



It's easy to get caught up in routine, letting this special time in our lives pass us by. There is a way out of the monotonous college

student



Photo by Ashel Parsons

ife.

We can dig past the traditions, routines and homework and find something special each day. Dive into our daily lives, overseas programs and even Spring Sing. We don't have to keep living at surface level, but instead — go find meaning. — *Katie Fittz, student life editor*



Four hosts lead Spring Sing to success

Playing a pretend game of Guitar Hero, the hosts entertain the crowd on April 7, 2010. This performance introduced Gamma Sigma Phi, Pi Theta Phi, Iota Chi, Delta Nu and friends' winning show, "Rock and Roll All Night." *Noah Darnell*

Juniors Nate White and Stephen McBride and seniors Cameron Frazier and Sam Barker serenade the audience April 3. They were the first all-male group of Spring Sing hosts in the history of the show. *Jeff Montgomery*

On April 7, 2010 graduates Tori Dobbs and Mary Kyle Walker join the hosts as part of the ensemble in the performance between club shows. The hosts performed the song "Witch Doctor." *Jeff Montgomery*





new look

When Spring Sing

hosts for 2010 were announced, eyebrows were raised, heads were scratched and excitement filled the air. The change was unprecedented: for the first time in the history of Spring Sing, four male hosts would lead the show instead of the typical two male and two female group.

There was no question about the musical talent of the hosts. Juniors Stephen McBride and Nate White and seniors Cameron Frazier and Sam Barker had all proven themselves capable. However, there was some concern regarding how the new setup would change the dynamics of the show.

"I initially had some questions about how it would work logistically, but I was thoroughly excited from the start," McBride said.

The news came as a surprise not only to the Harding community; the hosts themselves were astounded.

"At first, I was a little shocked to see four guys on the list," Frazier said. "You don't prepare for a kind of surprise like that when you are just nervous about whether or not your name is on there. So, after being taken back a bit, I then was very excited to be a Spring Sing host for 2010."

Initially, the hosts missed the feminine touch to the show.

"Having a female perspective is always fresh and insightful. We did have Mrs. Dottie Frye [director of Spring Sing] and the ensemble girls, who were amazing in helping us," White, who hosted the 2009 Spring Sing show as well, said. "Sometimes, the four hosts thought too much alike, and we would have to take a step back and realize perhaps we needed a greater variety of perspectives to achieve the most interesting result."

Additionally, the hosts realized their performance might be under more scrutiny than in previous years, as the audience was evaluating the success of the change.

Despite the skepticism, the hosts definitely had some advantages going into the production of the show. It helped that the four were good friends and had worked together before. According to Barker, they all felt comfortable with each other, and they helped push each other to do their best. They also had some benefits with the music arrangements.

"Because there were four males, there were more voices to cover the male register, which meant that I got to be in a more comfortable register than the previous year," White said. "As a freshman, I had to sing a little out of my range, while this year, the music has been much easier to accomplish without harming my voice."

Nevertheless, the show presented some challenges. Learning and perfecting new music in a short amount of time was challenging enough for any host. In addition, singing music that was not originally written for an all-male cast raised the bar for the four hosts.

"Some of the music was more difficult than others. Many of the songs we performed were not originally sung by men, let alone four guys with different harmonies," McBride said. "At times, the music was more comfortable than at others."

Not to mention, Barker joked, having four male leads caused the show to lose some of its aesthetic quality.

"We're all guys, so we're not as pretty as girls," Baker said.

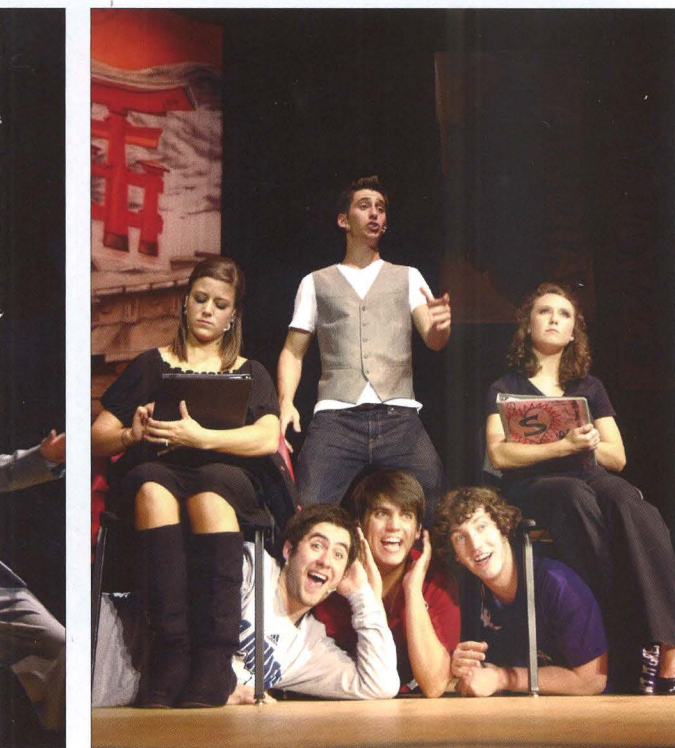
Despite all the challenges and changes, in the end the audience, ensemble, directors, clubs and hosts all agreed that the show was spectacular and unquestionably one of the best in Harding's history.

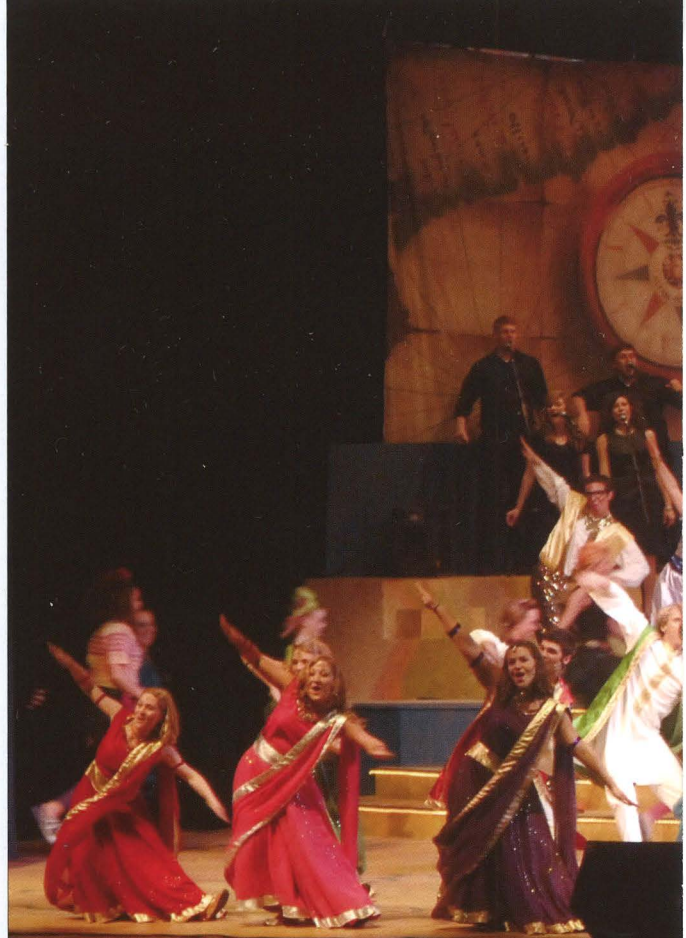
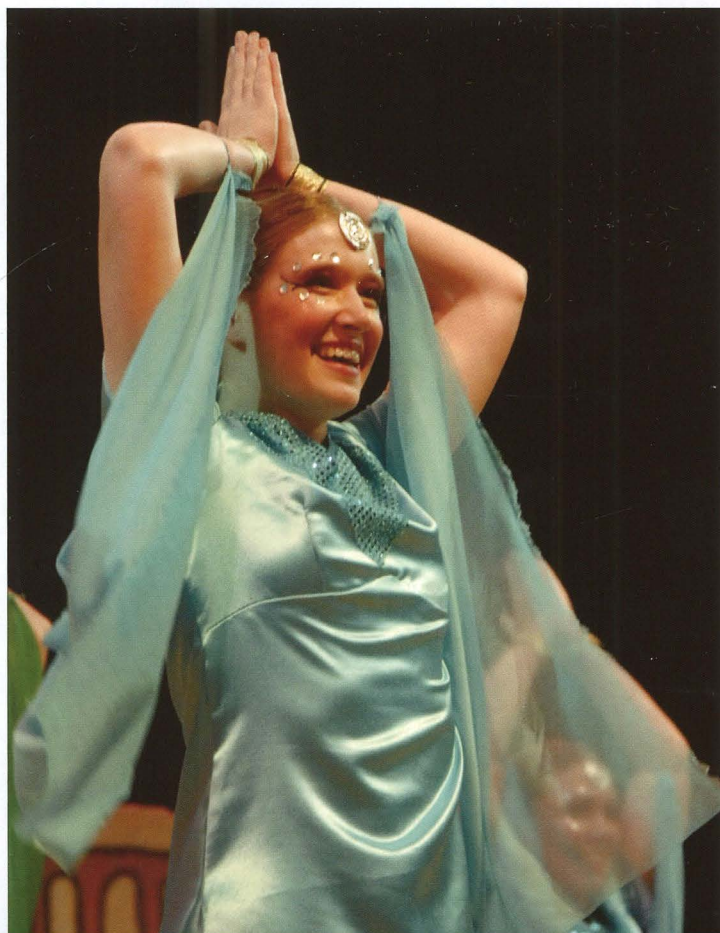
"People loved it," Frazier said. "Several people came up to us and told us it was the best Spring Sing they have been to."

In the end, the four decided that there was nothing they would have done differently.

"I wouldn't change a thing," McBride said. "It was a great experience, and I loved every minute of it."

Lauren Bucher





Inter





ational Spring Sing 2010

Sophomore Heather Gould illustrates the international side of Spring Sing in "The Show Must Go On." As part of Delta Gamma Rho, Chi Omega Pi and friends' "Bollywood" show, Gould was able to show the culture of India. *Jeff Montgomery*

The hosts, ensemble and members from each show dance together in the finale. In keeping with the theme, the last song was "Jai Ho" from the 2008 movie "Slumdog Millionaire." *Jeff Montgomery*

Performing in the "Kids 'N' Kicks" show, sophomore Deanna Davenport, senior Kendall White and junior Laurel Jencyk get in touch with their inner child. The Regina, Oege, Chi Sigma Alpha and friends show took many students back in time to their days at soccer practice. *Jeff Montgomery*

Junior Kelsey Koclar, senior Aleece Overturf, freshman Asia Park and sophomore Meckae-Lynn McCall perform their routine to benefit the Special Olympics. "Rock and Roll All Night" was the winning act. *Jeff Montgomery*

Sophomore Carson McGill leads the group in the "Do, Re, Mi" choreography after chapel on April 7, 2010. This was the first year there was a pre-show, which mimicked the flash mob, or sudden dance routine, craze that first started in Manhattan. *Jeff Montgomery*



lend aid

Spring break was always a welcome respite from the drudge of class, work and routine in general. While many students went home or on vacation to relax, a group of students traveled to Silver Springs, Md., to serve others as part of one of Harding's spring break campaigns.

Initially, the group was not sure what they were getting themselves into.

"We were a bit starry-eyed at just the idea of being near Washington, D.C.," senior Justin Vogl said. "We knew there were so many opportunities to serve; we just didn't know the specifics."

The mission team's host, Jody Venkatesan from the congregation in Silver Springs, suggested the team organize a food drive for the Bethesda Naval Hospital Red Cross, which harbored injured men and women from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I have a great respect for the military, so we were very excited about the thought of helping those fighting for our freedom," Vogl said. "I felt honored to be serving those men and women who have served our country so honorably."

The group began by handing out 250 flyers at the Metro station and 200 more door-to-door in neighborhoods. Later, they held a devotional at the Venkatesans' home with some local teens, at the end of which a collection for the food drive was passed around. In the process, the group raised over \$1,000 for the recovering soldiers.

"The generosity from everyone was overwhelming," Vogl said. "The church in Silver Springs also chipped in money to help us buy more supplies."

The team filled four vans full of food and water and delivered them to Bethesda Naval after a few days of preparation. The Red Cross workers were grateful beyond words; the hospital's food supply had run out the day before, and the workers had been unsure where they were going to get additional supplies.

"When I first heard that they ran out of supplies the day before we delivered the food, I thought it was coincidence," sophomore Hector Felix said. "Then I started to think about it and realized that coincidences don't happen. It's all part of God's plan."

The soldiers in the hospital were most impressed that a group of college students from Arkansas had given up their spring break to serve strangers in Maryland. In the process of delivering the food, much of the group had opportunities for small talk with the soldiers, thanking them for their hard work and sharing their beliefs.

"God used us that day to show His love for the soldiers as well as fulfill a bigger purpose," Vogl said. "On mission trips, you feel good about yourself because you are doing good but you don't always get to see the effect of your work. That day, we got to see the effects of our work."

All of the students on the trip agreed that giving back to the men and women who had given so much for the U.S. was extremely rewarding.

"It was an awesome feeling knowing that God is active in everything we do whether we think about it or not," Felix said.

The biggest reward was knowing their services arrived just when Bethesda Naval needed them most.

"Those men and women were in the hospital for their service, [but] they don't get to see the effect of their sacrifices," Vogl said. "We hoped and prayed to have shown what they meant to all of us."

Nicole Guillo





Groups run food drive in D.C.

2010 graduate Bobby Wilkinson and senior Justin Vogl build benches and stools March 10, 2010 for a homeless shelter in Maryland. The students on the campaign used their God-given talents through the building of these items from scratch.

Courtesy of Bo Bailey

At the homeless shelter, 2010 graduate Audrey Taylor and sophomore Callie Donaldson spend time with a family. Part of their campaign was spent donating their time and supplies to the shelter.

Courtesy of Bo Bailey

Sophomores Alyssa Farris and Caity Oliver, junior Kristen Powers and sophomore Brittani Sarrett create a sign for free water. During the spring break trip to Silver Springs, Md., the group donated a large amount of water bottles to the Red Cross.

Courtesy of Bo Bailey





Spreading the gospel in Spanish

Senior Amanda Favazza and junior April Souza play basketball with some of the local Peruvians June 1. This was one of the first activities they did when they got to Peru, and was a great way for them to get to know each other. *Courtesy of Joseph Magness*

Junior Whitney Lawson teaches a group of local kids a lesson about Zacheus in Spanish during the summer of 2010. "I was surprised by how fun and easy it was for me to teach these kids, and how much I was blessed by this experience," Lawson said. *Courtesy of Whitney Lawson*

While in Peru, junior April Souza spends time with other team members at the zoo, known as the Parque de Las Leyendas. "Barney was at the zoo the day we were there," senior Molly Brooks said. "He was just taking pictures with people and dancing around." *Courtesy of Molly Brooks*



con amor



In the midst of the beautiful scenery and exciting culture of Peru, a group of Harding students set aside the idea of a relaxing vacation for something much more important.

"The purpose of our summer campaign to Peru was missions," Spanish professor Alyssa Hepburn said. "Although everyone who went was also a Spanish student and hoped to improve his or her proficiency in the language, the main purpose was to spread the gospel."

The Church in Lima, Peru, asked the group to come down for four weeks during the summer of 2010 to encourage the current members and reach out to the surrounding areas, spreading the gospel to the non-Christian locals. The mission team, which consisted of 11 students and faculty, spent the previous semester writing Bible studies in Spanish and practicing their language skills daily in preparation for the summer. After their arrival in Peru, the team immediately began strengthening and building up the current members, simultaneously teaching them to evangelize and clarifying issues of biblical doctrine.

"I don't think they were used to [evangelizing] or ready for that," senior Molly Brooks said.

The team said they loved experiencing Peruvian culture and bonding with members of the church. They accompanied the youth of the congregation on a visit to Parque De La Reserva, or Park of the Fountains, home to the largest fountain in the world.

"It was a great bonding experience with the kids, and the light show in the fountains was really beautiful," Hepburn said.

In addition to sightseeing, the team visited one of the poorer districts of the city.

"We loved worshipping with them and hearing them sing in Spanish," senior Amanda Favazza said.

Brooks agreed that the experience was a moving one.

"Seeing the joy on their faces and the fact they had such passion in a much less fortunate situation was inspiring," Brooks said.

Of course, watching their new friends being baptized was definitely the most exciting experience for the group, the team said. In addition to adding three converts, the team planted the seeds of Christ in the hearts of several other natives and changed the church's mind set toward evangelistic ministry, motivating them not to rely so dependently on visiting missionaries for outreach ministries.

"We really learned a lot," Favazza said. "We got a better grasp of the language, learned more about the practicalities of being foreign missionaries and learned to be more flexible and to have more patience."

The team's constant prayer was that Christ would use the seeds they had planted to change many hearts, just as the people of Peru had changed theirs.

Nicole Guillo



jump in

What comes to mind when you think

of Student Impact? Is it moving into the dorms? Energy groups? The hypnotist? Theme dinners? Or do you simply think about it as the start of school? Do you ever think about who planned it? Or how much work went into that one weekend? Well, I never did until I became Impact Co-Director with senior Justin Vogl.

Vogl and I began planning in early spring 2010. Until then, I had never realized how many small details had to be thought out and planned for just one weekend. We worked all summer, but the really long days were the days leading up to Impact weekend. All of the work throughout the summer seemed to finally be coming together. Not only did we get to plan it all, but we also got to participate in it; for example, little did I know that I would end up hypnotized on the Benson stage in front of hundreds of students!

While being hypnotized was a fun experience I will never forget, it was not the highlight of the weekend; there was so much more to Impact than just the entertainment. We had to think out every little detail beforehand, yet still be flexible enough to change plans at the last second and think on our feet. Problems could arise at any given moment, and we were the ones who had to resolve them.

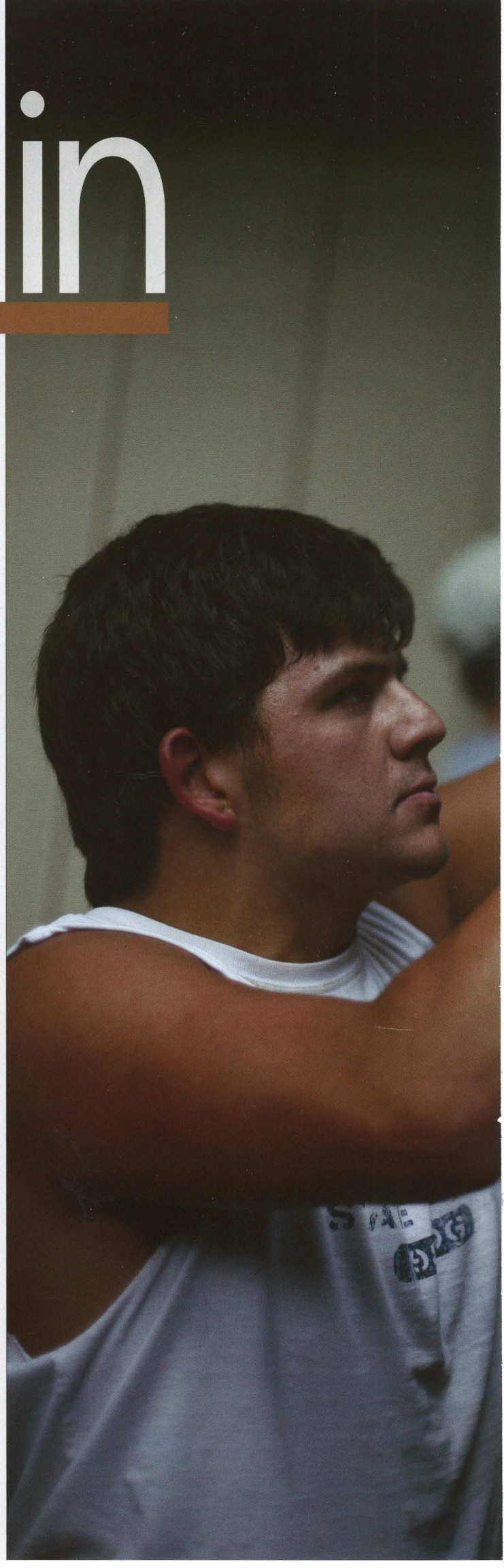
Being involved with such a big event made me realize I could not do it alone. It taught me that learning how to delegate is a good thing. One person cannot be everywhere at once.

Our steering committee of about 30 students helped us out tremendously. They were in charge of different things that needed to be done throughout the weekend. Sometimes I found myself thinking about what I would have done without their help. They were there voluntarily; they did not get paid or receive much praise from anyone. Most of their work was behind the scenes. That group of people really encouraged me because they were there to help out of the goodness of their hearts. I thought that was the perfect example of what Christ calls us to do.

We ended the weekend with a closing ceremony that included candles, singing, devotional and a painting of Jesus. I thought this was a great way to end the weekend because it really showed the students what Harding was about. We strove to be a Christ-centered university, so showing that to the newcomers was very important to me.

Down the road, when I look back on Impact, I will remember the excitement of the new students and how much joy it brought me to be a part of the whole experience. I will also remember the hard work that was put into this event and the lessons I learned from it. Even though the job was stressful at times, it was still worth all of the work. I do not think anyone realizes how much goes on behind the scenes until they are there themselves, but I cannot blame them because I never would have thought about it either. Impact made me appreciate those who do work and plan events. It also reminded me how much I really do love Harding and what it stands for.

Ashel Parsons



Freshmen jump into the college life



Freshman Weston Gentry repairs a fence Aug. 21. Gentry was part of an energy group that went to Jacob's House for their service project. *Jon Yoder*

Sliding down the slip-n-slide Aug. 22, freshman Zachary Wimer spends his first Sunday at school interacting with other freshmen. Impact events were designed to allow incoming students to get to know and build relationships with one another. *Alex Shelton*

Students spend their first days at Harding sharing God's love through service projects. Impact was an annual event that combined serving others, learning about the school and having fun. *Jon Yoder*



backstag

Musical productions had

been held since Harding's days in Morrilton, Ark. The first official "Homecoming Musical" was "Fiddler on the Roof" in 1971. This year, in fall 2010, the Benson hosted "Thoroughly Modern Millie," a show set in the roaring 20s in New York City.

The story featured tap dancing secretaries, Chinese bellhops, flapper girls and a mobster of sorts. It was a largely successful show with the traditional standing ovation at the curtain call when all of the smiling actors, singers and dancers came out for their final bow.

But what about the faces behind the curtains? New York's city streets, laundry carts, speak easies and hotel hallways did not just appear on stage when the actors needed them. The show called for a large-scale crew and a semester of hard labor to get everything ready for the faces on the stage.

"A lot more [people are involved] than people think," stage manager and senior Saoirse Dryden said. "There are the designers, of course, for costumes, set, lights and PR. There is the building crew who puts in an amazing amount of work to get everything done, the backstage crew who you can't do the show without, and, of course, there are the director and producer who also spend an ungodly amount of time working on the production."

Some students volunteered simply because they wanted to be a part of something. Most students who worked on the crew, however, were theatre majors who had been involved in shows for years and were looking forward to a career in the theatrical arts. They had experienced everything from lead roles to pulling the curtains at the correct time.

"I feel like [Harding] target[s] the concept of 'Jack of all trades, master of one,'" freshman Kris Monroe, a theatre major in charge of the downstage flies, said. "Helping with the process of developing the show is challenging and a new learning experience with every rehearsal and every production."

The audience became well acquainted with the faces and voices of the actors and dancers on stage. The stage crew was never seen, however, though they worked just as hard. They were given the unique perspective of behind-the-scenes observers, getting to hear audience reactions to their handiwork.

"It really doesn't bother me that we fade into the black," Sydney Clyde, a senior theatre major who came from a long line of performers, said. "After all, if you knew that the lady sitting next to you in the audience made that costume onstage, it kind of takes away a bit of the magic, doesn't it?"

They were the faces behind the curtain, and they liked it that way.

"As a techie, my goal is for the audience to see the show as a whole and not even know that I'm there," Dryden said. "If the show runs smoothly and the audience enjoys it, then my job is done and done well. Hearing an audience member remark on how well the show went is all the recognitions I need."

Monique Jacques



e

TRUST INCORPORATED



Behind the scenes of the musical

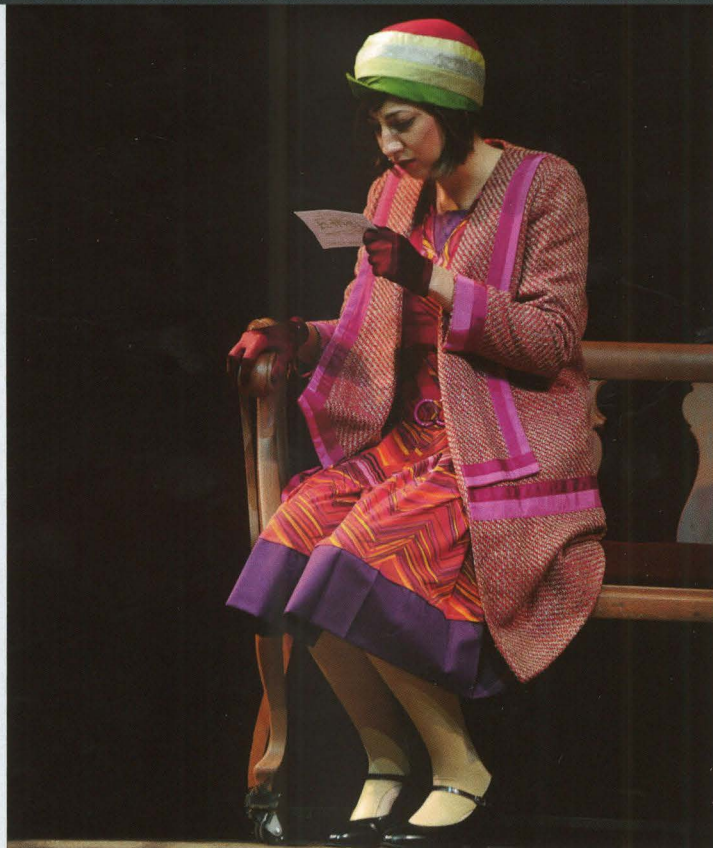
Graduate student Elizabeth Harrell as Millie and the ensemble girls tap dance to "Forget About the Boy" in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on Nov. 5. It had been 14 years since there was a tap dance routine during a Harding musical. *Jeff Montgomery*

After being crowned Homecoming Queen on Nov. 6, senior Dia Gibson of Delta Gamma Rho accepts flowers from President David Burks. The other two finalists were seniors Sarah Antczak of Ju Go Ju and Vanessa Rubey of Zeta Rho. *Ashel Parsons*

Cheering on the football team Nov. 6, Buff the Bison pumps up the crowd. "He's really funny and adds spirit to the crowd," senior athletic trainer Amanda Dorsey said. *Ashel Parsons*



Homecoming 2010



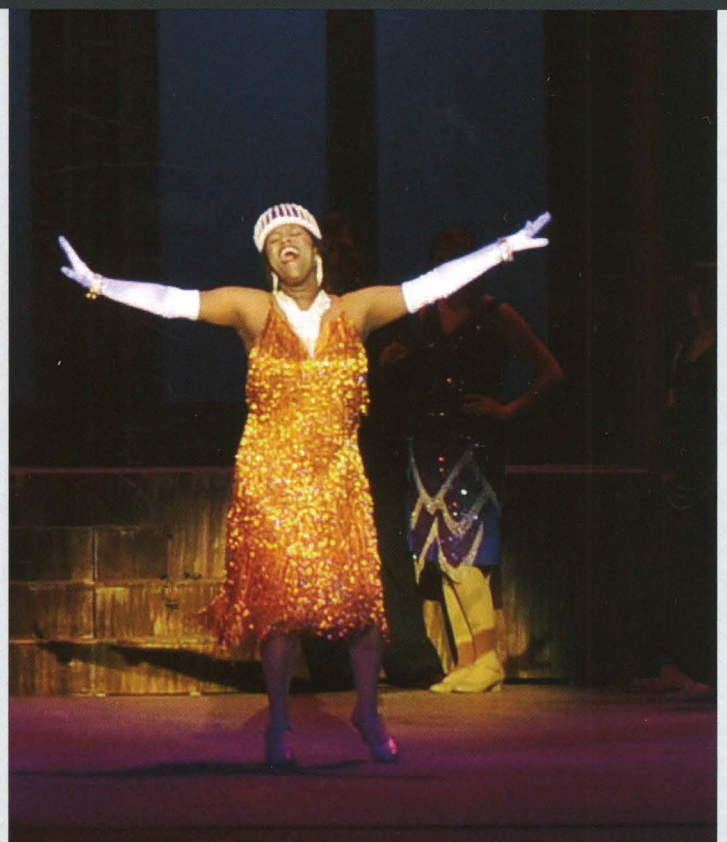
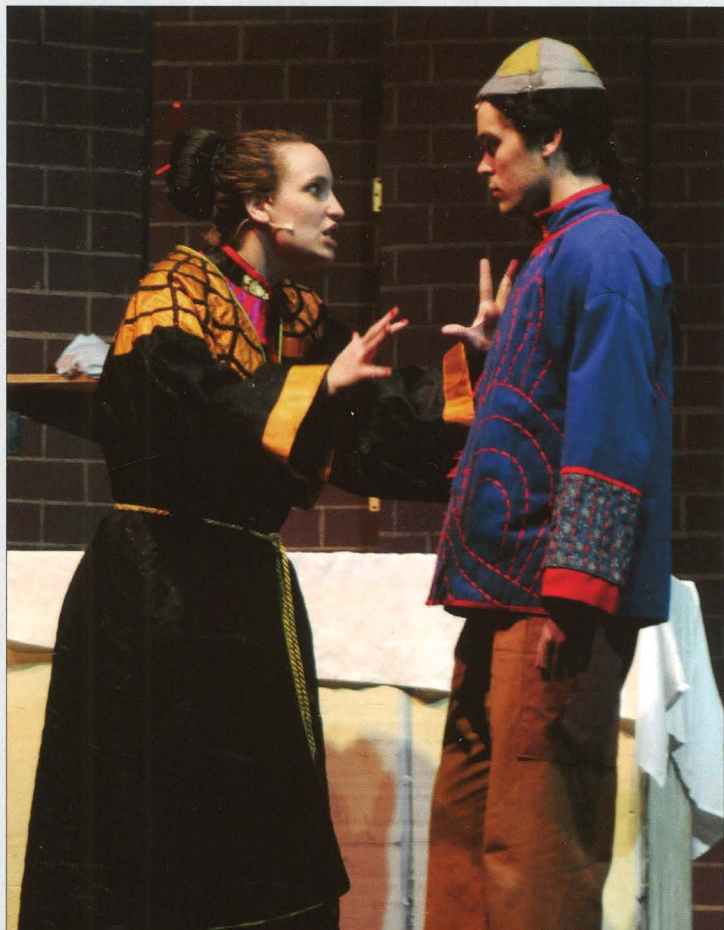
Sophomores Aaron Gillaspie and James Feher tackle players from Arkansas Tech during the Nov. 6 Homecoming game. The Bisons won with a score of 42 to 7. *Ashel Parsons*

Mrs. Meers, played by senior Mary McBride, and Bun Foo, played by sophomore Joshua Little, argue about selling girls into white slavery during the Nov. 5 performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Mrs. Meers forced Bun Foo to be a slave trader in exchange for her bringing their mother over to America. *Ashel Parsons*

Reading a letter from home, sophomore Kaelyn Tavernit's character Ethel Peas finds out that her last living relative has died. In "Millie," single girls living at the Hotel Priscilla that were "all alone in the world" were sold into slavery. *Jeff Montgomery*

Handing Miss Dorothy a rose in "Millie" Nov. 5, sophomore Blake Hunter acts out the first scene in a love story with sophomore Amanda Lane. Hunter's character was supposed to hand Miss Dorothy a poisoned apple but instead gave her a rose. *Jeff Montgomery*

Singing "Only in New York," graduate student Alycia Haynes performs her first solo of the night. Haynes played Muzzy Van Hossmere, a wealthy singer and performer. *Jeff Montgomery*



sing out

It all began with one question: "Did you hear who's coming to Harding?" The question buzzed across campus through text messages, Facebook feeds, Twitter updates and old-fashioned face-to-face conversations. Weeks later, posters went up in the student center. The excitement began to mount. The night of the concert arrived, and masses of fans squealed the same line with intense anticipation:

"Jason Mraz is coming to Harding."

On Sept. 25, Jason Mraz performed live on the Benson stage. Famous for his musical style that blended pop, folk and rock, Mraz was a big name in pop culture. His song "I'm Yours" reached number six on the Billboard Hot 100, and he received two Grammys for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance with his song "Make it Mine" and Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals with pop singer Colbie Caillat on the song "Lucky." With his awards and fame, Mraz was not merely a celebrity; he was an outright sensation.

Luckily enough, he was able to show off his talent on Harding's campus.

Since 2007, Corey McEntyre had been the head director of Campus Activities Board. During those years, McEntyre brought several celebrity recording artists to campus, such as Taylor Swift, Sarah Bareilles, John McLaughlin, Owl City and OneRepublic.

But how did he get such big name stars every year?

"We go through a business called Event Resources Presents, which helps us with everything," McEntyre said. "They contact the artist's managers for us, they do the consulting and they help out with contracts."

McEntyre also explained how CAB selected the artists to perform.

"I do not base the venues on what music I like; the reason varies from artist to artist," McEntyre said. "Jason Mraz happened to be on a college tour with cheaper tickets. His tour was also a blend of old songs from his previous albums and new songs from his upcoming album."

CAB's hard work paid off, and it was obvious the students loved every minute of the concert. Mraz brought the nearly sold out crowd to their feet — and kept them there for the entire two-hour set. Mraz not only performed songs from all three of his albums, but he introduced quite a few new ones as well. Whether it was with his witty lyrics about Arkansas or when he pulled a fan on stage with him for his new song, "San Disco Reggaeifornia," Mraz kept the crowd constantly engaged. After ending the show with the Beatles classic, "All You Need Is Love," Mraz spent time at the edge of the stage signing CDs and talking to the fans who all agreed that the concert was wonderful.

"I thought Jason Mraz was a true performer. He made my ears explode," junior Kevin Newton said. "Seriously, the concert was awesome."

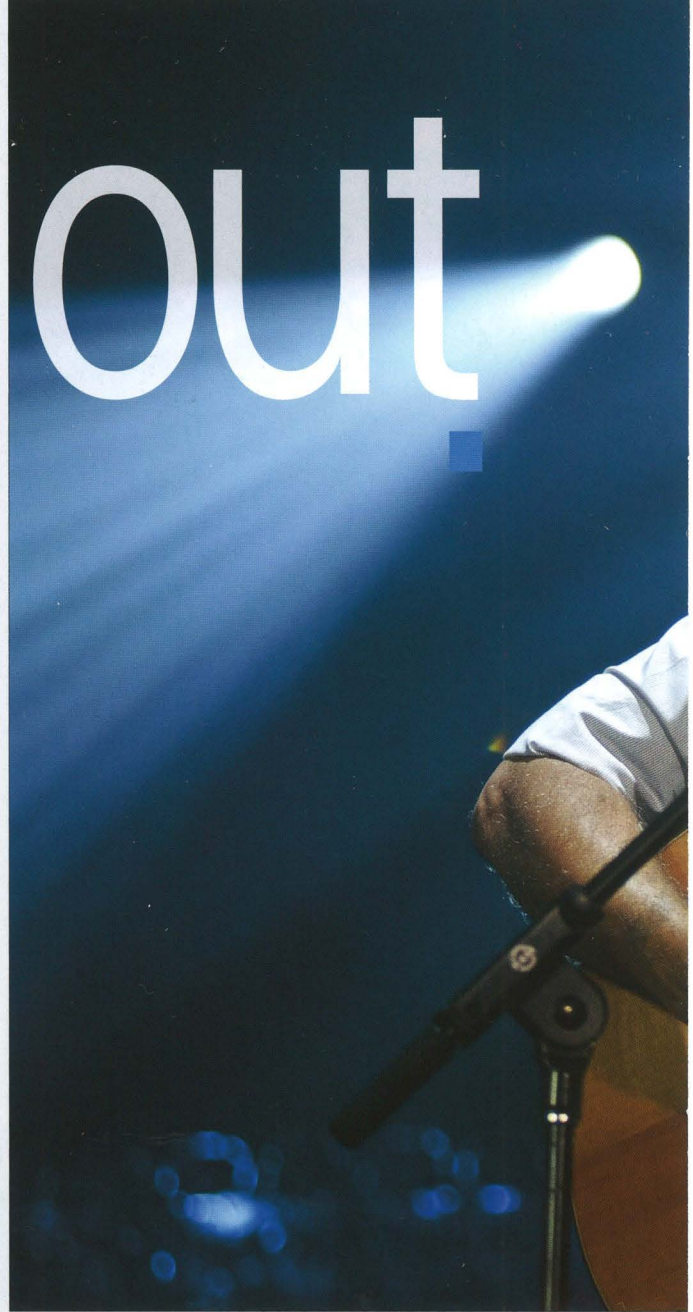
According to McEntyre, helping students make memories was what the concert was all about.

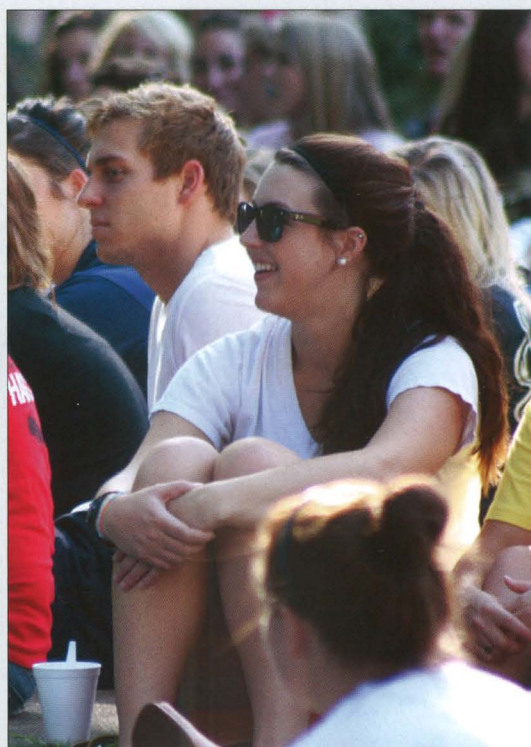
"When you are having that rough semester with the tough classes, a concert can give you an escape with a huge crowd of people all screaming and singing for the same reason," McEntyre said.

All of their efforts culminated in the most talked-about concert of the semester.

"Jason Mraz was a great performer," senior Lauren Hackney said. "His concert was probably the best I've been to at Harding."

John Mark Adkison





Jason Mraz comes to Harding

Jason Mraz performs his well-known hits along with several new songs on the Benson stage Sept. 25. This was the major concert of the fall semester, and students were excited to have a big name on campus. *Noah Darnell*

Students sit on truck tailgates and on the ground at the drive-in movie, *Remember the Titans*, Sept. 11. This event was created as part of Celebrate: Kingdom to raise money for the Sunshine School. *Ashel Parsons*

Sophomore Sam Featherstone and junior Lauren Tankersley listen to the Belles and Beaux and UFO Reel concert on the front lawn Aug. 27. The Back to School Bash was created for students to meet new faces and reconnect with old friends after the first week of school. *Alex Shelton*



Living episode to episode

Seniors Chaeli Nelson and Paola Eusse ride bikes Dec. 8. Many students enjoyed riding their bikes through campus for fun and as everyday transportation.
Ashel Parsons

Gathered around the television, juniors Christina Hatler, Laura Green, Elizabeth Burke, Magen Clayton, Britney Cothren, Kara Beaty and Amy Roznos watch "The Office" Dec. 2. The group got together every Thursday night to watch their favorite show.
Ashel Parsons

Sophomore Christian Yoder greets senior Richard Parsons Dec. 3. Yoder had just completed a concert for the Midnight Oil Porch Series the night before and was a well-known musician around campus.
Ashel Parsons



must see



It's no secret

that college life could be extremely busy, hectic and stressful for any student. But for juniors Elizabeth Burke, Amy Roznos and Magen Clayton, the perfect stress reliever came on Thursday nights in the form of laugh-out-loud "TV Watch Parties."

"The Office" was an award-winning American comedy television show that aired on NBC and had been successful since its premiere in 2005. In 2010, many students were as dedicated to the show as ever.

According to Roznos, "The Office" was "lighthearted, and of course hilarious," filled with over-the-top characters, laughter and just the right amount of drama.

"We've been watching 'The Office' for as long as I can remember us being friends," Clayton said.

It all began in Burke's room in Sears dorm during the girls' freshman year in fall 2008. They came together as a casual group of friends who shared a common interest in the show. They soon developed a strong friendship and a strong devotion to keeping up with the fictional paper company Dunder Mifflin and the characters' lives in Scranton, Penn. According to Burke, the girls decided to make it an official tradition to meet and watch the show together when they realized how important it was in bringing them together.

"'The Office' was part of my schedule even before I came to Harding, so it was easy to transfer that habit over," Roznos said.

Over time, the girls became even busier, and their schedules were sometimes difficult to line up on Thursday nights, so they relied on the website Hulu to catch what was missed as soon as they possibly could. Burke even described one instance when they got up early enough to watch the episode they had missed before chapel.

"That's dedication," Burke said.

Each episode of "The Office" was only about 20 minutes long, giving the girls plenty of opportunities to catch up on other things such as homework, socializing and just relaxing.

"When I am watching 'The Office,' I try to let all my cares from the week go – at least for half an hour," Roznos said.

Thursday nights quickly became the girls' favorite part of the week. Of course, since the seasons were released on DVD, the girls were able to have impromptu "Office Parties" whenever they needed a laugh or a study break.

So why "The Office"?

"Because I hope to work in a place just like that some day," Burke said.

After all, "The office is a place where dreams come true," according to Michael Scott, regional manager of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in Scranton.

Gabrielle Pruitt



long way

Many students considered

an eight-hour drive a long way from home, but for some students, a long way from home was a 20-hour plane ride halfway across the globe. With students from 49 countries around the world, Harding's international student population was not small, to say the least.

Tina Liu, a sophomore from Beijing, China, had a very positive experience in coming to the United States. When Liu decided as a senior in high school to come to the U.S. as a foreign exchange student, she was placed with a family in Atlanta, Ga., who happened to be members of the church. After only being in the U.S. for one year, and with the encouragement of her host family, Liu began looking at Harding as a potential college option.

"My high school took a field trip to Harding for Bison Daze, so I got a chance to see what Harding looked like and to meet the people there," Liu said. "After that, I decided to come to Harding because I loved the people, and the small classes gave me more of a chance to ask questions and talk to the professors."

Even with her newfound friendships with professors and students, Liu felt the effects of culture shock upon her arrival at school.

"I would have to say that the language is the first thing that destroyed 'my dream,'" Liu said. "Before I came to the U.S., I went to an international school in Beijing, which offers a lot of English classes, such as reading, writing, listening and speaking. I was a straight A student, which made me feel proud. But I forgot one thing: here in the U.S., everyone speaks better English than I do."

After coming to that realization, Liu decided to start from scratch and re-learn English. Slowly but surely, and with the help of her friends, Liu improved. Her ultimate goal was to use her opportunities to become even more multicultural than she already was. By the time of her arrival at Harding, she had already visited Singapore and Thailand, but an important factor in Liu's coming to the U.S. was her choice of occupation.

"I want to become an actuary, and America has the best schools to study in actuarial science," Liu said.

During her freshman year, Liu formed unique bonds with her professors, including mass communication professor Steven Shaner.

"I met Tina during her first semester at Harding," Shaner said. "I teach a speech class called ComO 101/ESL, meaning 'English as a Second Language,' for Chinese students. I spoke very little Chinese and I needed some help, so I recruited Tina as my assistant. Later I found out that I would have the opportunity to teach in China over the summer of 2010. Tina was going home for the summer, and she jumped right on that."

During Shaner's summer trip to China, Liu spent four days with Shaner and his wife, serving as hostess, tour guide and translator. She accompanied them to legendary places such as the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall of China.

"It was amazing to have somebody like Tina with native skills, home for the summer and willing to give us four days," Shaner said. "Tina and my wife are shopping buddies now."

Liu expressed how much she had changed and grown since coming to Harding.

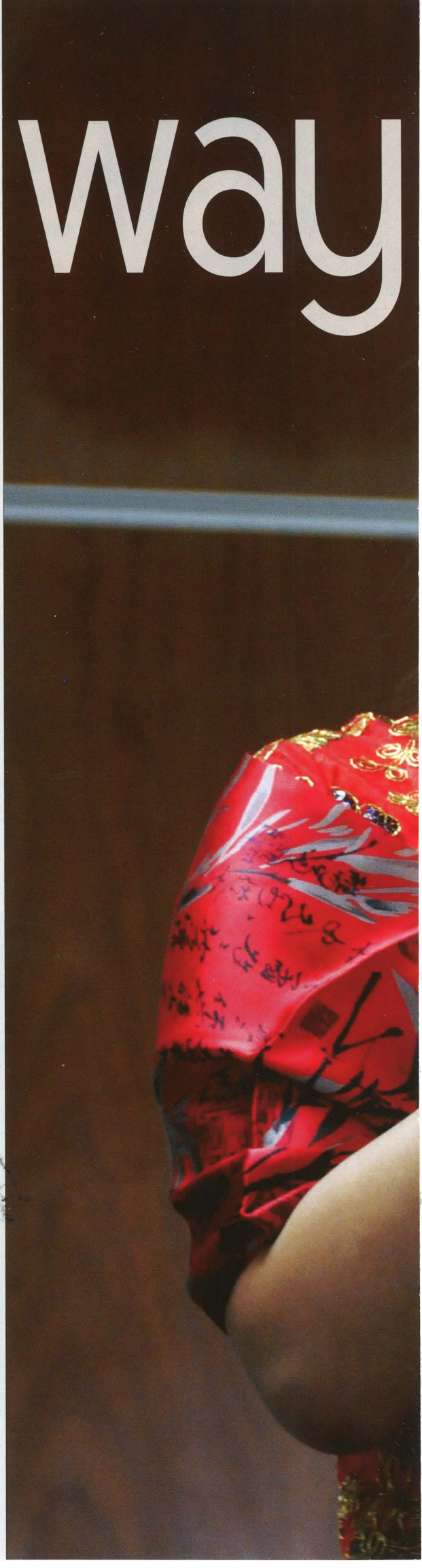
"I have become more independent and confident because I can compete with people who are coming from different countries," Liu said. "I can do much better than I thought, like overcoming difficulties and doing better on my tests."

"The best thing about Tina is her fun, friendly personality," Shaner said. "A lot of foreign students are shy here, afraid of saying the wrong thing, looking un-American, but that has never stopped Tina. She is one of the most open, outgoing people you will ever meet."

Liu's roommate sophomore Jesslyn Willis agreed.

"Tina is such a people person no matter what nationality you are," Willis said. "She is constantly with people and friends and would do anything for them if they needed her. She is truly an extraordinary person."

Caitlin Caldwell/Sarah Eason



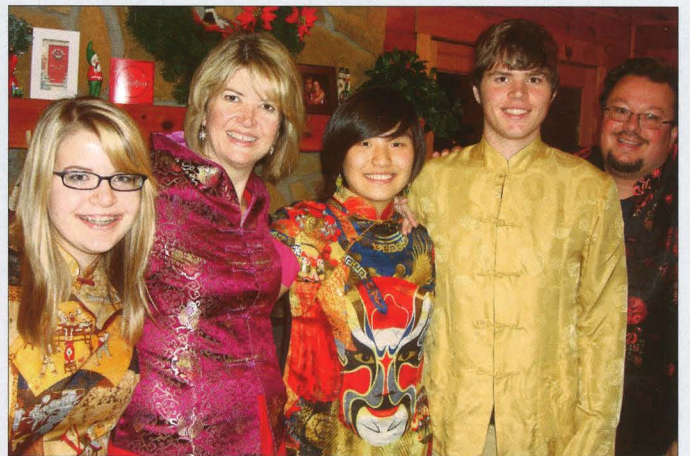


Tina Liu tells her story

Sophomore Tina Liu tells the chapel audience a little about the Chinese Moon Festival in the Benson Sept. 24. The event was held in the cafeteria and Liu was the emcee for the evening. *Ashel Parsons*

Posing with her host family Dec. 25, Liu shows the Christmas presents she bought them. "I wanted them to know I appreciate them and thank them for all they have done for me," Liu said. *Courtesy of Tina Liu*

At the Chinese Moon Festival on Sept. 24, freshmen Vicky Zhang, Winnie Lin and Cecelia Wu sing to the crowd. The Moon Festival was a chance for the Chinese students to show the rest of the student body their culture. *Ashel Parsons*



rollit

The National Broadcasting

Society hosted the 5 Minute Film Festival for its second year in the fall, which encouraged students from all departments to step behind the camera and create. Whether the creations were masterpieces or mistakes was completely up to the audience, who also judged the competition.

Taking on a format similar to that of a Hollywood film festival, the 5 Minute Film Festival featured short films produced by different groups on campus and gave out awards for first, second and third place, as well as awards for worst film, best club film and best film created in the 48 hours before the festival.

The event was described as "a festival celebrating the best, worst and even the completely mediocre films made by Harding students. The only limits are that films must be less than 5 minutes in length and must be Harding appropriate; other than that anything goes."

The festival was first created in the spring of 2010, based on the Honors College version of the event called the Exit 45 Film Festival in the fall of 2008.

"Our sponsor encouraged us to create a fundraiser to generate revenue for our club," festival director Grant Dillion said. "One of the ideas we tossed around in the meeting was a film festival. I volunteered to take the project on and I have created, designed and sustained the project ever since."

New to the festival this semester was the "48 Hour Film" category.

"The idea of having a campus-wide 48 hour event started when I tried to register for the national event a couple weeks ago, but Harding's security block kept me from registering," senior LaReil Reynolds, creator and winner of the 48 Hour Film category, said. "Basically the idea is to make a film in 48 hours, and you are given four items: a genre, a prop, a line of dialogue and a character's name. You are supposed to use all items in your film."

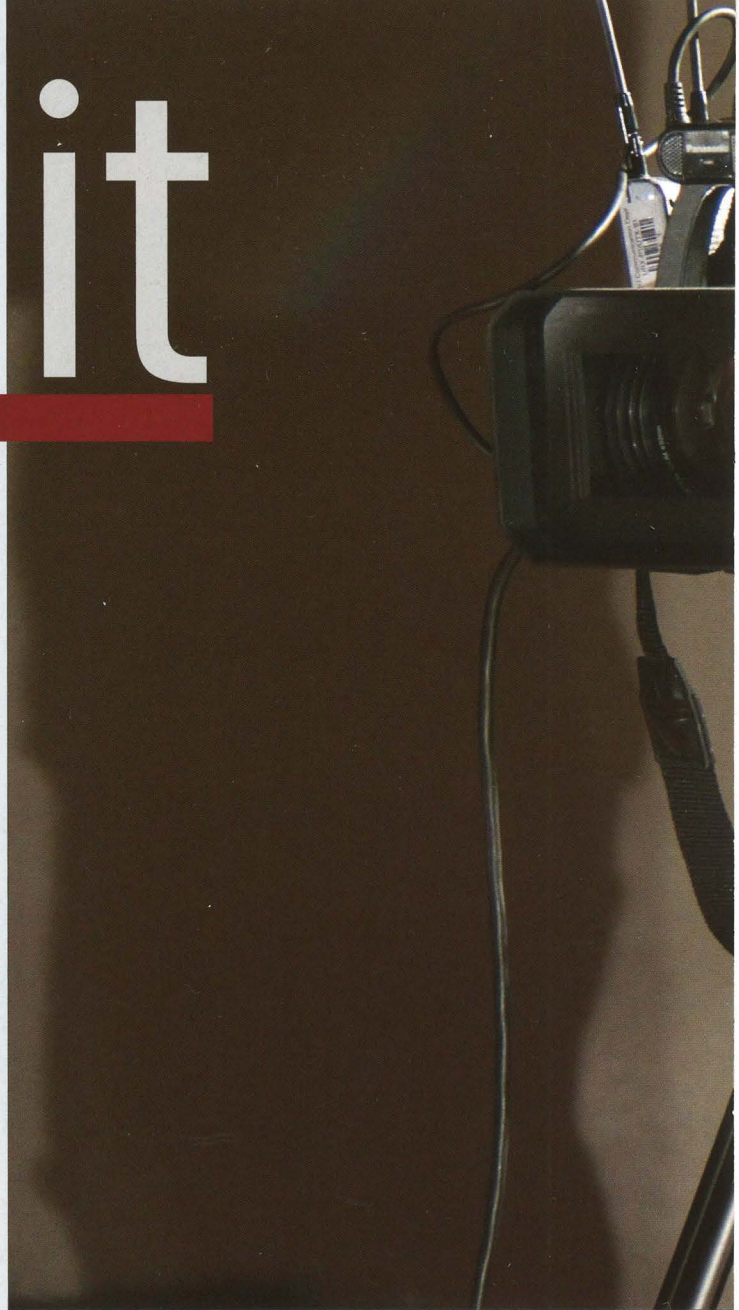
After all the films were shown, filmmakers took the stage for a question and answer session in which they talked about their films and took questions from the audience. Simultaneously, a group of volunteers furiously tallied the votes in preparation for the awards ceremony at the end of the evening.

When all the votes were counted, the emcee announced the winners. First place went to "The Admin Avenger," directed by senior Collin Yearry. Second place went to "The Delivery," directed by sophomores Tanner Anderson, Wade O'Dear and Kyle Williams, and third place went to "A Storm in a Glass," directed by senior Lucy Marchena. The award for Best Club Film went to "Evolution of Music," directed by junior Matt Fahey of Beta Omega Chi. The winner in the Worst Film category was senior Nathan Covington for "The Bison Hunter." Reynolds won the award for the Best 48 Hour Film with "Be My Friend."

Winners went home with trophies as well as a multitude of gifts and gift cards donated by local businesses. Dillion left with the satisfaction of knowing the event had been a success.

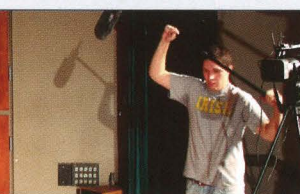
"This festival isn't about prestigious art or serious intellectual discussion," Dillion said. "It's about coming together and having fun and sharing in the collective creativity of the student body."

Heidi Tabor





Film Festival shows students' skills



Senior Trent Posey works as cameraman for the five minute film "Three Swings" Nov. 3. The film was based on a combination of the television show "The Bachelor" and the Harding "three swings and a ring" myth. *Courtesy of Grant Dillion*

Freshman Taylor Hooten and sophomores Ryanne Greene, Amberly Smith and Corey Stumne roast marshmallows at the bonfire Nov. 5. The event marked the beginning of the Homecoming festivities and also included a performance by student band "Foreign Tourists." *Ashel Parsons*

Students make their wishes as a star drops in front of the Administration Building at 11:11 p.m. on Dec. 6. The Student Association held a "Celebrate: Spirit" night that included Christmas music, hot chocolate and a dorm room Christmas lighting contest. *Ashel Parsons*

aim high

The process of

streamlining intramural sports began in earnest when assistant professor of kinesiology Tom Ritchie took over the position of women's intramurals and club sports director in fall 2010.

Ritchie moved to Searcy in August 2008 as a professor for the College of Science's kinesiology department. Three years later, Ritchie accepted the position of women's intramural director and prepared to make intramurals easier for students to participate in.

According to Ritchie, his degrees in education and physical education helped prepare him for the task ahead.

"I have a great deal of experience in sports and recreation, having coached over 50 seasons of high school sports," Ritchie said.

Focusing on increasing communication rather than changing rules, Ritchie added a Google calendar for the team, as well as posts on the new Pipeline Whiteboard, for better intramural organization.

"I think Mr. Ritchie is doing a wonderful job with women's club and intramural sports," senior Amanda Dorsey said. "He has been wonderful to work with, especially by scheduling games around some of our club functions. He also has been good about letting us know when games are and giving us plenty of time to let the girls know when they play."

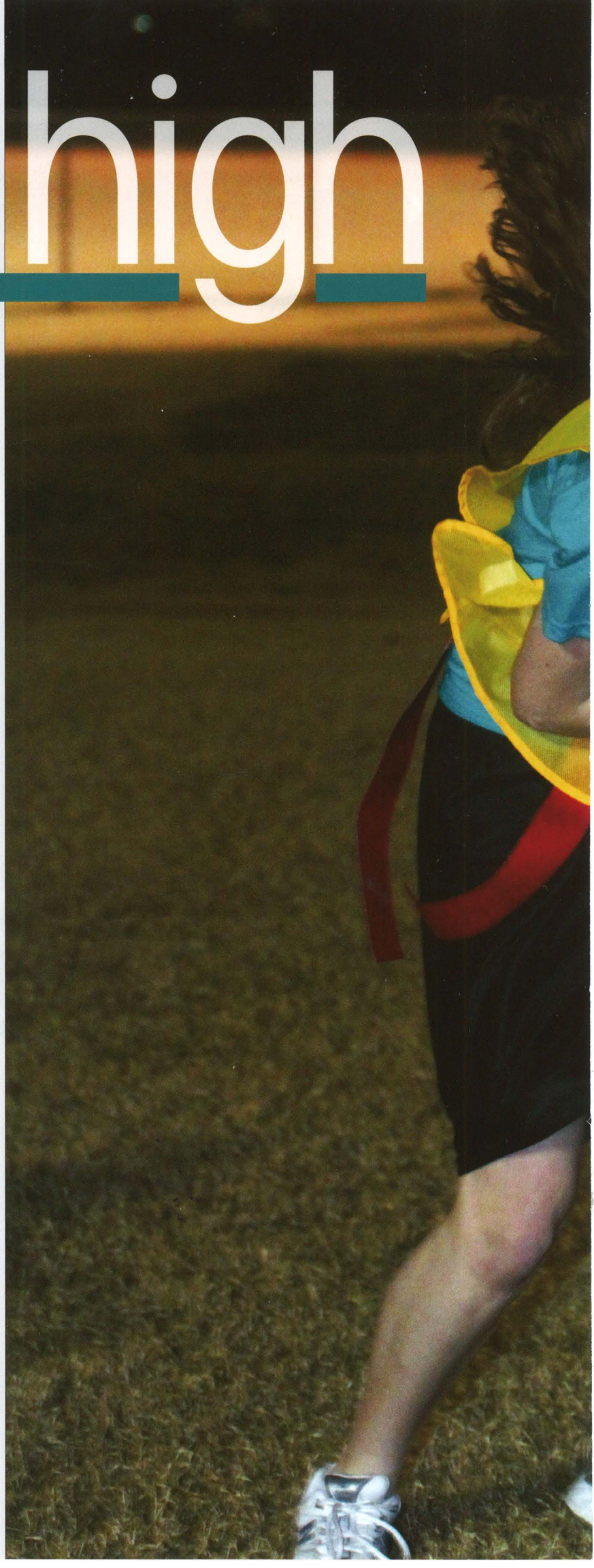
Along with the communication changes, Ritchie hoped to offer more activities for intramural athletes in addition to the club sports currently offered.

"We are reaching out to our graduate programs, such as the College of Pharmacy, to provide opportunities for all our students," Ritchie said.

Dorsey added that Ritchie's new program also hired referees instead of having club athletic directors find refs.

"[Ritchie] helps a ton and keeps everyone's schedules a little less hectic," Dorsey said.

Ryan Orr





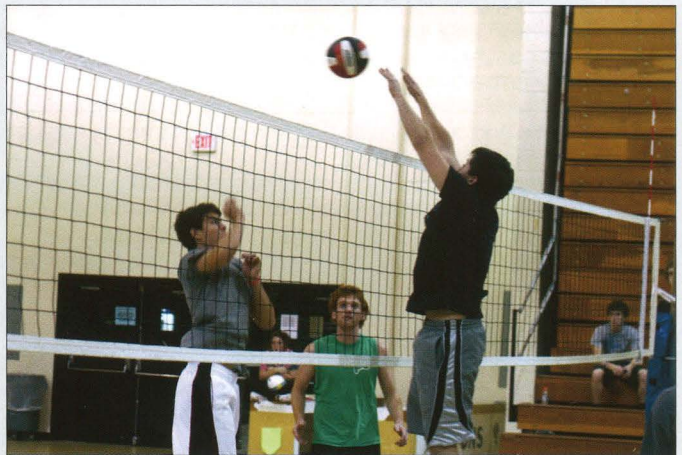
New director hired for women's intramurals



Freshman Elana Newell plays her first flag football game as a member of Zeta Pi Zeta Nov. 10. "It was so much fun to watch all of the girls play after the stressful week that brought them all together," senior Alicia Miller said. *Abby Kellett*

Freshman Chris Meyer blocks the ball Nov. 10 as freshman Alex Bishop and senior Ty Shelton get ready to defend the play. "Intramurals have been great because I have made friends with people I otherwise would not have met," Shelton said. *Alex Shelton*

Sophomores Nate White and Davis Weeks try to block sophomore Christian Yoder and junior Cameron Passmore. This Oct. 14 game gave Knights a victory against Beta Omega Chi. *Alex Shelton*



dive in

It was finally Friday. Classes were done for the week, and students were looking for something interesting to do with their weekend. They searched their pockets for money and realized they were low on cash. Where to go? What to do? Ever considered Heber Springs?

Heber Springs was a small town less than an hour drive from Searcy with a spectacular view of the "Natural State." People from all over central Arkansas came to enjoy the waters of Greers Ferry Lake and cliff diving, making it the seventh-most popular tourist location in Arkansas.

Gibson said she enjoyed Heber Springs while a student at Harding. She always tried to go on weekends when the weather was warm and the sun was shining.

"I think Heber is so popular because it's just far enough away that it's kind of an escape," Gibson said. "It's absolutely beautiful and really inexpensive."

As the weather grew warmer, Heber trips became more frequent; almost any weekend when the weather was right, students could be found hanging out at the lake.

"I like Heber because it's a beautiful, clean place to go get out of the heat and it's close, so lots of people from Harding go there," junior Callie McAllister said. "It's a good escape because you can just go there and be surrounded by God's glory."

Greers Ferry Lake, created in 1963 and dedicated to the late President John F. Kennedy, became one of the most beautiful man-made lakes in the state, and out of all of Heber's attractions, the lake's cliffs were the most enticing. From beginner jumps all the way up to twenty-foot plummets, there was a height for almost anyone's comfort zone.

"My favorite part about Heber is that you can do whatever you want as far as the water," sophomore Zach Decker said. "It's good for water skiing, jumping and more. I like to climb the bluff after jumping into the water. That has to be my favorite part."

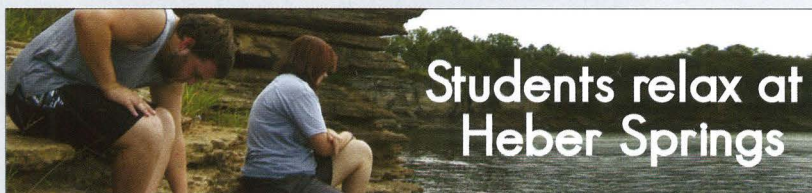
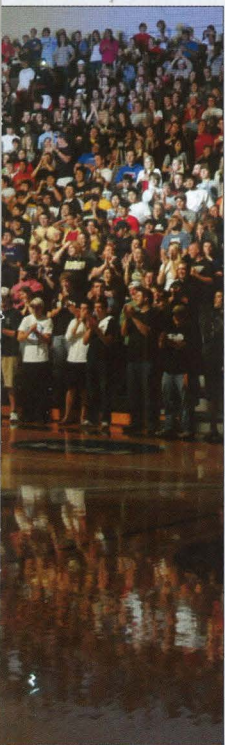
Besides the lake and the cliffs, there were other recreational events to enjoy around town.

"It's a place where you can catch a movie with family at the infamous Rialto Theater," junior Danielle Bradshaw said. "Enjoying a great day at the lake makes a great time with family and friends also."

No matter how many generations of students came through Harding, Heber remained one of the most popular weekend getaways. Students and their parents alike could look back on their memories at Greers Ferry Lake as one of the places that brought relief from studies and the simple pleasure of enjoying nature.

Elumba Ebenja



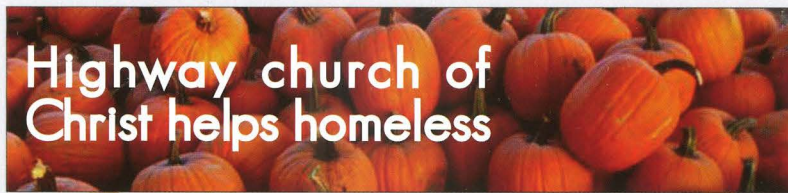


Students relax at Heber Springs

Sophomore Alex Warzecha cartwheels off a cliff at Heber Springs Sept. 25. Freshman Laura Teachworth and sophomore Claire Allensworth along with some other friends decided to spend their Saturday soaking up the sun. *Sarah Eason*

Students gather in the Rhodes Fieldhouse Oct. 14 for Midnight Madness. This was the first year Midnight Madness had strobe lights, fog machines and an extended curfew. *Ashel Parsons*

Freshman Barret Swims plays in the Battle of the Bands night Oct. 14 in the cafeteria. The winner, sophomore Kolton Thomas, was entered into a national competition entitled "URock!" *Ashel Parsons*



Highway church of Christ helps homeless

Drinking Starbucks coffee Dec. 3, senior Calea Bakke enjoys her weekend in Nashville, Tenn. Bakke and her friends attended a Christian conference led by Christian speaker and author Graham Cooke. *Alex Shelton*

Freshman Alex Ford roasts a marshmallow at a campsite in Heber Springs, Ark., Sept. 24. "My favorite part was sitting out by the lake in the middle of the night singing with my friends, as a couple of the guys played the guitar," freshman Taylor Carrell said. *Courtesy of Taylor Carrell*

Reenacting a scene from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, seniors Maria Gleim and Courtney Boyd celebrate the book at a Harry Potter party Nov. 1. A number of students were fans of the books and movies and held theme parties before the Nov. 19 movie release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part One*. *Courtesy of Elena Moore*





reach out

“The Church is not a physical building, but a group of believers; not a denomination, sect, or association, but a spiritual body. The Church is not an organization, but a communion, a fellowship of one body, and it includes all believers.”

—John MacArthur, *The Church: The Body of Christ*

Highway Church of Christ embodied that message of service when its college minister came up with the idea to spend their Sunday serving and worshipping with the homeless of Little Rock for the first time on October 12, 2010.

Sophomore Morgan Jones got to share this unique experience with other college students in helping and spending time with the homeless.

“It gave us an opportunity to worship and share God’s love with people from much different backgrounds than us,” Jones said.

The group not only got to serve the homeless, but also got to see firsthand how they worshipped.

“My favorite memory was the man who talked before the Lord’s Supper,” Jones said. “His message was very emotional and really touched me. He talked about how material things really didn’t matter and that God died for everyone.”

Junior John Mark Adkison said working with the children, most of whom attended without their parents, was his favorite part of the experience.

“The kids were shy at first,” Adkison said. “Then the preacher asked the kids to sit among all of us students, and within minutes the kids couldn’t stop talking with us.”

Through the homeless ministry, students at Highway felt they were getting close to the kind of church Jesus would have participated in.

“Highway is putting such an emphasis on service, and I think that’s awesome,” Adkison said. “In a sense, they are revolutionizing Sunday morning class.”

Sharing a meal with the children was real communion, according to Adkison.

“It was awesome to see how excited the kids got when they saw that we fixed them food,” Adkison said. “They were just so happy to see us there. Their faces all fit up.”

Caitlin Caldwell



Honors College sees the world through a cup of coffee



Stopping on his walk along the road in Gondar May 13, senior Alan Elrod learns how the native Ethiopians make pottery. Right behind was the women's co-op building where single mothers were able to work and learn a craft. *Noah Darnell*

Juniors Carrie DiMaria and Emily Dollens and seniors Colby Dollens and Alan Elrod enjoy their first meal in Oman May 22. The dinner was on the rooftop of a women's co-op building in 103 degree heat. *Noah Darnell*

Standing at the edge of a mountain May 14, students overlook Simien Mountains National Park in Ethiopia. The students camped in the mountains overnight at an altitude of 10,700 feet. *Noah Darnell*



cup o' Joe

In the summer

of 2010, Honors College students ordered their midmorning cappuccinos not from Midnight Oil or Java City, but from Middle Eastern bazaars and Parisian cafés. From May 10 to June 1, students accompanied by International Programs Director Dr. Jeff Hopper and Honors professor Dr. Pat Garner traveled "Around the World in a Cup of Coffee," sampling the coffee and the culture of Ethiopia, Oman, Turkey and France in order to trace the history of the drink and its powerful effects on economics, politics and even society.

The trip, which earned its name from Tom Sandage's book, *The History of the World in Six Glasses*, focused on the relationships between food, family and culture.

"As Dr. Garner and I planned the course of study, the coffee tour evolved into an odyssey," Hopper said. "It turns out that coffee literally unites families, cultures, economic development, trade and even religion."

Each country students visited revealed a part of the story of coffee. In Ethiopia students observed the ways coffee was grown and traded, while in Oman the group studied the ties between coffee and Islam. From Oman the group moved to Turkey, where they visited mosques, spice bazaars and the oldest coffee shop in Istanbul, a place with both Christian and Islamic influences that retained peace even in the midst of religious strife. The trip ended in Paris, France, where the students were able to have dinner in the café at the Palais Royal, the very site where the French Revolution began.

Although sites like the Islamic mosques in Istanbul and the Queen of Sheba's palace in Ethiopia were impressive, it was not the scenes of splendor that students described as their favorite parts. Sophomore Darren Kentner and senior Gabriella Marcellini discussed their most meaningful time of the trip as being authentic interaction with locals, simply being immersed into the everyday culture of extraordinary places.

"Going to where coffee started, seeing how it really actually influences people, and actually having experienced those influences [such as participating in coffee ceremonies in Ethiopia], are tangible, real-life encounters that I would have never known about had I not gotten out of the classroom and experienced them," Kentner said.

Kentner and Marcellini agreed that their most memorable experience was the time they went to a coffee cooperative in Ethiopia and experienced village life there. Seeing the independent farmers working together at the same place and sharing the same ground to grow all different kinds of crops was impressive, but just past the plantation area was where the real magic happened. The children in the tiny village, most of whom had never encountered Caucasian Westerners ever before, followed the students intently.

"Their genuine attitudes were so captivating, and I thoroughly enjoyed holding their hands while strolling through some incredible scenery," Kentner said.

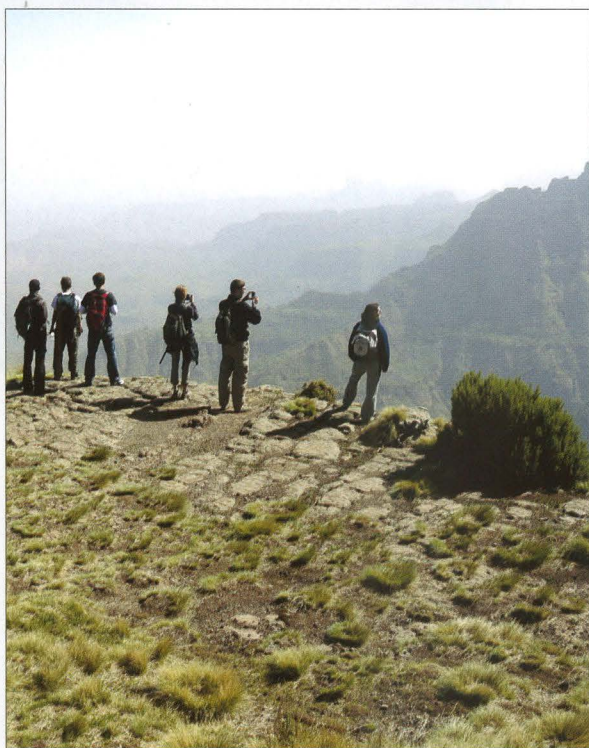
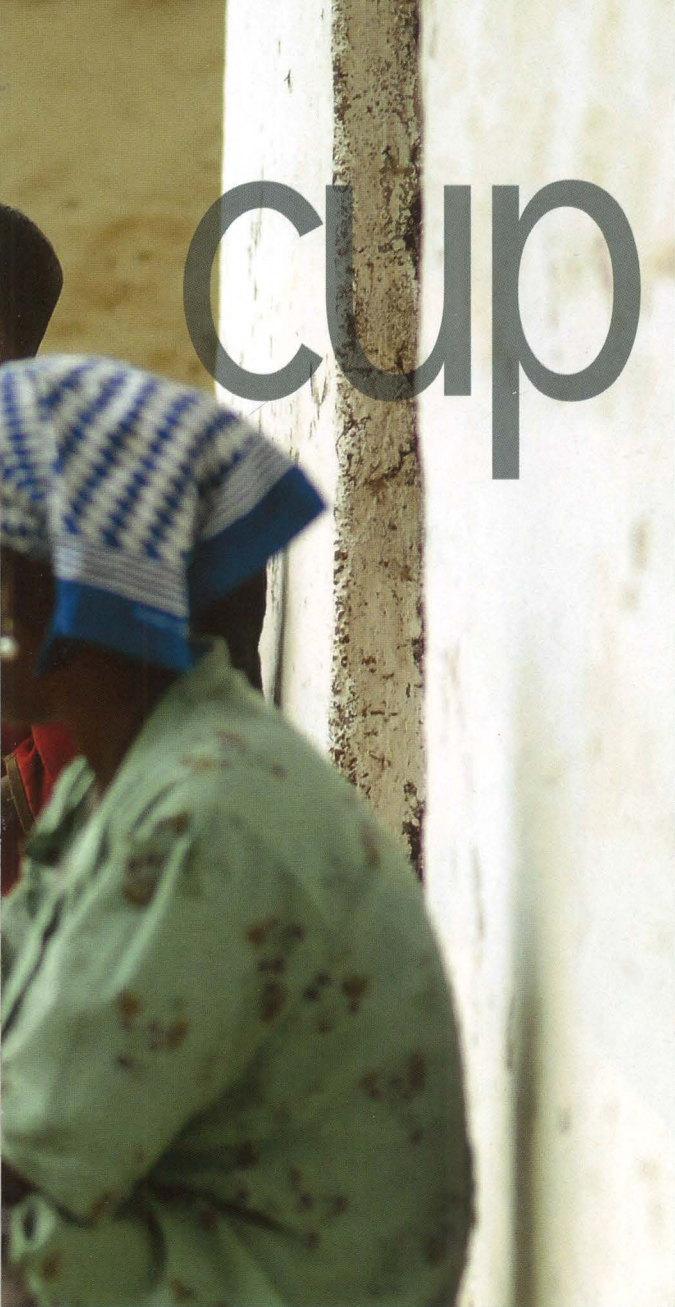
When a torrential downpour began, students and children gathered under trees and huts to play "Paper, Rock, Scissors" together.

"They didn't try to sell us things; they weren't begging; they weren't doing anything," Marcellini recalled. "They were just kind of touching our skin because we were different."

For Marcellini, just getting to know people, specifically the guides, was the most educational part of the entire trip. She remained in contact with the tour guides from Ethiopia and Turkey hearing about their passion for the betterment of the living conditions among their own people.

"[The trip] helped me realize how crucial communication is across the globe in every culture," Kentner said.

Gabrielle Pruitt



shook up

The phone rang

while junior Jennifer Russell was frantically running around her bedroom collecting a few last-minute items for her semester abroad in Chile. It was the call she had been dreading for days.

The call came from Russell's trip director, Tom Hook, who informed her that the trip would be delayed one week due to the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that had struck off the coast of Chile on February 27, about 270 miles away from the Harding campus in Viña del Mar.

"Having it delayed was really disappointing," junior Ellen Erwin said. "We had waited so long, but after I remembered that my whole world had not just been destroyed by a terrible earthquake, my perspective changed a lot."

Many team members began researching immediately, frightened by the devastating footage they had seen from the Haiti earthquake earlier that year. Several in the group bought toiletry kits for the locals they would encounter. They also packed extra clothes to leave behind for Chileans at the end of their trip.

Unsure of what to expect, students were disturbed by the condition of the airport in the capital city of Santiago, but they were relieved to discover it would be the worst damage they would see throughout their semester. Only the week before the earthquake happened, an inspector had informed HULA directors that the student residence was one of the sturdiest in the country.

"Once we were actually there, we felt nothing but excitement," sophomore Shelby Sweetser said. "There was a huge feeling of relief that we actually got to go at all! After that long of a wait, who wouldn't be ready?"

Erwin said once everyone arrived, the entire group bonded because of their limited communication with friends and family back home.

"We were all we had," Erwin said. "With exploring the Amazon and staying in huts and all our other adventures, we really pulled together like a family because we were so out of our element."

According to Erwin, the "HULAgans," as they called themselves, felt their comfort zones dissolve quickly as they traveled through the Amazon to a small rural village, where students bought baskets and jewelry from the local women and interacted with a kindergarten class in the village.

"The children sang to us and we sang back to them," Erwin said. "Everyone there seemed so satisfied with their lives. It was definitely an eye-opening experience."

Through these experiences many HULA students watched their entire worldviews change. However, in spite of a scary start to the semester, neither the HULAgans' relationships with each other nor their excitement about being in Chile had been shaken.

Heidi Tabor



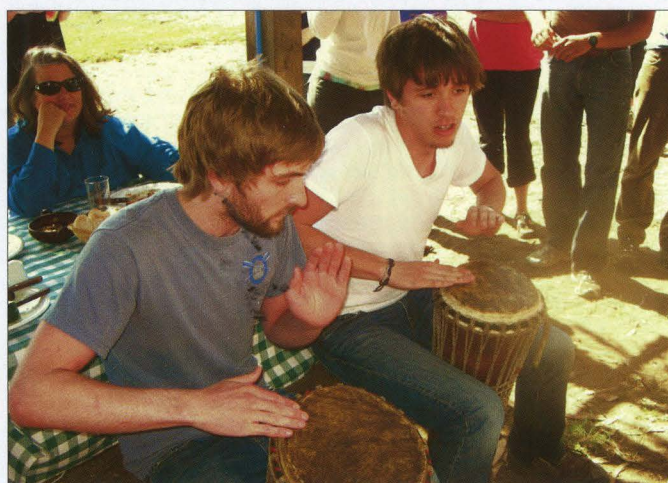


Earthquake delays trip

Junior Ellen Erwin holds a monkey on Monkey Island while on the Amazon River in Peru during the spring of 2010. For the first time in the history of the Chile program, the students had the opportunity to spend five days in the Amazon. *Courtesy of Ellen Erwin*

Walking barefoot, juniors Jennifer Russell, Lauren Williams and Mitchell Carter take in the sand dunes in Concon, Chile. The students stopped by these dunes outside of Vina del Mar, Chile on their way home. *Courtesy of Hope Rice*

After eating lunch, juniors Logan Nickleson and J.D. Peery play the drums outside of Vina del Mar. "We started playing and attracted a little crowd of people. It was a lot of fun," Peery said. *Courtesy of Ellen Erwin*



book it

The city of

London was both full of history and making history at the same time, and what better way to live it than through the Harding University in England (HUE) program? A typical day included anything from taking a stroll down the block to the British Museum or hopping on the Tube and visiting Westminster Abbey, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London Bridge or other famous sites. One HUE student, senior Stephanie Gregory, had the experience of a lifetime at Leicester Square, one of the most famous red carpet movie premiere venues in the world.

Today was the day: this was the day that I'd been waiting for since I read that first book. I had my wand in hand, my broom in my bag, my dress robe on and I was all ready to take a trip to Hogwarts—and boy, did I take a trip. Today was the day Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part One was premiering in London at Leicester Square. Although the stars were not scheduled to arrive until 6 p.m., I wanted to make sure I got there in time to grab the perfect spot to lay my eyes on the dreamy Rupert Grint, so I left our flat at 9 a.m. sharp. Talk about a long day. I thought I was going to be one of the first people to arrive at the premiere set-up, but boy, was I wrong. I found out people had been waiting outside for the event for three days prior to the premiere.

Rainy old London really stood up to its name today; the weather was definitely not compliant. It rained cats and dogs, or should I say owls and house elves. But as the evening approached, the skies cleared and we were ready for the Harry Potter celebrities. As six o'clock ticked closer and closer we felt as if we were in the midst of Hogwarts, with fires flaming from lamp posts and Dementors lining the walkways. I almost used the Patronus Charm on them until someone told me they were actors (that was a little embarrassing).

The first of the stars began arriving soon after 6:00 p.m., and everyone at Leicester Square started to go nuts. Rupert Grint, better known as Ron Weasley, was the first of the three to show up. I must say he is even cuter in person than in the movies. He melted my heart when he came within inches of me! I almost fainted. The next to arrive was Emma Watson (or Hermione Granger). She looked so grown up with her short haircut. She did not come as close to me as Ron did, but she still looked great. I think if we were to ever meet in real life, we would be the best of friends. The last of the three to arrive was Harry Potter himself (Daniel Radcliffe in "real life"). He did not sign autographs for very long because he had to go inside for more important business. I think he needed to defeat Volde—I mean "He Who Must Not Be Named"—before the premiere began. We got to see several other Harry Potter celebrities there, too, like Fred and George Weasley, Severus Snape, Draco Malfoy, Ginny Weasley, Lucius Malfoy, Bellatrix Lestrange, Minerva McGonagall, Albus Dumbledore, Hagrid, Voldemort, Sirius Black and many others. I also got to see J.K. Rowling, author of the entire series! Thousands of people crowded to see the stars that evening. It would have been nice if I could have used the Wingardium Leviosa charm to fly above the crowds and see my favorite actors.

I felt I was fully prepared to attend this premiere since I had had the opportunity at HUE to visit several places important to the creation of Harry Potter. I visited Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ at the King's Cross train station and ate dinner at the Elephant House in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Rowling began writing the first Harry Potter book. From the back of the restaurant you could see the boarding school that inspired Hogwarts. We even got to go to the place that looked exactly like Diagon Alley! Going to the premiere was great, but it was just another day at HUE. We will see what tomorrow brings. Perhaps I will get to see the queen or fall in love with a prince. The opportunities in London are endless!

Stephanie Gregory





HUE students experience literature

Sophomore Mindy Gross stands with HUE director Lauren Bryan Knight in the London Eye, overlooking the city. It takes 30 minutes for the Eye, the tallest Ferris wheel in Europe, to make a full rotation.

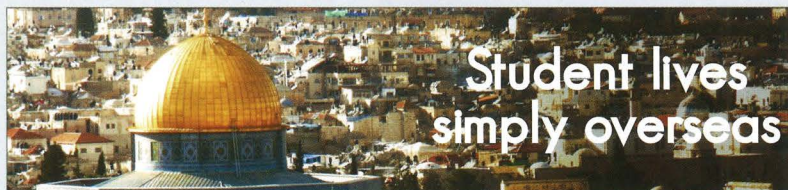
Courtesy of Mary Lira

Senior Stephanie Gregory and sophomores Courtney Stone and Travis Medina walk down the royal mile in Edinburgh, Scotland. The walk took place during the first nine days of the semester, when the group traveled around Scotland and Ireland.

Courtesy of Caroline Damron

On Nov. 11, sophomores Lyndsey Ammons, Mindy Gross and Courtney Stone wait outside the *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* premiere in Leister Square. The premiere was only a 10 minute walk down the street from where the students lived.

Courtesy of Caroline Damron



Student lives simply overseas

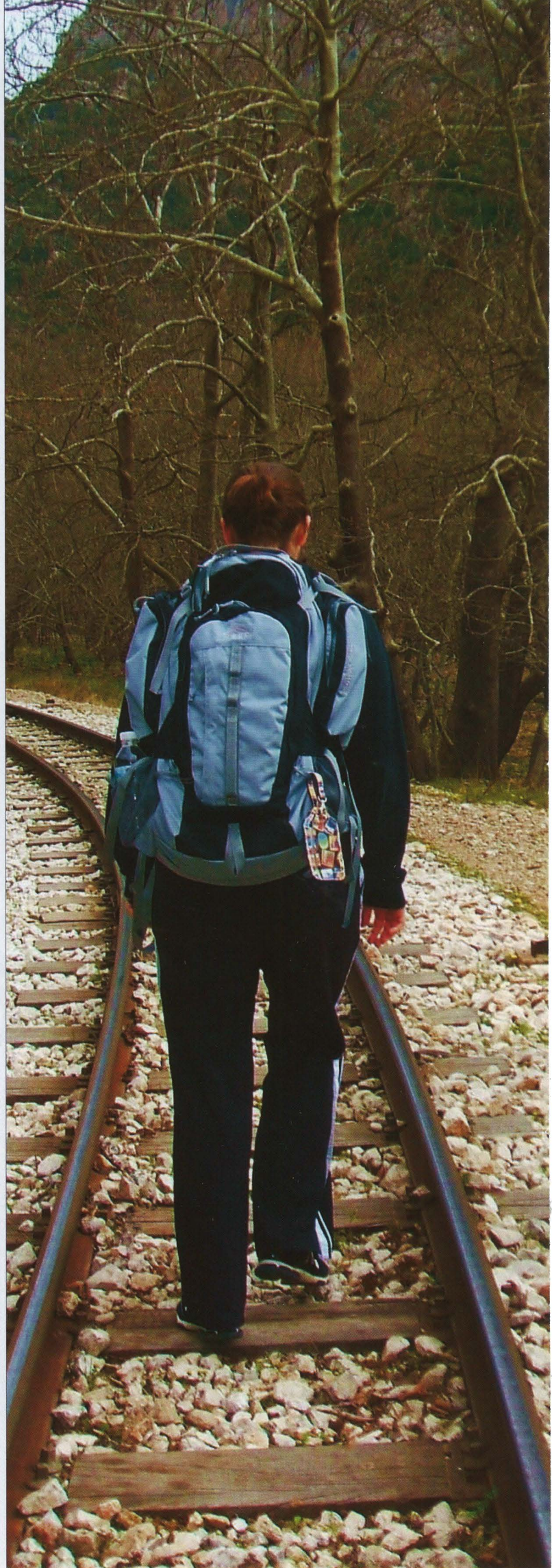
Hiking up the historic Odontos Railroad in Greece, senior Jimma Cornelius and juniors Haley Main, Lauren Tankersley and Stephen Crowder head to the ski village of Kalavrita April 6. This group had to hike about 20 miles because the train was on strike.

Courtesy of Addie Loeffler

The HUG group gets in racing form as they pretend to take part in an ancient race in Olympia Mar. 17. The group stopped to see the original location of the Olympics on their tour of northern Greece.

Courtesy of Jimma Cornelius

In Israel, senior Dan Amstutz, recent graduate Matt Voss and juniors David Schilling and Carlton Norris raft down the Jordan River June 10. They made their own mast for the raft out of floating bamboo and a T-shirt. *Courtesy of David Schilling*



easy life

James Rucker was a junior electronic media production and leadership in ministry major who went to the Harding University Greece (HUG) program in the spring of 2010, including three weeks of free travel at the conclusion of the semester. Petit Jean staff writer Monique Jacques spoke to Rucker about why he chose to experience free travel in a way that most students did not.

M: James, you did not travel in the most traditional way, correct?

J: Depending on your definition of what 'traditional' is. In some ways, I would think that hitchhiking is actually really traditional in the sense that it's been done for a long period of time in many other cultures. But in reference to what our culture would say was traditional, yes, I'd say it was quite different.

M: So why did you choose hitchhiking for your mode of transportation?

J: Here was the bet: to do European free travel under 100 euro. I had a Eurail pass and 100 euro. If I did it, I'd get three nights in Venice, breakfast, lunch and dinner. [Rucker paused and then commented with a small grin,] I enjoyed the breakfast, the lunch and the dinner.

M: So how did you accomplish this besides free transportation?

J: I didn't pay for any nights that I stayed anywhere. I slept in the lobby of a hostel that some friends were staying at and on a train for two nights, but neither was [in] a sleeping coach. I slept in a private park a block from the Vatican, at the base of an ancient aqueduct in Rome, in a school park in Berlin and in Prague behind a statue. There were some nights that I did not sleep; I just kept on walking or stayed up journaling. I saw all of the same things the other students did, just in a different light. Another way that I got through [was by packing] up food from the Artemis, including little juice boxes. I mainly ate two large tubs of off-brand Nutella. I would just buy bread because it was really cheap and really good.

M: What did you carry with you?

J: A camera, a sleeping bag, a poncho which I used as a ground cloth, my black pea-coat, three shirts, two pair of shoes, one pair of pants, a beanie, a scarf and my infamous orange sweatshirt which I hate. I had a notebook, video camera, food from the Artemis and my care packages.

M: What perspective did you gain from hitchhiking?

J: The spirit of hitchhiking is that it doesn't matter so much what the destination is, it matters what the journey is. Once, I was in Calais and couldn't find a ride over the Channel for a very long time. I met some other hitchhikers from Amsterdam, England and Germany, and at that point I hadn't been thinking about the journey. I was thinking, 'The point of hitchhiking is to get from point A to point B and I need to be at point B right now.' I started talking to them, and they just reminded me [of] the joy of experiencing all of these different cultures. It was one of those neat experiences when you realize, you know, in the end everything is going to be fine.

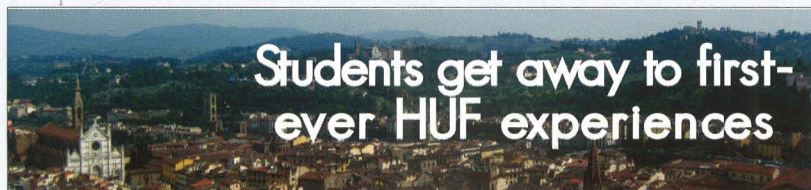
M: Do you get scared when you are hitchhiking?

J: My thought is that I'm always in God's hands. I've gone probably around 100,000 miles hitchhiking and I'm still fine and alive. The whole thing is just beautiful. I used to think that people were always just a part of my story, but then I realized that no, I'm just getting to see a part of their story.

M: What else made your travel experiences different from other students'?

J: The difference with my experience and the other HUG or HUF students is that [while] they will, every once in a while, go out of their group to have contact with the culture, [my experience] was inverted. I was constantly in contact with the cultures, and every once in a while I'd be reminded of the security or friends I was used to. Every person and every city has a story, and I wanted to hear those stories.

Monique Jacques



Students get away to first-ever HUF experiences

A group of boys race from the beach to the rocks on March 18, 2010 in Taormina, Sicily. The water was knee-deep the whole way and they wanted to see who could get there first. *Courtesy of Katie Hensarling*

Senior Annette Spoto observes a sculpture on a tour at a museum in Naples on March 20, 2010. The museum visit was part of the group's Southern Italy trip near the end of the semester.

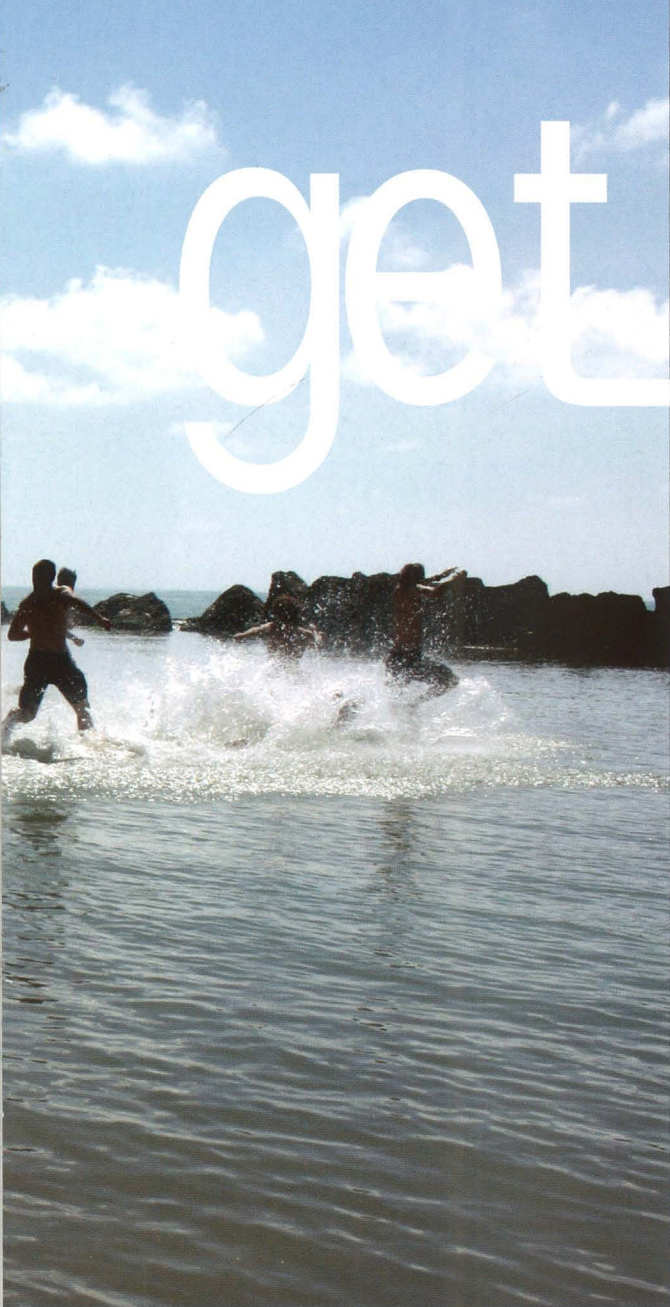
Courtesy of Katie Hensarling

Showing off their ski suits April 7, juniors Chris Loftis and Beck Martin stand outside Balmer's Herbage, a hostel in Switzerland. As part of free travel, this group had the opportunity to ski in the Swiss Alps.

Courtesy of Chris Loftis



get away



Although Harding

University in Florence [HUF] had reached its thirtieth anniversary in 2010, students in the spring group of that year left Italy with a different story to tell.

Members of the HUF group participated in more than one mountaintop experience, including climbing Mount Vesuvius, ascending a famous balcony overlooking the city of Florence, and growing closer to each other and to the Italians they met.

Senior Matt Flowers said the group met with such an opportunity while touring Southern Italy, where students were allowed to climb Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii. Though the hike was a challenging one, students were humbled and overwhelmed by the incredible view from the top.

"A strange serenity came over me and I just felt so comfortable and at peace looking over God's creation while standing on such a fiercely famous mountain known for its destruction," Flowers said.

HUF students were able to see the city of Florence in a different light — and from a different angle — as well when they were invited by the mayor of Florence to ascend the balcony of the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall in the heart of the city.

"Even Robbie [Shackleford, director of Harding University in Florence] had never been on that balcony, which really impressed upon us how rare and special an occasion it was," junior Kathryn Arbuckle said. "This balcony in particular was special because in olden days, government officials would make proclamations and announcements from this perch above the Piazza della Signoria."

According to Flowers, students saw the Piazza from a different perspective.

"We made proclamations to the people walking by, much like they did in the old days," Flowers said. "Though I don't know that they ever announced, 'We love you, Florence! Good Night!' in a rock and roll front man voice before."

Students also explored new places closer to the villa, like the Scandicci market where Italians sold food, clothing and other goods.

"Most every Saturday, some of us would go to the Scandicci market and get bombolonis," junior Joanna Blake said. "They were the most delicious one-euro doughnuts that would have Nutella or cream filling in them. Because we did that so often, we were able to get ourselves acquainted with the people working the stand."

While students grew closer to Italian culture, they learned to see each other from a different perspective as well.

"One thing in particular that really created special bonds in my HUF group was the adoption of a theme song, 'It's a Great Day to be Alive' by Travis Tritt," Arbuckle said. "One line in the song says, 'I know the sun's still shining when I close my eyes.' This line in particular stood out to us, because the warmth and beauty of everything around us — of Italy — was ever present. We didn't have to see it to believe."

Blake said the song came to symbolize the unity of their group through all their adventures into the unknown.

"We would sing it almost everyday," Blake said. "Even through our differences, we were brought together through that song because deep down we were all truly blessed to be in such a beautiful place with our friends."

Heidi Tabor



drawn in

Of all the incredible experiences offered through International Programs, many students considered one of the most life-changing trips was to Zambia. The effect was powerful, and according to junior Rose Gomez, who went on the trip during the fall semester of 2010, the variety of challenges "affect people differently." However, the most crucial part of the program was the love for people and the relationships with the people of that culture that developed.

Gomez described it as one of the items on her bucket list and had prayed about it since the beginning of her freshman year, when she signed up for the program. Others, like sophomore Tanner Nichols, simply always wanted to go to Africa and decided last-minute to be a part of the trip. And then people like sophomore Rebecca Daggett, who had been to Zambia previously, felt a longing to go back. Whatever it was that drew people to the program, all who participated were deeply moved by the experience.

It was not the traditional events that meant the most to those who went. Students learned a great deal specifically in the fields of mission work and nursing. Students were required to take a nursing course during their 2010 spring semester and go to Harding University Tahkodah (HUT) during intersession for a developmental class, preparing them for their time in Zambia.

"We could participate in the clinic in ways which we couldn't in America," Nichols said. "I was able to pull 64 teeth and give over 30 shots while there."

Nichols' work in Zambia earned him over 100 hours at the clinic and over 300 hours of volunteering. Nichols said the group enjoyed many opportunities to minister not only to the physical needs of Zambians, but their spiritual health as well. The students were able to preach, build lifelong friendships and learn more about God while teaching Zambians about him as well. In fact, Nichols and other students were encouraged by the locals as much as the Zambians were encouraged by the students.

The time spent with the locals, especially with the students and children, was the best part of the experience for many. Daggett described being asked to teach art to a fourth grade class at a school in Namwianga, Zambia. Having recently decided to be an early childhood education major, this was a great time for her.

"The best part of the day would be walking down the dirt road afterwards with all the students and being so amazed by the God who brought me here now to show me so many wonderful parts of Him through super cool Zambian kids and beautiful purple jacaranda trees," Daggett said.

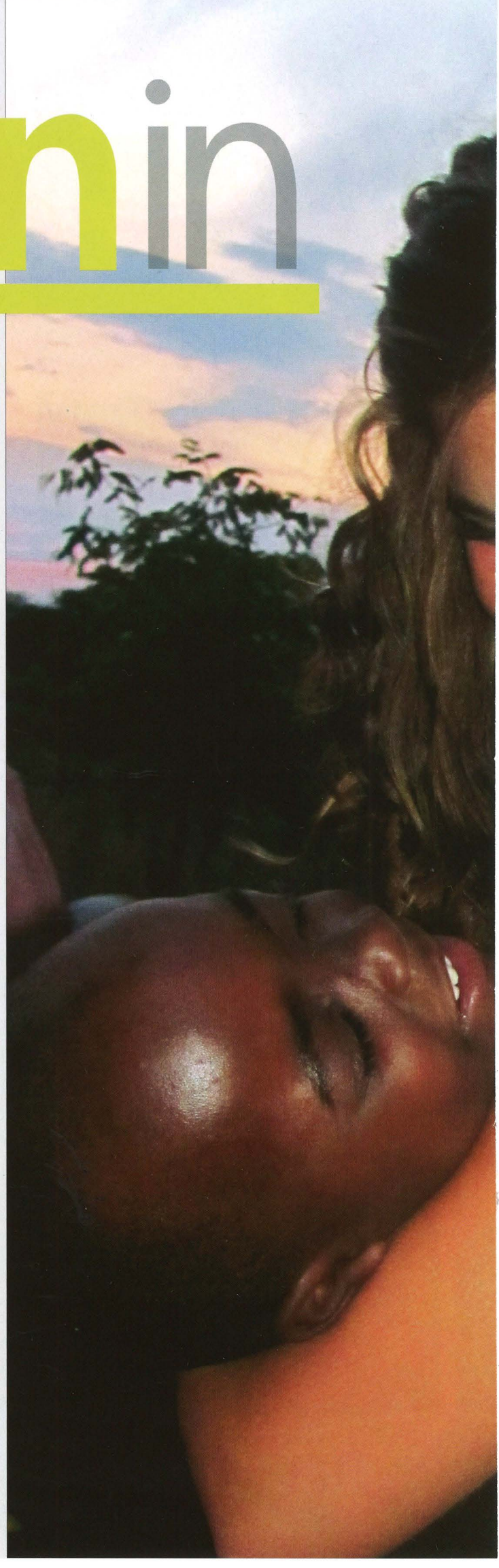
Gomez also witnessed how relationships in Africa were so important. In Africa, the emphasis was placed on time with people. She realized this through different cultural aspects of Zambia.

"They are about relationships rather than getting things done," Gomez said. "Several experiences taught me how important it is to make time for others rather than yourself and what you can get done."

Nichols believed "your amount of involvement and what you learn is up to you." He learned many spiritual lessons during his time on the trip while he bonded with the older children and made lasting friendships.

"These might be some of the poorest people on the earth, but they are the happiest and most generous," Nichols said.

Gabrielle Pruitt



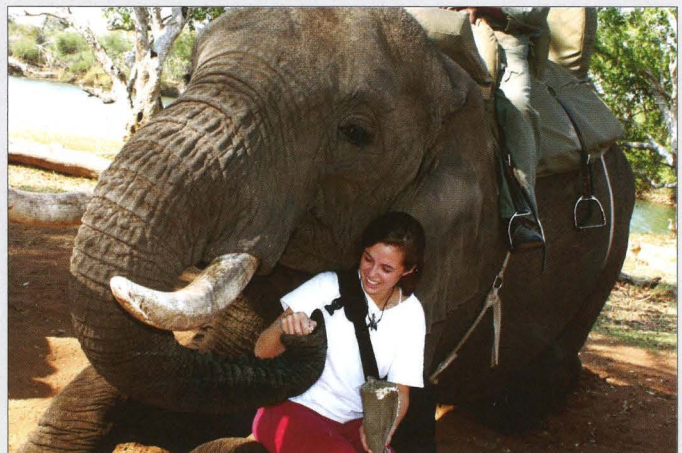


Sharing love in Africa

Playing with a little boy from an orphanage, sophomore Mallory Doran entertains the children from Eric's House Oct. 30. The students, along with the kids from Eric's House, spent part of their evening eating with a missionary family in Namwianga, Zambia. *Courtesy of Emily Sansom*

Junior Emily Sansom feeds an elephant in Livingstone, Zambia Sept. 30. The group had just returned from their elephant-back safari. *Courtesy of Emily Sansom*

The director of Eric's House, Kathi Merritt examines baby Luseko with one of the aunts Sept. 7. Luseko was one of many children who suffered from malnutrition and dehydration. *Courtesy of Emily Sansom*



la vita bella

2010 marked the 20th anniversary celebration for Harding University in Florence (HUF) directors Robbie and Mona Shackelford. The fall semester was the end of 21 years of service for the Shackelfords, longer than any other International Programs directors, including Robbie's father, Don Shackelford, who helped start HUF in 1980 and worked for international programs for 20 years.

Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs, said the Shackelfords had done an incredible job integrating the HUF program with Italian culture.

"Robbie and Mona are completely integrated into the neighborhood, the town of Scandicci and the city of Florence and even the Italian national government," Hopper said. "These relationships have given the HUF program an amazing presence in Italy and have enabled many wonderful opportunities for our students. They are spiritual, educational and artistic leaders that make them exemplary directors for HUF."

Having grown up in Italy, Robbie Shackelford said it had been a dream of his to return to Florence to work. Getting to share their love and passion for the Italian culture with Harding students brought such great joy to the Shackelfords.

"The special experiences are so numerous," Robbie Shackelford said. "I remember the devotionals on the rocks at the port of Vernazza. I remember our devotionals in the lowest level of the St. Clement church in Rome or the singing the first day we go to Florence at the church of San Miniato. So many experiences at the villa with students sharing birthdays, parties, classes, as one big happy family. The first day to Scandicci or Florence seeing the expression on faces of wonder and awe. The reading of "aha" moments in journals. The one on one time with students after lunch just visiting. The hikes, service projects, sporting events. The worshipping with the Florence congregation or other church groups in Italy."

Celebrating big, in the Italian way, three separate anniversary celebrations were held. The first anniversary celebration took place in October in the community of Scandicci with the mayor of Scandicci, Simone Gheri; the Commune; and even Florence dignitaries, who all celebrated for more than six hours at the Scandicci city hall and then back at the villa.

The second celebration took place in December in Searcy, Ark., where the Shackelfords were honored once again for their years of dedication and service.

"The mayor of Scandicci will be here along with other Italian visitors," Hopper said. "This event features a fund-raiser for orphans in Zambia and Robbie's art will be shown and auctioned."

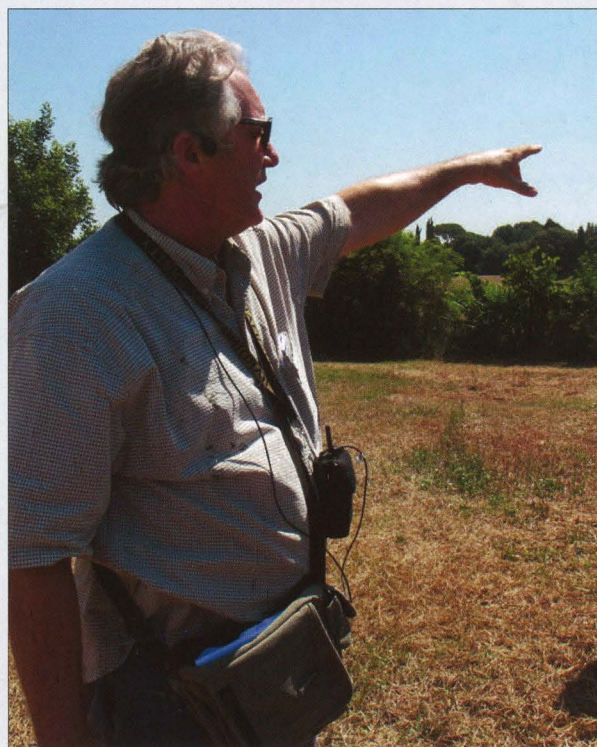
Shackelford explained the purpose of the art auction.

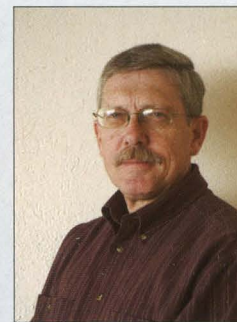
"I have painted paintings of ex-HUF students that have either gone to HIZ or gone to Zambia to help with the children's homes that HIZ works with," Shackelford said. "The proceeds from the paintings and prints at the Dec. 4 celebration will go to the children's home. I wanted in this way to connect the oldest international program, HUF, with the youngest, HIZ."

The third celebration took place at the Parthenon in Nashville, Tenn., in December for Harding alumni in the area.

"[T]he experience with HUF has surpassed the expectations of the dream," Shackelford said. "Mona and I have been very blessed and pray that we too have been a blessing to those that have come our way."

Nicole Guillo





Jacqueline Dillon, Dir. UK/France Program
 Tom Hook, HULA Administrator
 Mike James, Director HUG Program
 Pam Little, Director HUA Program
 Roy Merritt, Coordinator of HIZ
 Robbie Shackelford, Director HUF Program



Mona and Robbie Shackelford celebrate the Harding University in Florence program on Dec. 7. The event, "Harding University brings Tuscany to Searcy," kicked off on Dec. 3 with a HUF-themed chapel.

Robbie Shackelford advises the students on how to be a guide in Rome. "Robbie enhances the onsite classes by filling in the gaps and encourages the students to use their unbridled imagination to connect the pieces of Rome together," graduate assistant Kyle Thompson said. *Courtesy of Kyle Thompson*

Mona Shackelford takes a moment to relax in the main cathedral in Montreal just outside of Sicily. "Mona is very encouraging and takes the time to be with the students as often as she can," Thompson said. *Courtesy of Kyle Thompson*