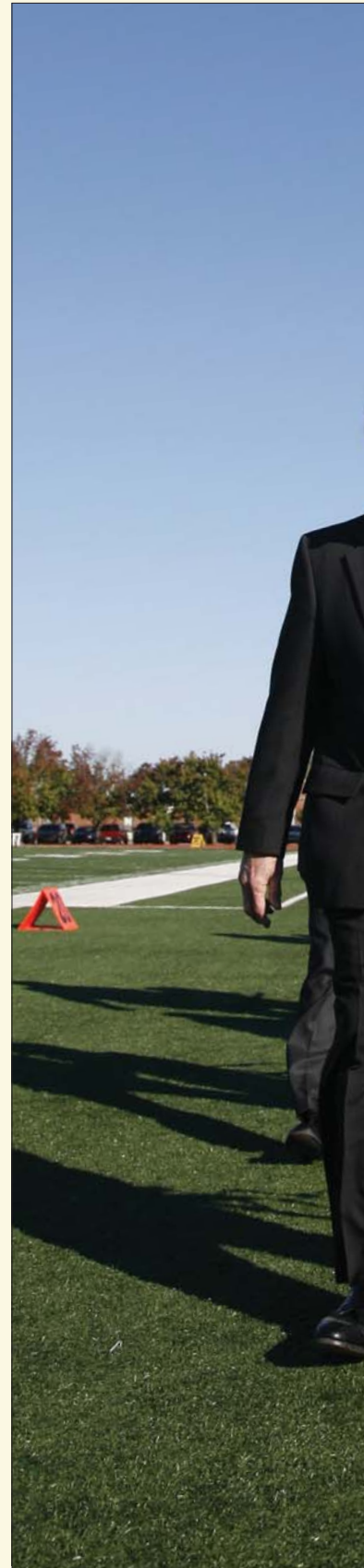
Hundreds of students gather at the intramural fields Oct. 24 for the Bison Bash during Homecoming weekend. The Bash was one of many festivities open to all students during Homecoming weekend. *Noah Darnell*

Walking across the field with her father, senior Catherine Canterbury returns to the sidelines of the football field Oct. 25 after being crowned Homecoming Queen. Canterbury, representing women's club Zeta Rho, was one of 14 girls nominated by their social clubs or the football team. *Noah Darnell*

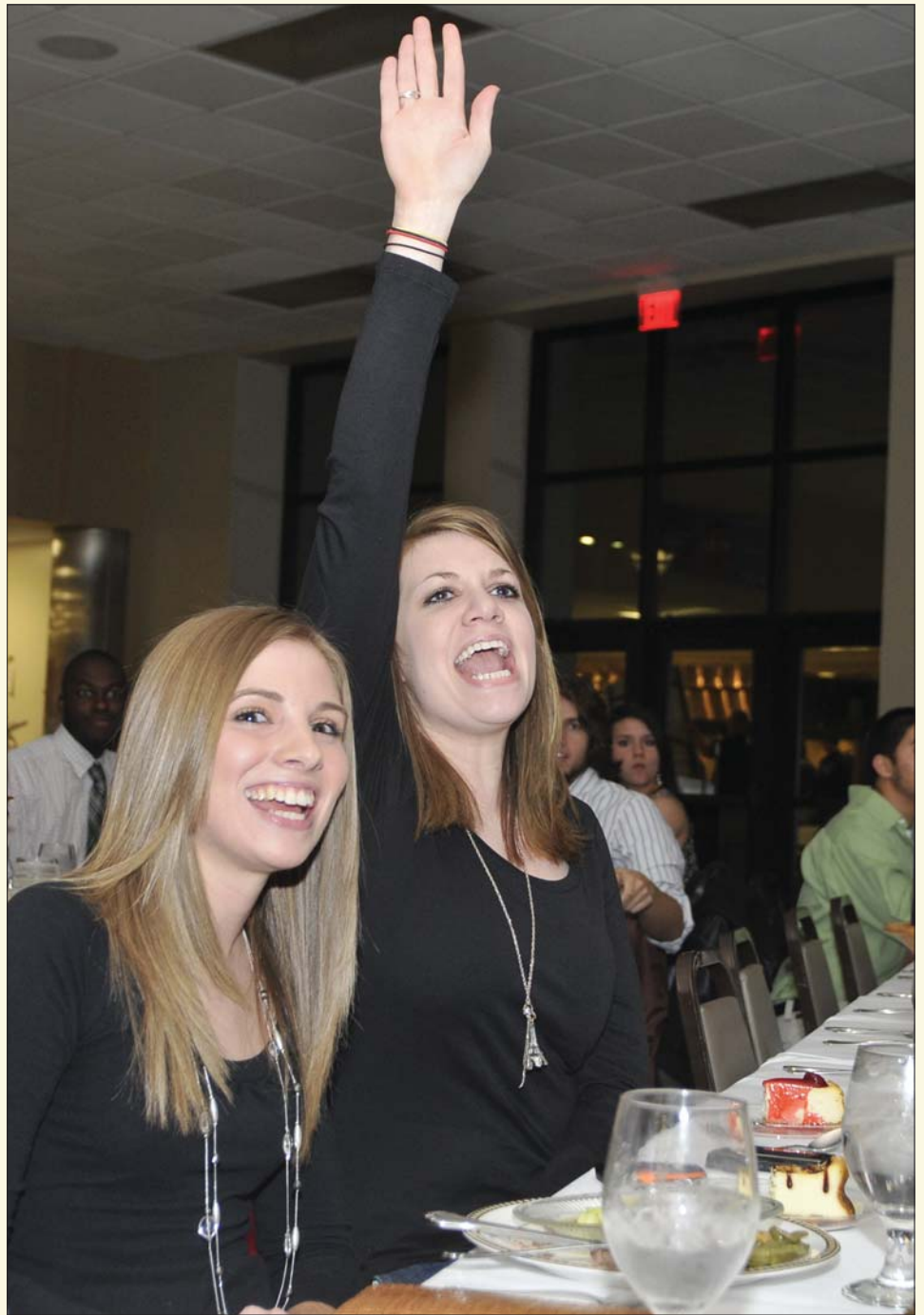
Senior Claire Hancock performs a solo during "Bohemian Rhapsody" with the marching band Oct. 25 during halftime of the Homecoming football game. The performance was one of three in their series of new halftime shows this season, each requiring up to four weeks of preparation. *Noah Darnell*

Harding alumna Amanda Dean Ware helps her son Harry feed a goat Oct. 25 at the petting zoo in front of the Ganus Athletic Center. Along with a petting zoo, Harding provided pony rides and blow-up games as a way of incorporating families with children while they visited Harding during the Homecoming weekend. *Courtesy of Hannah Ware*

Senior Daniel Phipps, sophomore Jason Thomasson and senior Wheeler Parsons stand along the sideline Oct. 25 during the Homecoming football game against Monticello. Phipps had the longest catch of the game of 37 yards and scored one touchdown. *Noah Darnell*







Juniors April McCall and Kalyn Heid bid on a date Nov. 18 while eating dinner at The Event. The Event, sponsored by the Student Association, was a catered dinner open to all students, costing two meals on the students' meal plans for admission. *Noah Darnell*

Senior Michael Crouch interviews sophomore Michael Walker on Nov. 18 before opening the bids for audience members to purchase Walker as a date. "It was good to be a part of something fun and worthwhile," Walker said. "I'm glad I was involved, [even] if it was only for my [British] accent." *Noah Darnell*

Freshman Logan Callier hugs his date, sophomore Kinyata Gray on Nov. 18. Gray won Callier as a date by bidding \$50 to ensure her victory in the auction. *Noah Darnell*

SA President Michael Crouch, a senior, auctions off dates at The Event on Nov. 18. The proceeds obtained from the auction, totalling \$605, were donated to Habitat for Humanity. *Noah Darnell*



the event of the year

Social clubs and other organizations on campus provided students with many opportunities to attend functions and events, whether they were formals or themed affairs. However, since participation was limited to club membership, all students did not get the chance to take part. The Student Association wanted to create an event open to all members of the student body. SA Vice President Megan Reese, a senior, thought it was extremely important for such an event to take place.

"Not every student at Harding has the opportunity to attend a club function, so we wanted to create one that everyone could enjoy, despite what social circle they were in," Reese said.

The SA created and sponsored The Event, Harding's first school-wide function. The goal was to make the function accessible and fun for everyone. The back room of the cafeteria was transformed into a dining hall; the meal was catered by Aramark.

"The caf food was at the top of its game," Reese said. "It was all so nice. We had great food, pretty centerpieces and linens, and everyone was dressed well. It really felt like a nice night out."

The only payment for the night of festivities was two swipes of a student's ID card, compared to a normal cafeteria entry-fee of one swipe.

The main event of the evening was the date auction that followed the meal. Eleven of Harding's bachelors were put up for auction. Two of those men, cousins Drew Dell, a senior, and Harrison Dell, a sophomore, were sold as a pair.

"Before the auction, I was hesitant to even go up to the front because I thought the whole thing would be a bust," Drew said. "I thought maybe the highest bidder would pay \$10 or \$15."

But he was definitely wrong. At first, both said they felt a little awkward while being sold off to the highest bidder, but it was not until they stepped outside of their comfort zones that the prices started to soar.

"We both tried to do stupid stuff to try to get the attention off of us, and as soon as I heard \$120, I didn't believe it," Drew said.

Despite their fears, Drew and Harrison earned the highest bid of the evening, even though they were sold as a double-date.

The auction was an overwhelming success. The female students in attendance opened their wallets and were ready to pay up for their chance to go on a date with one of the bachelors.

Junior Kalyn Heid had not planned on participating in the auction at The Event, but came only to support her friend who was going to bid. However, her plans quickly changed.

"When we all saw who was up for bid, my friends told me to bid," Heid said. "So I did. I guess you could say it was peer pressure."

Once Heid started to bid, she found herself unable to stop despite any financial complications that would result.

"The whole time I was thinking, 'I can't believe I am actually doing this. How in the world will I pay for this if I win? I'm broke!'" Heid said. "It was definitely an experience because it was something I would have never done."

Luckily, depending on the perspective, Heid did not win the auction and was not forced to face financial woes.

After freshman Logan Callier's turn on the auction block, he quickly made plans with his date.

"For our date, we are going to go to sonic and Wal-Mart, and we are going to the park to walk through the Christmas lights," he said.

Altogether, the date auction raised \$605. The SA donated all of the proceeds to Habitat for Humanity.

"We were totally blown away by the great participation we had," Reese said. "So many people came out for The Event, and so much money was raised for a great cause. I think this just shows us that no matter how much we may be consumed by our own little circles, our school has a great sense of unity. If anything, The Event has proven the need for more activities like that."

Hannah Ware

Musician Josh Gracin shakes hands with Matt Garner, a sophomore, Sept. 4 after playing a game of basketball in the Rhodes Field House with other members of the Bison basketball team. Gracin enjoyed playing basketball throughout his tour as a way of exercising and letting off steam before a performance. *Noah Darnell*

Dr. Monte Cox, Dean of Bible, gives a devotional during the all-school devo Nov. 6 in the McInteer Bible Building. Along with singing and a devotional, Theatron, a drama ministry group, performed for those in attendance. *Noah Darnell*

Mac Frampton, "The American Piano Man", performs in the Administration Auditorium on Nov. 10. Frampton had performed over 3,000 concerts in the U.S., Canada, South America and Europe and partnered with entertainers such as Bill Cosby, Victor Borge and Roberta Peters of the Metropolitan Opera. *Noah Darnell*





activities on campus



Performer Fisher Stevenson opens for Josh Gracin and Lady Antebellum on Sept. 4 in the Benson Auditorium. At the beginning of every school year, Harding's Campus Activities Board recruited up-and-coming music stars to perform for the Searcy community.
Noah Darnell

Charles Kelley, lead singer for Lady Antebellum, performs Sept. 4 in the Benson Auditorium. Lady Antebellum was known for hit songs like "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" and "I Was Here."
Noah Darnell

different worlds, same sport



Sophomore Moses Rotich from Kapchorwa, Uganda, came to Harding with a plan to run for the cross country team. Once he set foot on campus, however, he had a change of heart. Rotich saw the soccer team playing and was reminded of how much he loved the sport. He played soccer since he was in secondary boarding school — similar to American junior high school.

"In boarding school we played soccer all the time, and I came to love it with a passion," Rotich said.

Coming to the U.S. was a big adjustment for Rotich. Stereotypes existed in Africa about American soccer, but joining the Harding team gradually changed his thinking. Practices were

as intense at Harding as they were at his home, and there were some different rules to get used to. The weather, however, was Rotich's biggest adjustment.

"I have never lived in a humid place before, and the weather here changes so fast," Rotich said. "I remember when I first tried out for the team. It was so humid, and I felt like I couldn't breathe that day."

One of Rotich's biggest challenges was communicating with his teammates. He was a little intimidated because he had such a thick African accent and started out very quiet with the other soccer players.

"After a few days though, I learned that it is very difficult to isolate yourself in the United States," Rotich said. "The guys would



Junior Gibron Velazquez befriends a few local school children in El Icocal, El Salvador, Aug. 5. A group of Spanish speaking students went to El Salvador to educate children from different communities on ways they could help the environment, based on Christian values. *Courtesy of Lupita Ramirez*

Tiana Li, a graduate student, demonstrates kung fu Sept. 13 while celebrating the Chinese Moon Festival. International students from China used the celebration as an opportunity to share Chinese culture with Harding students. *Noah Darnell*

Teammates and sophomores Haniel Gara and Lola Pardo high-five during tennis practice Sept. 10. Both tennis players came to Harding as international students from Zimbabwe and France. *Noah Darnell*

Sophomore Moses Rotich shields a Drury defender from the ball on Sept. 7. Though it took some time, Rotich worked hard to gain the skills needed to properly communicate with his teammates. *Noah Darnell*

always come and try to converse with me and make me feel part of the team. I know all of them now, and we all play the game with a passion.”

Coach Greg Harris played a big part in helping Rotich fit in with his teammates. Rotich said that the player-coach relationship was a lot different for him in the U.S. than it was in Uganda. At home, the coach-team relationship was mainly on the field. Harris helped build the team by inviting them over to his house to relax and have fun outside of practice.

Rotich said he always wanted to go to a Christian school in the U.S. A Harding alumnus and friend of his father recommended Harding to him.

“I wanted a good Christian education in the U.S., and Harding seemed to be the place,” Rotich said.

Not only did he have to make adjustments on the soccer field, but he also found there were a lot of social and educational differences.

He experienced many of the same difficulties most African students faced. The hardest part was socializing because the English accent was very different from their African accent.

“[Most African students] don’t normally feel confident enough to interact freely, so it was only natural that I experienced the same problems,” Rotich said. “The education system here was somewhat different and hi-tech, which I wasn’t used to, but I adapted quickly.”

Rotich also discovered that he had more free time because his classes did not seem to be as hard as at home. In Uganda, he said he had many sleepless nights studying for his classes, but his schedule at Harding was a little more relaxed.

Through all of the adjustments and changes from Uganda to the U.S., Rotich adapted well.

“Harding has been a home away from home for me because I have made so many good friends who always try to help me when I need it, and the professors and everyone else I meet on campus are just so friendly,” Rotich said. “I therefore interact freely with everyone, and I have adjusted quite well in this kind of environment.” *Bethany Loftis*

leadership starts young

Harding's mission statement stated, "Integrating Faith, Living and Learning," meaning that Harding wanted to provide students with opportunities to incorporate their Christian beliefs with the rest of their lives. One opportunity Harding provided for its students was through spring break campaigns.

Every year, hundreds of students devoted their spring break to spreading the gospel to places around the world. Campaign groups traveled across the United States, Canada and to many other countries including Ukraine, Haiti and Honduras. However, the most unique aspect of the spring break campaigns was not the location, but the leadership that took place long before anyone left for the break.

Starting eight to nine months earlier, student volunteers began working on the campaigns for 2008. Recent graduate Nicholas May, the student director and finance director, was the liaison between the spring break missions office and the participating students.

"It was a nice way to get involved with students that I would not normally see or interact with," May said. "There was always an inspirational story from the students that affirmed that even working for just a week was worthwhile."

Junior Brice Priestly led an individual group campaign in 2007 and was asked to be the travel director over all of the 2008 campaigns.

"Missions are important," Priestly said, "But if you can't get the people there in a safe and efficient way, the mission can't happen."

Priestly knew that even though his job would not directly affect the people being served through the campaigns, he realized that any way he was able to help would allow the trips to run more smoothly.

"Just being a part in any way, we were able to serve and do so much good for so many people who needed to hear the gospel," Priestly said.

Nathan Copeland, assistant to the president, oversaw the spring break campaigns and helped the student leaders as they worked towards successful campaigns.

"When I saw all the student leaders get so passionate about preparing to serve, [it] forced me to think critically about how I choose to use my life for the Lord," Copeland said.

Students who led the campaign groups had more of a direct influence on the outcomes of their campaigns. Recent graduate Luckson Previl led a campaign to his home country, Haiti. The goal of this group's campaign was to encourage church members and children by painting church buildings and hosting a vacation Bible school. Previl, who understood the culture shock that could potentially affect students, was able to prepare his teammates for a trip that would be trying.

"The students just needed to be willing to go out of their comfort zone," Previl said. "I realize that for lots of kids at [Harding], the poverty of Haiti is something that most people have never seen before."

Though student leaders began working many months in advance, they were still faced with obstacles. Similar to any event that needed planning, Harding's spring break campaigns had their challenges to be overcome.

"Challenges in the pre-stages were things such as working with the contacts at different locations. We were working on both their schedules and ours to get everything together," May said. "And there were always students who just don't seem to cooperate with what you ask them to do, whether it was [missing] deadlines or having no apparent concern for money."

For Priestly, his challenges were keeping students accountable to their teams.

"We start so early in the year that in the beginning, people get excited and sign up for the campaigns," Priestly said. "But the year rolls around and people lose interest. They want to do other, more exciting things. Keeping those students on their teams and active members is the biggest challenge."

Even through difficulties, these leaders felt that using their gifts and abilities was well worth the effort.

"It is important for Harding to be involved in missions. Harding, as a Christian institution, and our students should be involved because they get a chance to see how people really live in other parts of the world," Previl said. "In America, it's very different from how people live in Europe or Asia. I complain about the [cafeteria] food, but then I think about how people in my country are starving. Mission trips open your eyes and make you more thankful for what you have."

Hannah Ware





May 2008 graduate **Jacob Henry** throws a spear into a target during the spring break campaign in Hawaii March 4, 2008. Students had a hands-on experience in learning traditional Hawaiian hunting skills. *Courtesy of Janet Henry*

Gil Jimenez, a graduate student, interviews a stranger about his religious beliefs during a ferry ride to Long Island, New York, on March 5, 2008. Students interviewed people as part of a documentary, which studied people's views on Christianity. *Courtesy of Joseph Dickerson*

Learning to dance March 4, 2008, senior Katie Williams, junior Curt Matzenbacher and senior Victoria Weaver get into the Hawaiian spirit. Local Hawaiians taught Harding students how to hula during a luau. *Courtesy of Janet Henry*

Senior **Jonathon Gehrich** meets a man in New York and stops to help him feed a squirrel in Central Park on March 3, 2008. Developing relationships with complete strangers was a highlight of the students' trip to the Northeast. *Courtesy of Joseph Dickerson*

Senior Seth Coleman helps baptize Roza, a Tanzanian woman, in Chimala, Tanzania, in Africa on June 20, 2008. Because of Roza's complications with her caesarean section, the men were forced to use a sheet to lift Roza into the tub used to baptize her. *Courtesy of Jes Ellis*

JM Corella, a senior, reads the Bible on June 22 to Roza, a patient at Chimala Mission Hospital. Even through her sickness, Roza continued to show interest in learning about Christianity as several students studied with her during their stay in Chimala. *Courtesy of Jes Ellis*

Trying to make friends, senior Heather Mitchell plays with a group of children in Togo, Africa, at the end of May. "It was a really good lesson in that you don't have to speak the same language with someone to share joy with that person," Mitchell said. *Courtesy of Meredith Gravette*

While accompanying other medical professionals, senior Jes Ellis helps perform a caesarean section in Tanzania, Africa, on June 22. "We were able to experience things in Africa that we never would have been able to otherwise," Ellis said. "Our experiences helped give us a more well-rounded view of medical care." *Courtesy of Jes Ellis*



Many students who signed up to go on medical missions did so with the expectation of aiding people in need. They intended to ease the patients' sufferings and help them as much as possible. However, some students found out that they were actually the ones being helped; they were the ones being aided.

During the summer of 2008, 13 students from Harding went to Chimala, Tanzania, in Africa and worked at the Chimala Mission Hospital. At the end of the trip, they realized they were the ones who were blessed from their experiences.

The mission began when students supplied medical care, provided teaching sessions for the doctors and nurses and encouraged members from the surrounding churches.

"We did a lot of health care teaching and community health promotion in remote villages," senior JM Corella said. "This teaching included the recognition of early signs and symptoms of illnesses such as malaria, pneumonia and dehydration."

Corella added that the group also held a mother/child clinic where they gave vaccinations and weighed babies to ensure adequate growth and development through their years.

While the students worked at these things, they slowly began to realize that they were gaining much more than they were giving.

"God was teaching us a lot about Himself and about ourselves in relation to Him and this world that He created," Corella said.

The group also felt that getting outside of their cultural comfort zones enabled them to learn things that would not have been possible otherwise.

"I was able to see and experience things in Africa that I will never be able to see in the states," senior Jes Ellis said. "Every cultural experience strengthens me as a person and as a nurse. I saw true pain and suffering, along with the awesome power of God."

While in Africa, the students had the opportunity to meet a young woman named Roza with an interesting story. Before the group arrived at

Chimala, Roza had a baby named Daniel. Unfortunately, she developed complications because of the caesarean section and had a terrible infection in her abdomen. After being admitted to the local hospital, the only person who was with Roza was Bibi, the baby's grandmother. Bibi was ashamed of the way her son, Daniel's father, treated Roza, so she stayed with Roza in the hospital to help her and her grandson.

Even though she was in the hospital, Roza did not get better. After many days of trying to cure her, the doctors told Roza that they could not do anything else for her. This news was hard for both Roza and Bibi. Trying to ease the situation, the students took their Bibles and read scriptures to Bibi. Through a translator, she told them that she was a member of the church in Chimala and that she appreciated them reading and sharing with her. Soon, Roza expressed her interest in the Bible and shortly after was baptized into Christ in a bathtub at one of the missionary's houses.

"On the way back to the hospital, we were singing songs, and Roza had this look of peace on

a faithful healing



her face,” Corella recalled. “She closed her eyes and started humming even though she did not know the songs we were singing. We all just witnessed the work of the Lord and the joy that only comes from having Jesus as your savior.”

The transformation that occurred in Roza’s life was evident to everyone around her.

“From then on, she seemed very calm and at peace with her condition,” senior Kendyll Helf said. “She smiled and would always hold out her hand for us to come say hello. The change in her demeanor and attitude is truly a testament of what God can do in someone’s life.”

Roza was discharged from the hospital the final day that the students were in Chimala. The last news they heard about her was that she was gaining her strength back, but it was a slow and difficult process.

“Even if she was in pain, she always welcomed us with a smile and would often say ‘ninamshukuru Mungu kwa wewe’ which in Swahili means ‘I am thankful to God for you,’” Corella said.

Ellis, Helf and Corella all agreed that their time

spent in Africa was a life-changing event.

They learned things that were necessary for them to succeed in their field of study, gained confidence in caring for and treating illnesses and had first-hand interactions with real people and their problems. But the most important thing that they learned was how God worked in people’s lives.

“The most valuable aspect of our trip was the relationships that we shared in,” Corella said. “We grew as a mission team, we grew close with the missionaries and the hospital staff, we grew with numerous patients and ultimately we grew with our Heavenly Father. All of us would say that this was the single greatest thing we took from this trip.”

The students that went on this medical mission returned home to the U.S. as different people. They were changed by the things they saw and experienced. Their memories of Africa and of God, still very much alive, will remain with them wherever they go.

Rebecca Harrell

more than just keeping score



Intramural sports offered students an opportunity to compete in athletic competition without having to be a part of the official collegiate teams. Ranging from softball to swimming, students competed on teams or head-to-head. However, there were student workers behind this whole process that many participants did not take into account.

“Working intramurals is not an easy job,” senior Matt Tate said. “A lot of people think that we don’t do that much, but without us, there wouldn’t be any intramurals.”

Intramural workers went to the fields and courts early to set up the scoreboards, place the bases or put up the nets. The workers made sure games were played fairly and kept the games going. They calmed irritated players, assisted the injured and were the gears to a machine that many people did not give credit to.

Senior Kellie DeAtley had worked intramurals since her first semester at Harding in 2006. She had

Freshman Caleb Genry hits the softball into the outfield Oct. 8 during the men's intramural softball championship game. Men's intramurals awarded letter jackets to men who had the highest participation throughout the entire year. *Noah Darnell*



a different view on the way things were done because she worked with the women's intramural events.

"Being a part of intramurals is a fun experience. I love seeing my friends play sports," DeAtley said. "Working the games lets me get outside of school for a while."

Intramurals certainly took up a good portion of time though. Workers got to pick when to work, typically picking between six to seven one-hour shifts a week. Intramural staff also received payment through work-study.

"It isn't that hard to balance school and work. The scheduling allows for you to work when you can," senior Brice Carter said. "If you have something you need to be doing, then you can let someone else have that shift."

On Dec. 5, the intramural staff got together to have the annual Intramural Worker Challenge. The group went bowling, ate at Ryan's

Family Steak House and played different sports in the Ganus Athletic Center afterwards.

"We play pickle ball, table tennis, basketball and other sports," Carter said. "When you win an event, you get points. At the end, whoever has the most points gets to take home the plaque."

Some viewed the intramural workers as the unsung heroes behind the scenes of intramural sports. Coach Jim Gowan attested to that. Gowan, director of men's intramurals for 13 years, said he was an avid sports fan and loved being a part of this group.

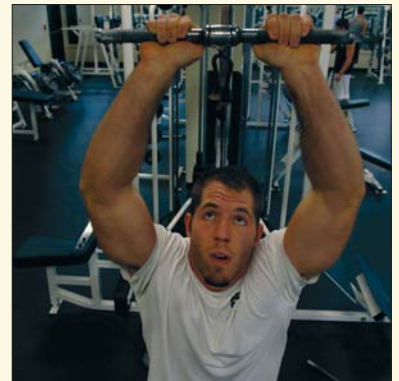
"I have a great group of guys this semester," Gowan said. "They are incredibly responsible. They show up on time. They work hard, and I couldn't ask any more from them. They maintain the spirit of the game, and they sure do make it fun to watch."

Cody Waits

Senior Mandy Finch and junior Michal Henderson set up the ball to score Nov. 21 in the Ganus Athletic Center. Intramural sports were open to all students and provided great opportunities to meet others while participating in physical activities. *Noah Darnell*

Entering in a team's point, Hannah Benjamin, a freshman, keeps score of an intramural men's volleyball game Nov. 3 in the Ganus Athletic Center. Both student intramural workers and volunteers helped intramural sports function smoothly throughout the year. *Noah Darnell*

living on a student's budget



As gas prices rose and the economy became unstable, Harding students found themselves doing anything to save money. Many students had to figure out a way to have fun and not break the bank by doing so. The drive to Little Rock turned out to be quite expensive, and much imagination was required for an adventurous night in Searcy.

"Little Rock is bigger and has more options, but give Searcy some credit," senior Megan Lankford said. "It is constantly growing. Searcy has its hidden treasures."

Students discovered many activities to attend on campus that proved to be fun and exciting. The Campus Activities Board presented inexpensive concerts, movies and a talent show for those who wanted to save on driving costs and were more willing to stay on campus.

"CAB brings [concerts and movies] to campus so that you can save money on gas. Instead of having to drive somewhere, you can walk," graduate student Matt Perring said. "The concerts also give you a chance to have more one-on-one contact with the artists because it's a smaller setting."

Off campus, some businesses had deals that helped out when money was tight. Fast food restaurants like Wendy's, Lenny's Sub Shop and Quizno's had different nights where they offered food at discounted prices.

"One thing you can do to save some money is ask for a Harding discount," senior Ashley Hopkins said. "Most stores in Searcy, even nicer boutiques, will offer discounts to Harding students if you ask."

On the town square in Searcy, the Rialto



April Augsburger, a senior, stocks the shelves of the Ezell Resource Room on Sept. 11. "It's nice to work in a place where I can study and stay on top of my homework," Augsburger said. "I have a flexible schedule, which is perfect for a full-time student." **Noah Darnell**

Junior Anna Steinocher winces as she gives blood in the Benson Auditorium on Sept. 12. Students had the opportunity to give blood on the National Day of Encouragement in a competition against other universities for the most blood donations. **Noah Darnell**

While in the gym, junior Aaron Morton lifts weights Sept. 16. The Ganus Athletic Center gym was open every day to students and faculty. **Nick Michael**

Dancing to his own beat, senior Keke Brooks shows off his moves Sept. 12 during the National Day of Encouragement. The Day of Encouragement activities included lunch on the front lawn, volleyball games and stations to write encouraging notes to others. **Noah Darnell**

Theater only charged \$1.50 for movie tickets. The movies were usually a few months old, but they were still new enough to be worth the bargain price. With the nostalgia of an old-time, one room theater, the Rialto provided a fantastic supply of amusement without having to pay the higher prices at surrounding theaters.

"One of my favorite places to go is the Rialto," junior Kyle Binkley said. "It is a cheap and fun way to catch a somewhat old but still good movie."

Also on the town square, students found southern comfort at Bobby's, a local family-owned restaurant with real home cooking. Serving only breakfast and lunch, Bobby's made a name for itself in its reasonable prices.

"You are not a health nut if you are going to Bobby's," senior Cory Miller said. "It has regular

customers, cheap hearty food and reliable service. I always enjoy Bobby's every time I go."

To save even more money, students also took advantage of coupons and discounts. Senior Claire Austelle had her family save extra grocery store coupons from the Sunday newspaper. When she went home, she could go through them and see if they were for any products that she usually purchased.

"It helps me actually make my list before I go to the store," Austelle said. "I'm less of an impulse buyer if I look to see if I have a coupon for it."

Students also used the Internet as a resource to find even more discounts at their favorite stores.

"I use [coupons] everywhere," Austelle said. "If I don't have a coupon for something, I'll

go online and search. Almost always you can find either a percentage off or a free shipping coupon."

Hopkins agreed that online coupons and discounts were the way to go.

"At the beginning of the year, I'll go to my favorite stores online and register for their catalogs and get their discounts in the mail," she said. "It's a great way to see what the new styles are for the season and get good deals at the same time."

Whether participating in campus activities, going to unique and low-priced Searcy hot spots or finding coupons and discounts, students harnessed their creative sides to find entertainment without having to take a hammer to the piggy bank.

Cody Waits and Rachel Klemmer

experiencing the great outdoors

Most college students were on the constant hunt to get cash. Whether by begging for it from their parents, getting a part-time job in the cafeteria or scrounging through their suitemates' couch cushions, they had to find some way to pay for a midnight Wendy's run or an upcoming date. But some students spent their weekends searching for a different kind of cache; these students went geocaching.

Geocaching, or "caching" as the pro's called it, was an adventurous hobby that took its participants scavenging through the woods, picking up rocks or even examining street lamps, all in the pursuit of a hidden cache. A cache was a small container, usually a film canister or lock box, that contained a logbook for hunters to sign once they had found it.

While this might sound like an easy scavenger hunt, geocaching actually required the use of a GPS unit with specific coordinates found online that led to the cache site. Caches were hidden all over the world, each differing in level of difficulty to find.

"[Caching] has two category ratings based on a five point scale," senior Jason Hill said. "One rating [is] for difficulty or how well the cache is hidden and the other for how rough the terrain is to get through."

Some caches had to be dug for, some were magnetic, others hidden underwater and some were even on the Harding University campus.

"I have done the 7 point Harding cache tour," senior Jon Langford said. "It took a few months to find all of them because a few of the caches were disturbed by 'muggles', or non-caching folk. To this day, when introducing someone to geocaching, I always show him or her a few of the Harding caches. Everyone is amazed that they walk by them every day."

The Harding Tour was comprised of seven different caches spread throughout campus. Whether a student, faculty member or visitor to the campus, the caches provided a small history of the university and the surrounding area where the cache was hidden. For example, when discovering the cache hidden near the Harding History House, a treasure hunter would find information about the iconic Harding gates that were actually part of Galloway College, the women's college that Harding replaced.

Although Harding's and the surrounding Searcy area's caches might have been hard to get to, students said there were other sites more treacherous.

"I spent a year in Iraq with the army between my junior and senior year at Harding," Hill said. "Believe it or not, there are caches in Iraq in the middle of war. Because it was a war zone, you couldn't give the correct coordinates because the enemy could use them to attack you, so the people [who set up the cache] would just give general descriptions of what was around it, and you used those clues to find the cache."

Other students also spoke about caches around the globe.

"I wish I could have brought my GPS [unit] overseas because I heard there is one at the Pyramids of Giza," senior Billie Pieters said.

While most of the time the caches held only a sign-in log, some also had prizes.

"People hide these caches all over the world and put prizes in them for people who find them," Hill said. "Sometimes the prizes are really nice, like \$100 for the first one to find it."

Although the thought of a cash-prize cache was appealing to some, the main reason for caching was the thrill of the hunt and exploring new or overlooked areas that went unnoticed to the untrained or GPS-less eye.

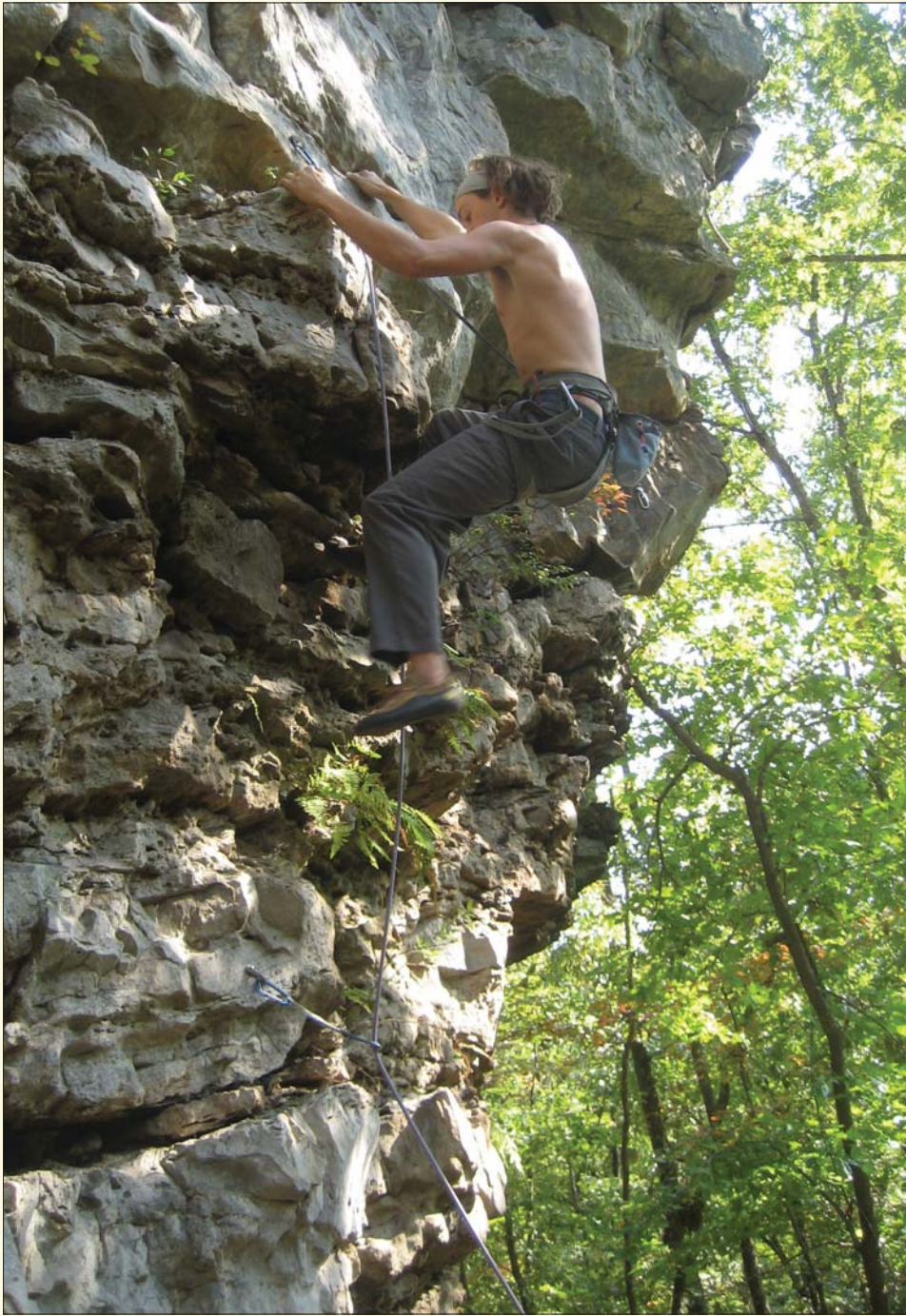
"I am always excited about the caches that are hidden in the public that no one notices," Langford said. "There have been many caches that I have walked by on a daily basis that were unnoticeable until geocaching. For example, a fake sprinkler head, a fake electrical outlet or even fake birds in a tree."

For anyone interested in caching, the requirements were only a working GPS unit, a passion for treasure hunting and access to the Internet.

"Searcy is a great town to cache in," Langford said. "There are over 200 caches in Searcy alone. Check out www.geocaching.com for further information and coordinates to start your own hunt."

Katie Ramirez





Freshman Marshal White and sophomore Jonathon Moury pray with 91-year-old Walter Decherd after students helped empty his home Oct. 18 from the damage it sustained from Hurricane Ike. During fall break, students spent the weekend helping hurricane victims near Galveston, Texas, clean up debris nearly one month after the storm. *Noah Darnell*

Freshman Heidi Tabor spends time with Darrell and other children in downtown Little Rock on Oct. 11. Along with Tabor, a group of students spent their Saturdays in Little Rock as an outreach program through River City Ministry. *Courtesy of Heidi Tabor*

Hunting for one of the seven Harding caches, juniors Jon Langford and Jay Hungerford discover a hidden treasure near the Harding History House Nov. 12. Inside each of the caches was a small letter telling the reader about the history of that part of campus. *Nick Michael*

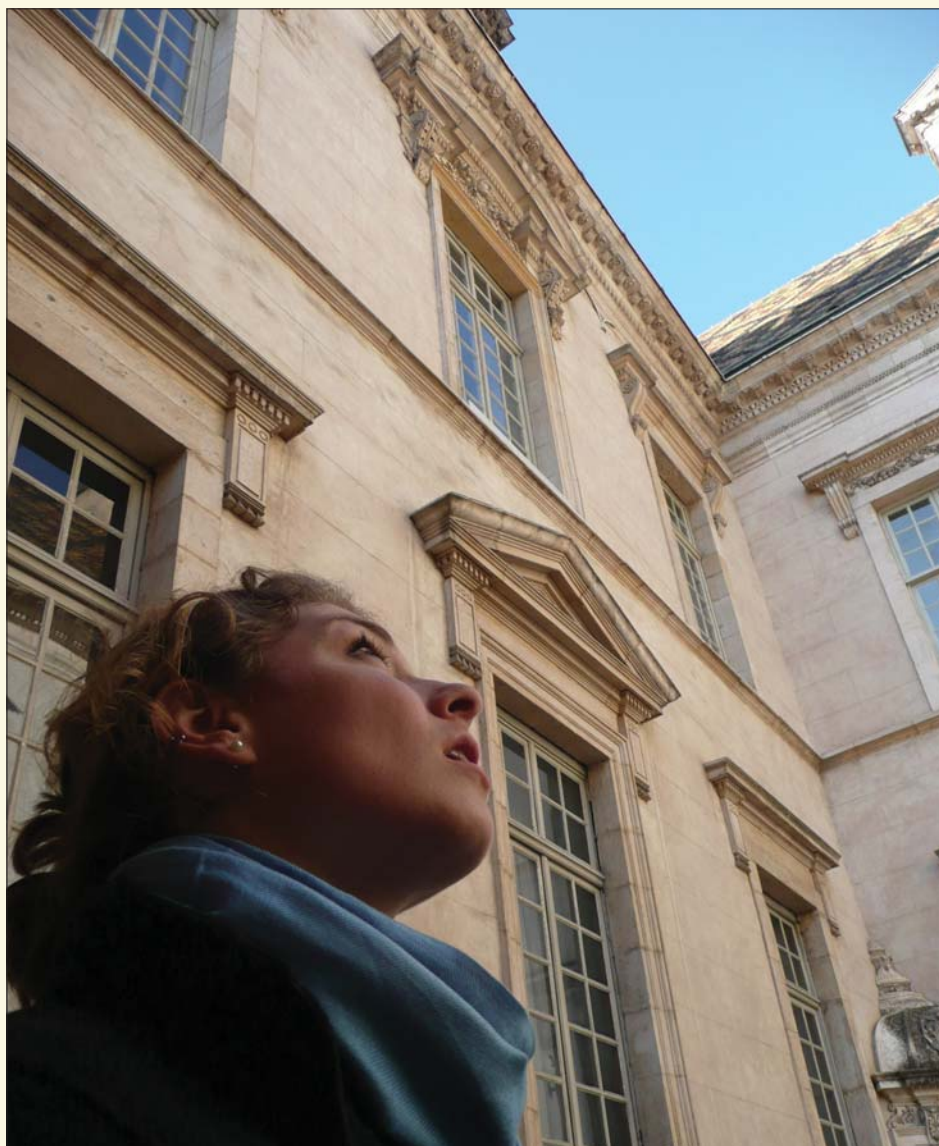
Randall Gabriel, a senior, rock climbs at Jamestown, Ark., on Oct. 11. With multiple bolted routes on the cliffs, Jamestown proved to be a good place for a large group of people with different skill levels to enjoy a day of climbing. *Courtesy of Heather Mitchell*

Caroline Damron, a junior, studies the architecture of Dijon, France, while touring the city March 3, 2008. The HIP group was able to explore the city and sample its specialties — dijon mustard and spiced bread. *Courtesy of Caroline Damron*

Senior JoAnna Kirk attempts to remove the sword from the stone April 12, 2008, at Disney World Paris. A group of students spent the day at the amusement park, enjoying the American rides and food available at the park. *Courtesy of JoAnna Kirk*

Carina Schrei, a senior, looks out onto the Mediterranean Sea on May 5, 2008, at Cinque Terre, Italy. Students were able to free travel across Europe during their stay in France. *Courtesy of Caroline Damron*

Enjoying their dinner, junior Sally Tucker and senior Sarah Hug relax while traveling by train February 17, 2008, from Belgium back to Reims, France. A group of students spent a few days in Brussels and Liege, Belgium, before returning to their hometown. *Courtesy of Caroline Damron*



A song from the '60s released by James Brown stated "it's a man's, man's, man's world," but for the students that embarked on the Harding University in Paris (HIP) semester abroad, it was a woman's world. Sophomore John Cannaday was the only male in a group with 13 women on the spring 2008 trip.

Cannaday signed up for the trip only a month before the group left, so he was well aware of what he was getting himself into and embraced the experience with open arms. Surrounded by women for a whole semester was a hard thing for one man to handle. Senior JoAnna Kirk admitted that sometimes the girls would get caught up doing "girly" activities and Cannaday would be out of the loop.

"We always wanted to go shopping, and he wasn't into that," Kirk said.

Cannaday, being the odd one out, also caused several good laughs throughout the semester.

"When we would go out, we would do a

roommate check," junior Allison Evins said. "He didn't have a roommate, so we always had to be like 'John, John?' and make sure he was there."

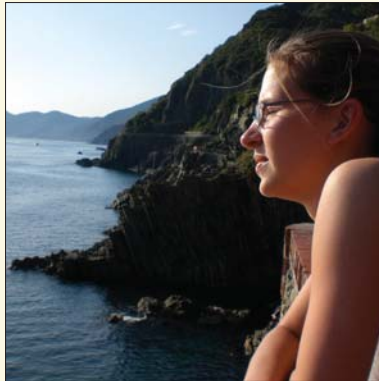
Living arrangements were also interesting for Cannaday. The group stayed in an "aparthotel," and while the girls would be surrounded by each other the whole time, Cannaday would be on a different floor by himself surrounded by other guests.

"I always ended up with the single room in the hostels because I was male," Cannaday said. "I didn't complain much."

Before departing for the trip, Cannaday spent time with his guy friends to soak up every last bit of male bonding he could.

"I shared some of my concerns about being with all girls, and we conjectured about what my marital status would be upon returning and the scale of things that could be a result of a semester without men," Cannaday said. "We didn't go into the woods, hunt deer or shoot guns, but they

c'est la vie



prayed for me and commiserated and laughed with, or at, me.”

To maintain his manliness through the semester, Cannaday did not shave his face the entire time he was overseas.

“He didn’t shave his beard the whole time, which perhaps he should’ve,” Kirk said. “He also named it. I think this was his way of being manly throughout the trip.”

Cannaday looked forward to the trip the group made to visit the Harding University Florence students so that he could be with other guys.

“The days coming up to [visiting the HUF group] were filled with eager anticipation of seeing and talking with men again,” Cannaday said. “I was not let down when we arrived in Florence.”

The last night the group was in Paris, the FIAP, an international student center, hosted a dinner for the group.

“On the very last night, John got all the girls

a rose and gave them to us,” Evins said.

Accompanying the rose, Cannady had some sweet words for the girls.

“When he gave us the roses, he said, ‘They say every rose has its thorn. Well now every thorn has a rose,’ ” junior Sally Tucker said.

Being the only male on this semester abroad was also a learning experience for Cannaday. He got a better understanding of what it meant to be a man.

“It was like looking at the negative of a picture,” Cannaday said. “By looking at the background, you can get a decent picture of what is in the foreground.”

While Cannaday did not learn the secret to women, he did learn more about himself than he expected.

“If you really want to know yourself well,” Cannaday said, “spend a semester with 13 people who are nothing like you.”

Christie Cronk and Rachel Klemmer

Sophomores Blake Hemphill and Devin Monaghan skip rocks across the water on Sept. 8 at Torres del Paine in Patagonia, Chile. Students were given time to take pictures at Torres del Paine National Park, a Chilean National Park comprised of mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers. *Courtesy of Spencer Wilson*



Juniors Spencer Wilson and Jessie Sears sit on the edge of a sand dune watching the sun set in the Atacama Desert in Chile on Sept. 25. "I was super tense about sitting so close to the cliff ledge," Wilson said. "I felt as though I were one small push away from seeing Jesus." *Courtesy of Spencer Wilson*

While spending the day just outside San Pedro, Chile, junior Brandon Sterry bikes through the mountains on Sept. 24. A small group of students rented bikes and rode through the Atacama Desert. *Courtesy of Spencer Wilson*

I woke up at 7:15 a.m. and started off my day by enjoying the hotel's complimentary breakfast. After breakfast, our group piled into two buses, and we were given a tour of our temporary home: The Atacama Desert. Our tour guide Jorge pointed out different volcanoes, and we stopped at a small village where we learned about their water filtration and distribution. Since water is scarce, they have to rotate where the water flows every 18 days.

After our tour of the surrounding areas, we went through San Pedro, spotting a mountain bike store where bikes could be rented. A group of us agreed on biking to Quevrada del Dibablo, which was eight kilometers away.

We traveled all the way there, and after crossing a river, we were surrounded by massive mud mountains that were embedded with crystal stone layers. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before. The trail meandered all around the

mountains, and it appeared that it was once the home of a river judging by the water-washed look of the mountainsides. We navigated through many tight squeezes and under low-hanging caves, where at times we had to duck our heads to keep from crashing!

Upon returning from our extreme mountain biking experience, we ate at a unique all-natural restaurant, which I was very excited about. Unfortunately, my body had other plans. Due to the strenuous mountain biking desert safari, my body was overworked and dehydrated, which made me very sick, and I headed to bed by 8 p.m. All in all, however, I had a great day.

I just described one great day in Chile, but even it does not hold a candle to all of the amazing things to see and do while there. Unlike the other overseas programs, "free travel" is conducted by group trips throughout the semester. This may not mean much at first, but I realized early on that I would never



off the beaten path

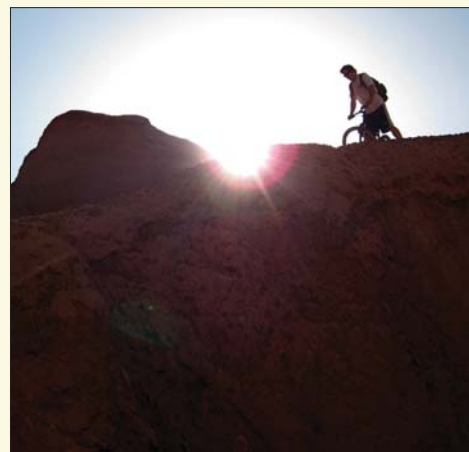
be able to see or do the things that our group does on this trip if I had tried to do it on my own.

Our trips consisted of skiing at El Colorado in the Andes Mountains, exploring the Patagonia area of Chile, sand boarding, horseback riding, mountain biking and many other things. While in the Atacama Desert, we went sightseeing at Machu Picchu in Lima, Peru and relaxed at the Lake Region after class finals with some whitewater rafting and zip-lining.

On Sunday mornings we got the privilege of going to Spanish church where we were warmly welcomed with kisses and hugs. We definitely experienced the Latin culture!

I wish I could better explain just how awesome Chile is because it really is an experience of a lifetime. I got the chance to live in South America for three months traveling to places that many have never been before. I had the best time being adventurous and spending time with my new Harding friends.

Jessie Sears, Sept. 23 journal entry from the Atacama Desert (the driest place in the world).





crossing to Jordan



Students who attended Harding University in Greece (HUG) in the spring of 2008 experienced something no previous group was able to. Due to an extended stay in Israel, the group got the opportunity to make a journey to the country of Jordan. The directors of HUG, Jerry and Diane Myhan, promised the students when they first arrived in Greece that there would be some kind of surprise for them when they got to Israel. Many students thought the surprise could have been Osman, the tour guide they had in Egypt, but the trip to Jordan was unexpected for all. The group had to sacrifice some activities that normal HUG groups participated in, including staying the night in a Bedouin camp, but they said sights they experienced in Jordan made it well worth it.

The group traveled to the capital city of Jordan, Amman, and from there trekked across the country to Petra. Many students were excited to see this incredible sight. Petra, meaning “rock,” was once

a wealthy city built into a sandstone canyon.

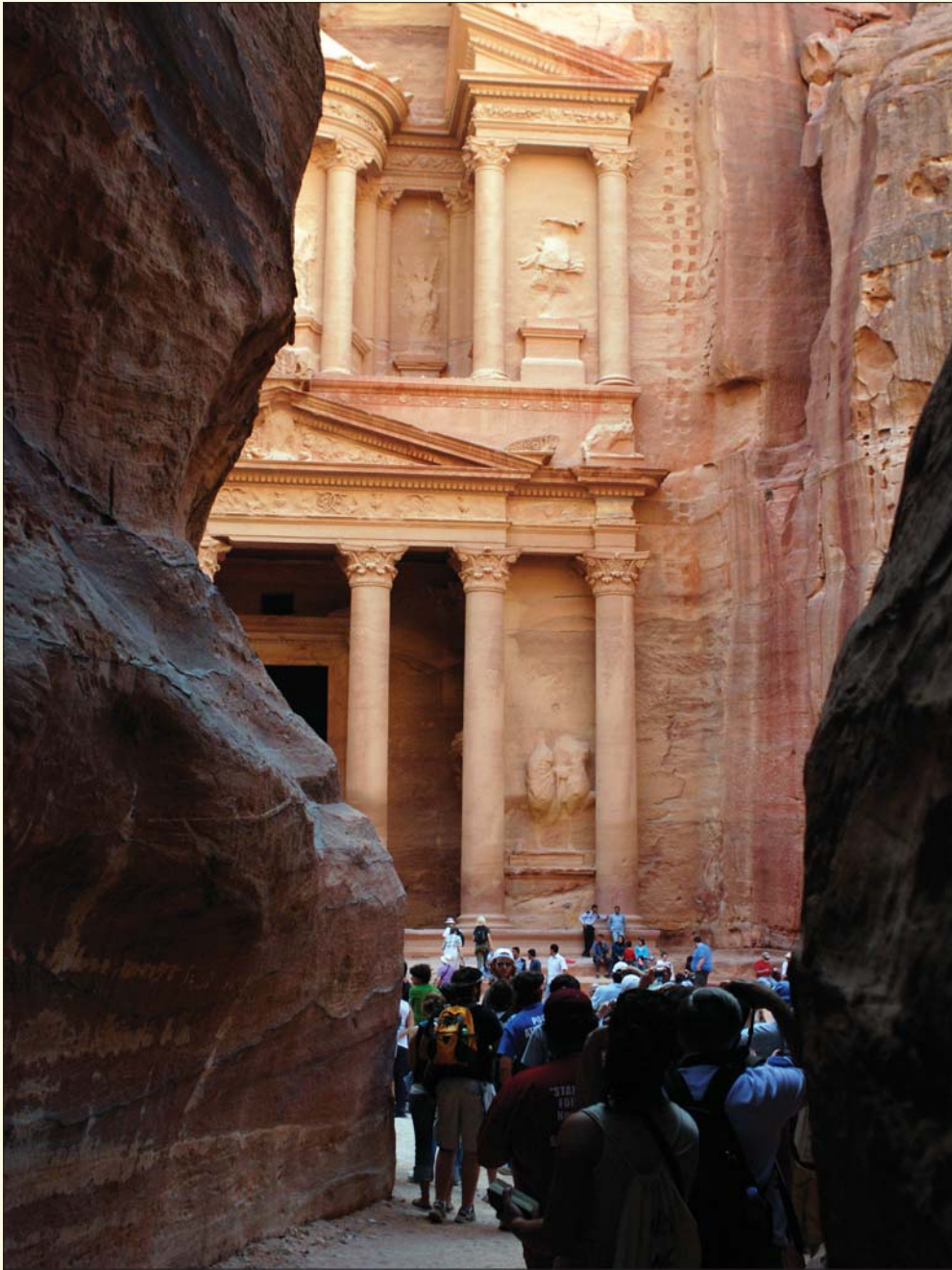
“For me, it was one of the most impressive places we visited in the entire four months,” junior Benjamin Skiness said. “Around every corner beheld something more aweing than what we saw before.”

Junior Bethany Holder said that the only way she knew how to describe it was to compare it to the Grand Canyon.

“It’s amazing just how naturally beautiful it is,” she said.

The treasury, the biggest site in Petra, was carved into the canyon and voted into the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007. Upon visiting the city and the treasury, students discovered several reasons why this place was so interesting.

“It’s really neat because they said they’re still excavating the city,” junior Sarabeth Myers said. “In the treasury there are layers, and they’re still finding stuff underneath.”



In addition to the treasury's historical and cultural significance, it also held entertainment value. Many movies and books referenced the site at Petra, but none more famous than the third installment of the Indiana Jones series. Several students jumped at the chance to view in person the sight they had only before seen on film.

"I was very excited about this opportunity, considering I am a huge Indiana Jones fan and have seen all of [the movies]," junior Melissa Ritchie said. "It was amazing to get to step foot in a foreign country where they actually did filming and to see such a cool place."

During their time in Petra, students also encountered the Bedouin vendors that came into the city to do business during the day. Some came away with souvenirs of their special trip to the Jordan.

"I actually broke down and spent about

\$150 on a Bedouin-made knife," Skinness said. "I had no buyer's remorse."

Among other places, the group was also able to go see Mount Nebo, a site famous for its Biblical history. It was at Nebo that Moses viewed the Promised Land that he would never be able to enter.

"It's awesome visiting places that you can open up your Bible and read about," junior Tommy Stickel said.

While the HUG group was unsure of what to expect going into the surprise three-day trip to Jordan, they came away appreciative of the opportunity they had to go.

"Before [we went], I was more excited to add another country to the checklist of places I had been," Skinness said. "In retrospect, I would be thrilled to attend Harding University in Jordan."

Cody Waits and Emily Hauptli

Juniors Abby Hunter and Bobby Wilkinson take off in a race in Olympia, Greece, on February 22, 2008. Students were able to run in the original Olympic stadium while visiting southern Greece. *Noah Darnell*

Ted Wheetley, a junior, jumps from the Corinth Canal on Sept. 25, in Corinth, Greece. "It was absolutely exhilarating," Wheetley said. "There's a brief moment of panic when you wonder 'What was I thinking?' just before hurling yourself into the ride of your life." *Courtesy of Rebecca Miller*

Writing in her Moleskine, junior Sam Strange takes notes about Greek history March 3, 2008, while visiting Delphi, Greece. In ancient Greece, Delphi was known to be the center of the earth and was home to pre-Olympic games. *Noah Darnell*

While visiting Jordan on March 19, 2008, students explored Petra, an ancient city carved from the sandstone cliffs. The Petra Treasury was featured in the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." *Noah Darnell*



bad karma



Spending a semester overseas through Harding's international programs offered many opportunities for students to expand their horizons and learn about different cultures.

In the fall of 2008, several students at Harding University in Australia (HUA) spent their semester differently, scheming new ways to agitate their schoolmates.

Senior Russell Woods admitted that he was the culprit to many pranks attempted throughout the semester.

"Pranks happen after the professors attempt to cram an entire semester of work into one month," Woods said. "[Pulling pranks] is just a way of releasing some of that stress and makes you forget about everything for a minute."

But sometimes, pranks resulted in catastrophe.

One night in Surfer's Paradise, their home throughout the semester, two students were up to no good.

"Woody told me to distract the girls while he ran into their room and grabbed their pillows," sophomore Jeremy Cohen said. "He set them out in the hall and then came back to the room the group was in."

After dropping off the stash of pillows, they visited another boys' room to boast about their adventure only to become suspicious moments later of the girls

Senior Russell Woods and sophomore Michael Williams take a swim on Sept. 6 in Te Anau, New Zealand. Despite the cold weather and freezing water, a few students thought it would be fun to cool off in a large lake near their hotel. *Courtesy of Kylie Akins*



retaliating against them.

Woods and Cohen hurried back to their room, only to find that the stolen pillows were no longer there. Only 15 minutes had elapsed and their grand plan had unraveled.

With no other option, the two headed back to the girls' room to see if they had taken their pillows back. Still unaware that any of their belongings were missing, the girls sensed that Woods and Cohen were up to no good and barricaded their own door. But Cohen knew he could get through.

"I had an idea that was so ingenious; it could never fail," he said.

Cohen lunged through the girls' barricade but discovered that the pillows were not there. Now stuck in the room, Cohen attempted a hasty escape.

"Jeremy took off running around the apartment and ran directly into the door frame at full speed then face planted on the floor," Woods said.

At first, no one was aware of the harm that had been done from the fall. After Cohen rolled over, he noticed his big toe was facing a different direction than it should.

"When I flipped over to check my toe, I noticed that it was crooked," he said. "When I asked everyone if they thought my toe was crooked, they all said, 'yes, it's crooked.' Then I was limping around repeating 'I broke my toe.' After that, I got lightheaded and lay down on the floor."

One screw and two pins later, he was unable to say whether or not the adventure was worth toe surgery.

"I wasn't yet sure how much it was going to keep me from doing all of the things that I wanted to do while I was there," Cohen said.

Woods, on the other hand, had no doubt it was worth it.

"I would do it again if I had the chance," he said. "Their reaction was everything that we expected — whining, crying, begging, etc. And then I was informed to watch my back."

Although the pain lasted longer than the actual prank, the two realized the brevity of the situation.

"All of that started after stealing just a few pillows," Woods said.

Hannah Ware

Feeding a kangaroo, sophomore Rebecca Jones tries to keep the animal under control Sept. 13, while spending time in the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary was home to a large outdoor area for kangaroos, allowing visitors an up-close encounter with the wildlife.

Courtesy of Katie McKeever

Sophomores Tyler Nivens and Kylie Akins listen to their surf instructor Sept. 21 in Gold Coast on Main Beach. A group of students had the opportunity to learn how to surf for the first time while in Australia.

Courtesy of Kylie Akins

Lipscomb University student Sage Woodroof, senior Erin Davenport and sophomore Philip Simpson climb the hill to the villa in Scandicci, Italy, on May 23, 2008, after a day of shopping and exploring in Florence. "It was one of those bright, sunny days where the four of us wanted to get out and enjoy life," senior Joshua Morgan said. "It was also a time to get to know each other since it was relatively early on in the summer." *Courtesy of Joshua Morgan*

Trying to escape from the heat, Hans, the group's pseudo-tour guide, lies down under a tree in Normandy, France, on Aug. 1. While he gave students free time to explore during their tour, Hans took that time to relax and rest. *Courtesy of Joel Blake*

Meghan Derryberry, a sophomore, picks grapes from a small, family vineyard in Tuscany on Sept. 25. The family prepared an authentic Italian dinner over a pit of coals as a thanks for the students' help gathering grapes. *Courtesy of Kristen Wainwright*

Senior Leslie Giles studies the vaulted ceilings of the Basilica of Saint Paul in Rome on March 7, 2008. Students spent several days in Rome visiting historical sites. *Nick Michael*



Students who attended Harding University Florence (HUF) in the summer of 2008 returned full of stories and fond memories of their time overseas. For a certain group of HUFers, their memories included a humorous encounter with a man named Hans.

Juniors Shannon Parker, Kellie DeAtley, Joel Blake and Jessica Stroud wanted to take a day trip to Normandy, which was only three train rides from where they were staying in Paris. Of particular interest to the group were the famous beaches from World War II, including the ones from D-day. However, they had heard it was hard to get around without their own car because of the beaches being spread out. The group decided to figure out their agenda once they arrived.

After getting off the train in Normandy, the four students were surprised at what they ran in to.

"As we stepped off the train, we ran into a man wearing a purple Minnesota Vikings hat, a dirty white England T-shirt, shorts held up by a weightlifter belt and sandals with socks," Blake said.

This man, who appeared to be in his late 60s, ran up to Blake and asked if they were interested in seeing the Normandy beaches. He then pulled out a map and offered the group a full day tour in his "limo" for half price. While doing his sales pitch, the man claimed he had references and quickly pulled out a piece of paper to prove it. Blake looked at the reference page, which simply said "Hans is the man." Hans pointed to himself

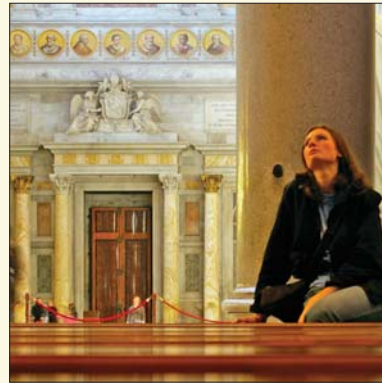
and said, "I'm Hans – lets go."

After bargaining Hans down from 40 euros to 30 euros, the group agreed to take a tour with Hans in his "limo." Hans first had to grab his bike but instructed the group to meet him at a certain café with a red awning. As the group searched for the mysterious red awning café, they heard Hans calling out from a beat-up car that it was time to go. After realizing this was the "limo" Hans was referring too, they got in the car and saw a broken speedometer and a female figurine on the dashboard.

While driving around and visiting the beaches, Hans entertained the group with stories.

"I sat in the front, and the three girls sat in the back, laughing because of his ridiculous stories and his accent," Blake said. "He yelled most of

a day with hans



the time because he was hard of hearing. So whenever a girl would ask him a question from the back seat, he would yell 'WHAT?' and then ask me what they said."

At one point, Hans even yelled out to a man crossing the street to get a haircut.

Hans drove the group to the beaches, dropped them off and told them to meet back at a designated place after half an hour.

"When we would come back, he would be sleeping under a tree with his shirt off," Blake said. "A few times, we even had to wake him up."

When the group stopped to eat, they continued talking and began asking Hans questions. He ignored them, finished his mouthful and said, "One thing I always tell my tourists is that I never talk while eating." They then finished

out the remainder of their lunch without one word from Hans.

When the group got back to Paris, they immediately told another group of HUFers, juniors Mary-Kyle Walker, Kurt Adams and Austin Grieb, to try to find Hans the following day. When Walker, Adams and Grieb got to Normandy, they did not find Hans at first and were disappointed, but when crossing a street, they saw a man they thought could be Hans. Adams yelled out his name, and Hans came running towards them and offered them the same tour.

"We had the most fun with Hans than any other time we had in Paris," Walker said. "He was a pretty sketchy man but was a great tour guide who knew a lot of stuff."

Christie Cronk

Sophomore Macye Dean plays with two young girls, Pamela and Chaluvia, on Sept. 9 in the school yard at Namwianga Mission. "Since they didn't really understand English, we had to come up with games that didn't involve any talking or games that just had short phrases that they could easily pick up," Dean said. **Courtesy of Macye Dean**



Lucas Nossaman, a sophomore, sits with a young boy, Agape, on Sept. 17 just outside Haven 1 at the Namwianga Mission. Many afternoons after class, students would visit the children living in Havens 1 and 2. **Courtesy of Kayla Maynard**

While spending the day on a safari ride, the HIZ group travels through the Chobezi National Game Park in Botswana on Sept. 20. The group spent the night in the game park and took a long boat ride and car rides to see different animals like elephants, giraffes, impala and lions. **Courtesy of Shawn Daggett**

Zambia remains one of the African countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS. According to a report by Zambia Orphans of AIDS, about 19 percent of children under age 18, or 1.1 million, are orphans, most of them because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Namwianga Mission in Kalomo, Zambia, provides care for such orphans through sponsorship-funded orphanages: Haven 1 for newborns and infants and Haven 2 for toddlers. Harding students participating in Harding University in Zambia (HIZ) had the opportunity to work in these orphanages.

The students, after finishing morning classes, usually walked a dusty cattle path to the havens and returned before sunset. One night, however, three girls braved the nocturnal shift to experience a whole new side of orphan supervision.

While most students finished homework or journaled about a day in Africa, sophomores Cassie Davidson, Kayla Maynard and Macye Dean arrived at Haven 1, quite unsure of their responsibilities. It did not help that it was an especially dark night with no electricity, a frequent event at Namwianga. Even

so, the "aunties," as the paid orphanage workers are called, did not miss a single dirty diaper.

"I asked myself, why am I here?" Dean said. "I felt pretty helpless in the dark due to all of the fussy babies."

When the power came back on around 11 p.m., the students felt relieved. Now they could actually see where they were working. The haven consisted of four baby rooms, each containing an average of 10 cribs and nameplates holding medical records and formula bottles for the day, depending on how many orphans the haven had at the time.

Dean worked with an auntie named Rejoice, who also attended school by sleeping from the morning until class began at 1 p.m. This could have justified a sluggish shift, yet Dean said Rejoice displayed far greater competence with the tasks than herself.

"Mainly, I dressed the babies because the first one I bathed, I definitely got soap in his eyes, and I was still slower than Rejoice," Dean said. "Finally, she just said, 'I will bathe, you will dress.'"

Two or three times during the night, the aunties changed all the diapers. These diapers, however,



one night in africa

were not up to par with Pampers.

"It's a nappy cloth and safety pin," Davidson said. "You have to wear rubber gloves, and the bigger babies tend to squirm, making it difficult not to pin them on accident."

Although the students did feel somewhat inadequate, they ultimately understood their place at the haven when the aunts were able to relax by watching television. Unlike their previous afternoon visits, they gained insight into the most tiring shift on an already hectic and emotionally draining job.

"The aunts were actually surprised at how we were able to help," Maynard said. "They were genuinely appreciative."

Spending the night formula feeding, bathing and diaper changing was not typical for three Harding sophomores. Nevertheless, arriving back at their house just in time for 6:30 a.m. classes did not generate one complaint; they said it was worth it to be a mom to the orphans for a night.

"We were exhausted and also content at sunrise," Maynard said.

Lucas Nossaman

