



Student life is who we are and what we do. Student life means meeting new people the first weekend of the year. It means having meals with friends in the student center or cafeteria. It is the classes you take and the conversations you have. Student life is Spring Sing and Homecoming. It is chapel and Bible studies.

It is Sonic and road trips. From making memories in dorm rooms to going crazy in the Rhodes Field House, student life connects us all. The friends you make during that first weekend of the year may very well be your friends for the next four years and for the rest of your life.

EDITOR, MARIANNA WOODRUFF



(NEW)

SPRING SING 2014

After a 14-year hiatus, Knights competes in Spring Sing 2014 as American soldiers in the Revolutionary War. "Winning was cool, but it wasn't the best part," sophomore Nathan Dickerson said. "Winning isn't what I'll remember; I'll remember my friends and how we made something special and unique together."

Photo by Jeff Montgomery



THE SHOW HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD

For the first time since the inaugural Spring Sing performance in 1974, the men's social club Knights swept all four categories in 2014. Following an underwhelming performance in 2000, Knights made a pact never to participate again, but after a 14-year hiatus, they summoned up the courage to take the stage with their American Revolution-themed "Show Heard 'Round the World."

"We took a vote in the fall, and I was really scared that all my hopes and dreams were about to be dashed," senior Harrison Waldron, the show's director, said. "It was a unanimous vote, and everyone was all for it."

Determined to redeem the club, Waldron worked on the theme, music and lyrics long before many other clubs, and with help from his club members, he turned in the show's vocal track before Thanksgiving break 2013. By spring break, Knights had choreographed approximately 95 percent of their routine.

According to Spring Sing producer Cindee Stockstill, she and Spring Sing director Dr. Steven Frye met weekly with club directors to help them craft their shows. Nine judges attended all three Spring Sing performances, critiquing them based on four areas: music, staging, visuals, and entertainment. On Saturday night, they tallied the points to determine the

overall winners.

"We don't know until just before we walk out and announce it who's won," Stockstill said.

On April 19, following a standing ovation from the audience, Knights not only placed first in all four categories but won the spirit award as well. These combined victories earned the club the coveted John H. Ryan Sweepstakes award.

"It has happened before, but not very often," Stockstill said. "It's usually because they deserve it. They really understood what it took to put together a complete show, and they got everything right. I'm real proud of them."

Frye, a professor of theatre, admired Knights not only for their stellar performance but also for their strong work ethic.

"In any activity, whether it's the arts or whether it's sports or whether it's academics, it's really the process that's more important than the product," Frye said. "If you get the process right, the product takes care of itself, and in this one they had the process right."

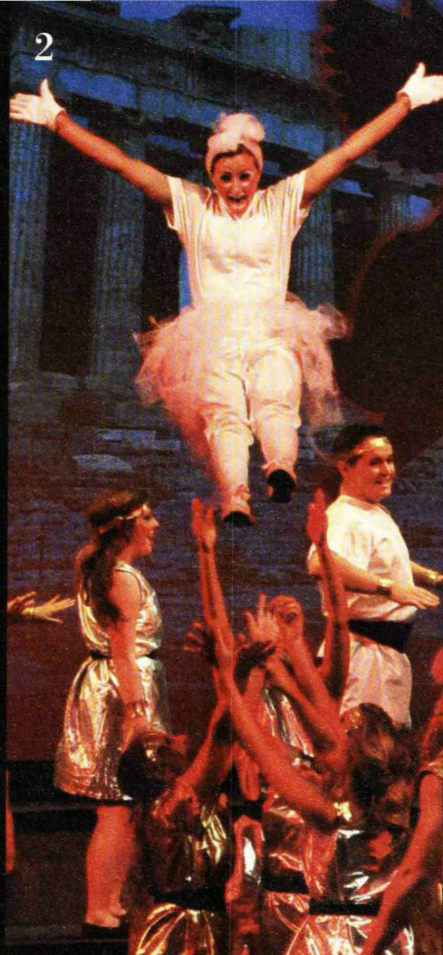
Knights decided not to participate in future Spring Sing shows, content with the knowledge that they had secured their redemption.

By Nakisha Milton

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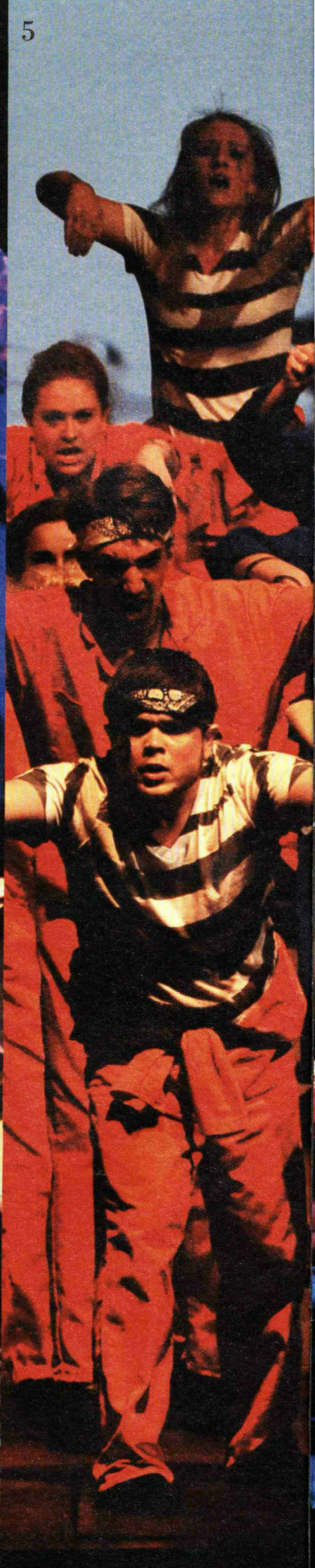
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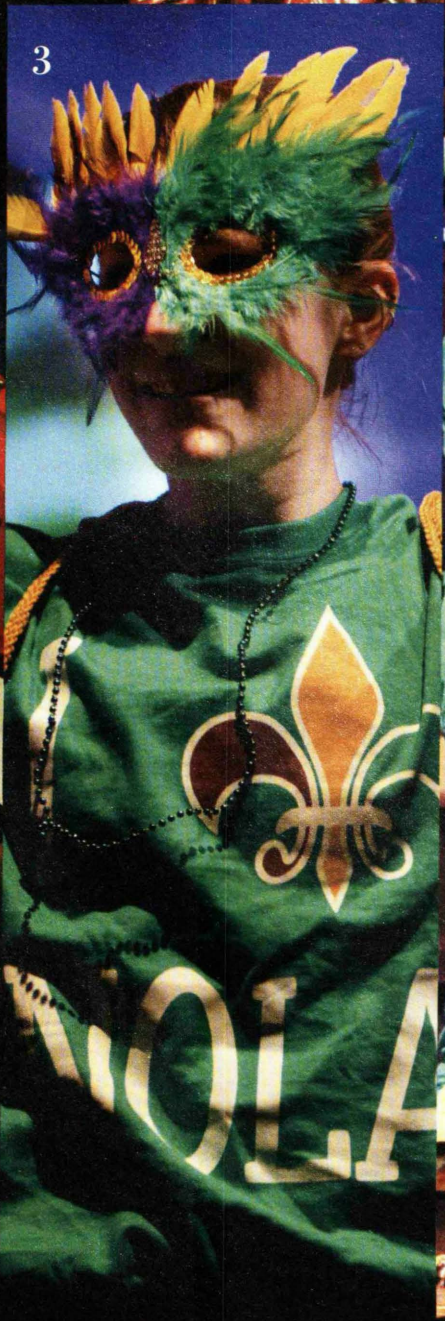
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1. Members of Knights, the John H. Ryan Sweepstakes winners, strike a final pose during the Saturday night performance of their "Show Heard 'Round the World." Knights also performed their show the following Monday in both chapels.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

2. Junior Bren Grymes launches into the air in a cheerleading stunt during the Ju Go Ju, Ko Jo Kai, Sigma Nu Epsilon and friends show on April 19. "It's All Greek to Me" included over 120 participants from five different clubs.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

3. Delta Gamma Rho, Chi Omega Pi, Zeta Pi Zeta, Omega Phi and friends explore the town of New Orleans as tourists. They performed their show, "Let the Good Times Roll," in support of the Sunshine School.

Photo by Henry Gonzalez

4. Sophomore Emma Reese, dressed as a monster, awakens to scare the younger children on the other side of the closet door. In the end, monsters and children became friends in Pi Theta Phi, Delta Nu, Gamma Sigma Phi and friends' "Freckles and Fur."

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

5. Graduate student Adam Belcock attempts to break out of jail in Regina, Chi Sigma Alpha, OEGE and Sigma Phi Mu's "Just a Bunch of Cell-Outs." The show performed in support of the Searcy Children's Home.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

6. Sophomore Alyssa Abraham prepares to take on the dinosaurs of the prehistoric era. Led by seven directors from Alpha Tau Epsilon, Chi Kappa Rho, Delta Chi Delta, GATA, Omega Lambda Chi and friends, 50 cavemen and cavewomen worked to survive the "Prehistoric Peril."

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

7. Junior Meredith Sanders sings about the daily routine of beauty school, hoping to become a hair stylist one day. It was the first year for Iota Chi, Phi Kappa Delta, Shantih and friends to perform together in "A Whole New Do."

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

8. The lawn gnomes of suburbia welcome the joys of spring in "There's Gnome Place Like Home." The gnomes of Zeta Rho, TNT and friends fought off bunnies, birds and bees from their precious garden throughout their seven-minute show.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

9. Junior Jonathan Andrew, a Spring Sing host, belts out the final notes of his feature, "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat!" Joined by his four fellow hosts and hostesses, Andrew performed in six numbers throughout the show.

Photo by Matt Dobson

(NEW)
SPRING SING 2014

SPRING BREAK CAMPAIGNS

Traveling the World to Serve

For many college students, spring break consisted of trips to the beach, visits with family and a respite from schoolwork. For some, however, spring break meant having a free week to travel around the world in service to others. Seniors Jacob Norwood, Rachel Slatton and Sam Acuff each went on separate campaign trips during spring break 2014. Norwood joined a campaign to Jinotega, Nicaragua.

"Originally I was asked by a friend who had gone before and really enjoyed it but ended up not being able to go on the trip," Norwood said. "I have been to Spanish-speaking countries before, so it seemed like a good fit."

On this campaign, students worked on houses and gave the community filters for clean drinking water. According to Norwood, Nicaragua proved to be a great service location by accommodating the diverse talents of their mission team.

"There is a lot to do, so that any gift that

someone may have will be used," Norwood said. "There is construction work that can be done or just spending time with the kids. All spiritual gifts will be put into use."

Slatton attended a trip to Ensenada, Mexico, where the students worked with The City of Children, a refuge where troubled youths of Mexico found a safe, nurturing, Christian environment. Slatton chose this specific trip because she had gone five times already and formed great relationships with the children at the orphanage.

"I think this is one of the more popular trips to go on because it is just easier to connect with children," Slatton said. "Even if you are not a kid person, these children are just so loving that once you experience that, it is hard to not keep going back."

Acuff led a group to Santa Ana, Honduras. This was his third time going on a spring break mission trip but his first time holding a position of leadership.

"Honduras has already been on my radar

as a place where I would like to go do some type of mission work," Acuff said. "They were looking for a leader to lead this last trip, and so I got the chance to lead the group."

According to Acuff, the group focused on finding opportunities for service and trying to understand God better. They built three houses, worked in the city dump, helped build the local community center and provided food for the community. Acuff explained that this trip owed its success to the effectiveness of their service and ministry.

"The major impact we leave them with is that they know we are Christians, and they also know we are trying to work with them to help," Acuff said. "That is a big impact to have when you are trying to reach someone who is not a Christian."

By providing for their needs, these spring break missions participants pointed people on foreign soil toward the ultimate provider: Jesus Christ.

By Megan Smith

DID YOU KNOW?

256 students participated in spring break mission trips, traveling to nine different states and nine countries around the world.

United States: 89

Punta Gorda, Belize: 12

Ensenada, Mexico: 47

Tabacundo, Ecuador: 12

Freeport, Bahamas: 10

Santa Ana, Honduras: 28

Panama City, Panama: 13

Clarendon, Jamaica: 20

Jinotega, Nicaragua: 25

1. Senior Leah Baker colors pictures with children at the Freeport Church of Christ. Baker and her group served the congregation in Freeport, Bahamas, during spring break. **Photo courtesy of Alexander Jamerison**

2. Students pose after "Spring Fling" activities in St. Louis. The group hosted the event at North City Church of Christ for children in the community and played games with the kids. **Photo courtesy of Dane Roper**

3. Sophomore Aundrey Flewellen hoists a little girl onto his shoulders after church service at the Freeport Church of Christ. "Though we did not have long to work, we certainly planted seeds that are still blossoming for his kingdom today," Flewellen said.

Photo courtesy of Alexander Jamerison

4. Alumna Diana Kirby visits with a group of young girls on her trip to Nicaragua. Kirby and her group worked through the Misión Para Cristo in La Cal.

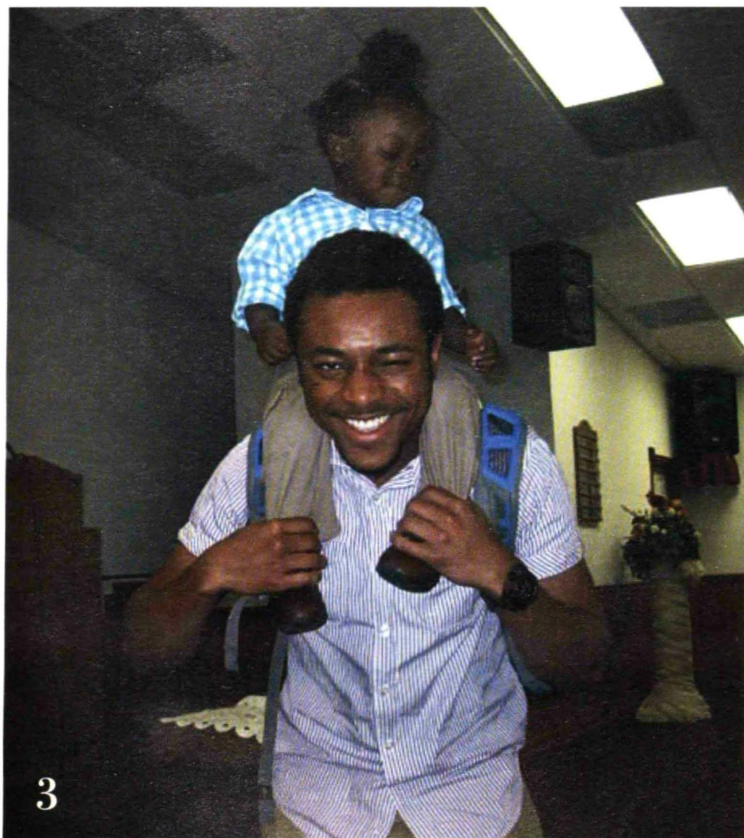
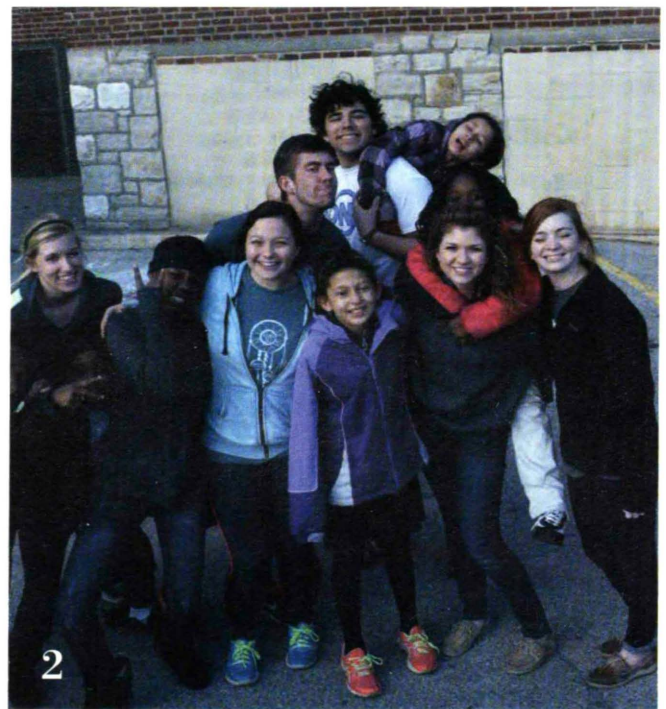
Photo courtesy of Jacob Hardin

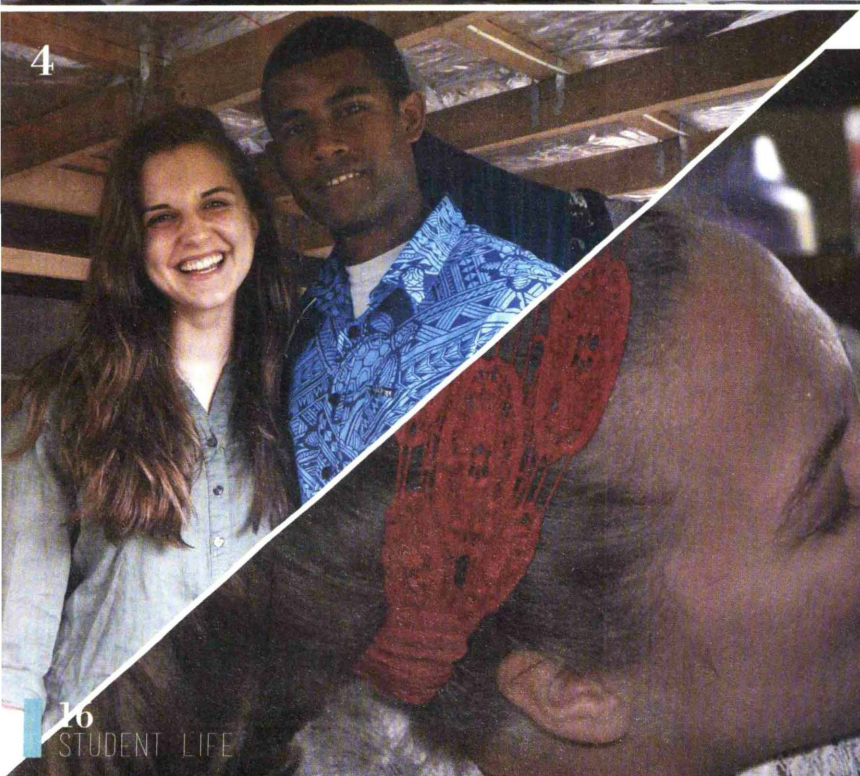
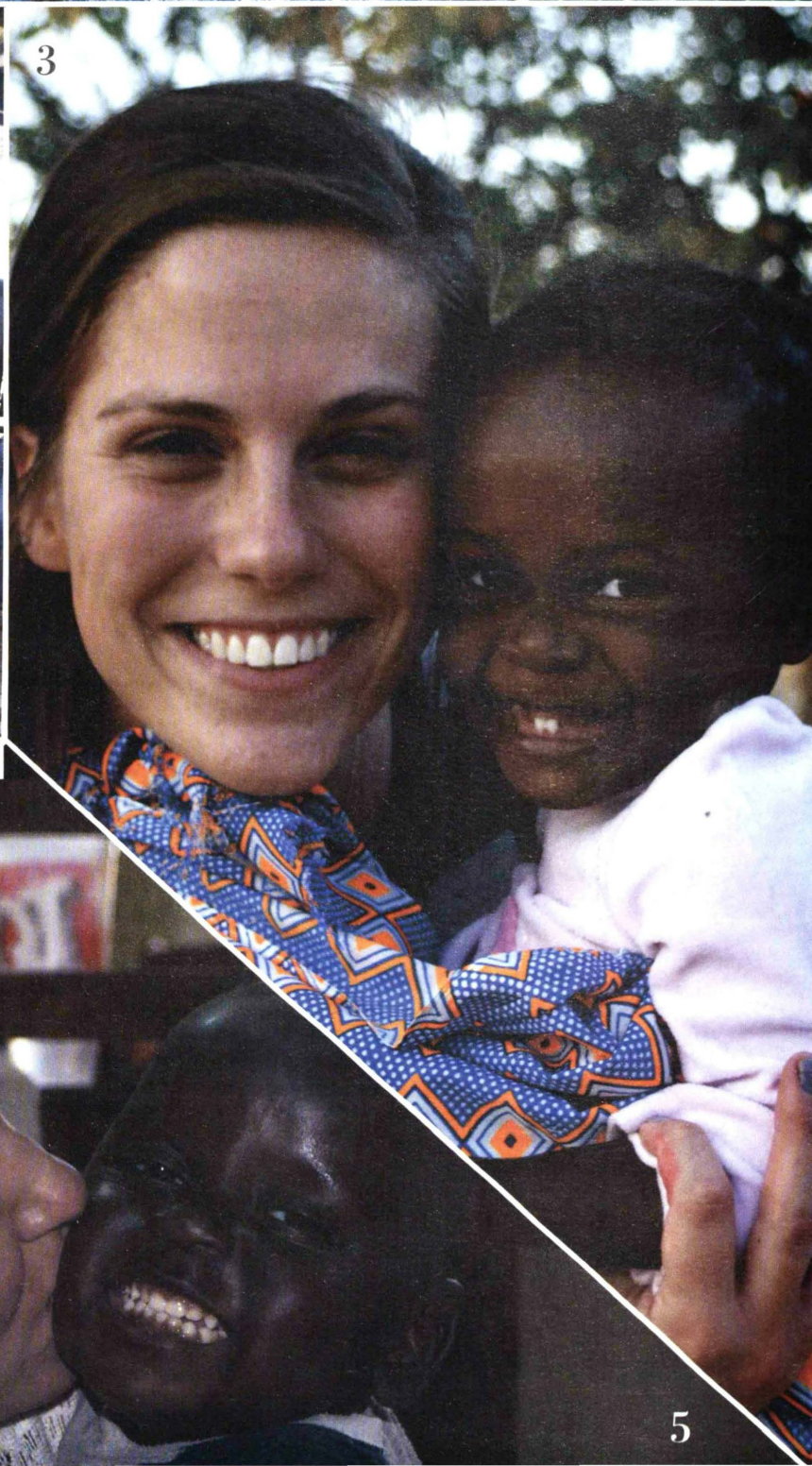
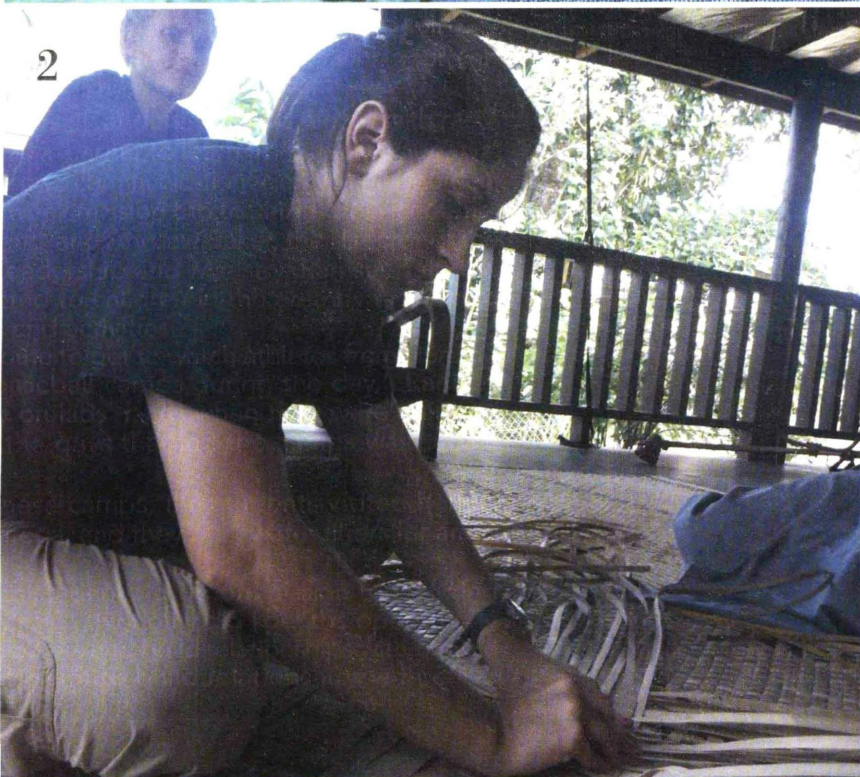
5. Junior Christi Jenzyck tutors a boy on her spring break mission trip to St. Louis. Her group helped with the West Central Church of Christ's weekly tutoring sessions.

Photo courtesy of Dane Roper

6. Junior Rachel Miller spends time with young children in La Cal, Nicaragua, on her spring break mission trip. "All we did was love God and love people," Miller said. "It's just amazing how much joy interacting in that mindset can bring to us and to the Nicaraguans."

Photo courtesy of Jacob Hardin





SUMMER CAMPAIGNS

GAINING INSIGHT INTO OTHER CULTURES

In the summer, 48 students embarked on traveling internships that lasted from six to 11 weeks and were scattered abroad in 18 different locations. Many students also set out on short-term mission trips ranging from one to two weeks. While in these different locations, students gained insight by being immersed in the culture and language. The students actively involved themselves in their education by performing mission work in foreign lands and partnering with each other to further God's kingdom.

Gary Jackson, director of summer mission internships, encouraged students to pray for an opportunity from God in the process of choosing a service location. Students began the application and decision-making process as early as the first few weeks of the fall semester. With a map on his wall, Jackson pointed to all of the different locations students had previously interned. According to Jackson, no particular trip was most popular since the number of students going on each trip varied every summer.

"The bigger mission statement is that I really believe that God has us here ... to partner with Him and to raise up and fulfill the prayer that Jesus said we should be having: that God would raise up workers for the kingdom," Jackson said.

Senior Brittany Garvine, a social work and leadership and ministry double major, interned along with two other students in Antalya, Turkey, for eight weeks.

"I've always been interested in missions, but I've let my fears cripple me," Garvine said. "I didn't want to do that anymore, so I decided to go, and I wanted to try a harder culture."

According to Garvine, Turkey presented a particular challenge for missions because its Muslim culture was closed off from Jesus. Nevertheless, students were eager to embrace such a challenge. The interns shared testimonies and worked closely with the youth group, coming into direct contact with a foreign spiritual culture.

"I shared pieces of myself, and they shared pieces with me," Garvine said. "I went as a learner to learn from the missionary."

Senior Meghan Ramsey, a communication sciences and disorders major, went on a two-week mission trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua, with 11 Harding students and Andrew Baker, the director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry. Ramsey said the mission team connected to children in the area by facilitating various sports camps and activities.

"It was really awesome to get to watch athletes from Harding run basketball and baseball camps during the day," Ramsey said. "Seeing the joy on kids' faces when they were affirmed and encouraged by the guys that led the camps was such a cool experience."

Besides running these camps, the students visited homes and the prison in Jinotega, and they built water filters for areas without clean water.

"I would encourage students to go on mission trips during the summer," Ramsey said. "Not only did I get the opportunity to learn about serving others and build relationships with people in Nicaragua, but I also got to build relationships with other Harding students."

By Taylor Gleaves

1. Juniors Austin Yates, Zach Abney, Jace Davis and Casey Weeks spend some of their free time exploring Jinja, Uganda, where they worked with Kibo Group International. "We learned about healthy, sustainable solutions to the problems plaguing East Africa," Yates said. "Most of all, we learned how to love others and be loved."

Photo courtesy of Austin Yates

2. In Suva, Fiji, senior Molly Stapleton works alongside members of the church where she worked on roof repair. Stapleton and the rest of her group discussed their faith with young Christians in the area.

Photo courtesy of Carly Trulock

3. Senior Holly Sullivan spends an afternoon with Vera, a child from the Havens. Every Sunday, Sullivan had the opportunity to give special attention to children staying at the homes.

Photo courtesy of Holly Sullivan

4. Senior Carly Trulock visits with members of the church in Suva, Fiji. "It was really awesome to see our new friends open up to us, one-on-one, and share their story as we developed eternal friendships," Trulock said. **Photo courtesy of Carly Trulock**

5. Senior Aubrey Hitt laughs with a child that she helped care for at the Namwianga Mission in Zambia. Hitt returned to the Havens, a safe place for newborns to 5-year-olds, for the first time since spending the fall of 2012 at Harding University in Zambia.

Photo courtesy of Holly Sullivan

1. Sophomore Katherine Howell fills a backpack with school supplies on Aug. 16 for children in the Searcy area. Seniors Harrison and Hayley Waldron, Impact co-directors, encouraged incoming freshmen and transfers at Summer Stampede to bring the supplies to Impact for the project. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

2. At Throm, "throwback prom," freshmen Audra Shumaker and Trey Davis strike a pose after winning the best-dressed award on Aug. 15. They each received \$10 Starbucks gift cards for their creative ensembles.

Photo by Janae Callicoat

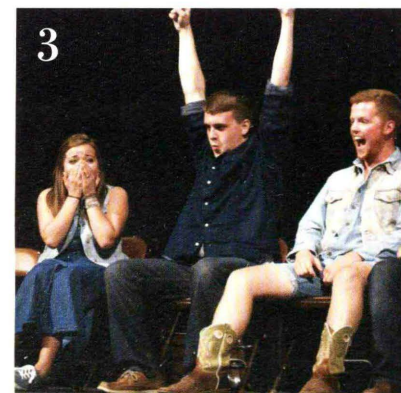
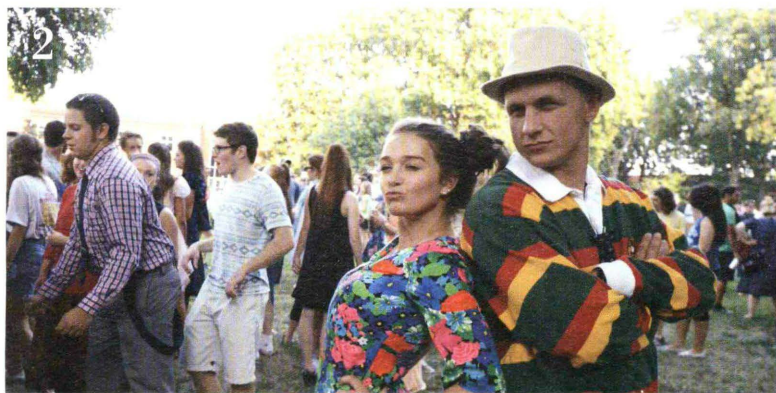
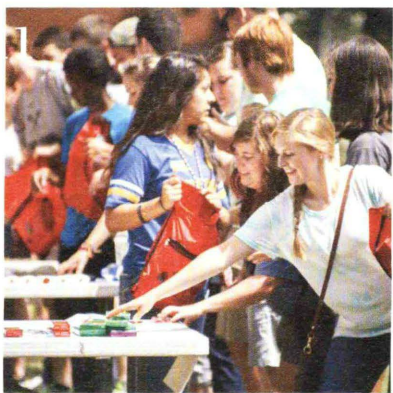
3. Freshmen Natalie Whitlock, Hudson Ritter and Corbin Capps react to one of many strange requests from Dale K during his performance on Aug. 16. It was the hypnotist's fifth year entertaining freshmen at Impact.

Photo by Amanda Floyd

COME TOGETHER 2014 IMPACT



Freshman Zach Slomers lip synchs Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball" at the first-ever Harding Spectacular on Aug. 15. Slomers volunteered to perform the song as a part of the talent show. **Photo by DJ Lawson**



“ AS A FRESHMAN YOU’RE KIND
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EVERYBODY TO LOOSEN UP A
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AT HARDING.
- MICAH WOODS

The fall semester of 2014 began with students across the country making their way to Searcy for Impact, an orientation weekend for incoming freshmen and transfers. New students came with nerves, bravado and butterflies, entering the Benson Auditorium to wild applause from their “energy group” leaders welcoming them to Harding. However, Impact 2014 was slightly different from past years.

Newlywed seniors Harrison and Hayley Waldron, Impact co-directors, spent the entire summer planning a distinctive weekend with a few twists. They aimed to make Impact events impossible to miss. Themed “Come Together,” the festivities encouraged the incoming students to participate in their college experience as a community. By sending out promotional and informational videos, the Waldrons helped registrants prepare for the weekend. They also assigned energy groups by Bible class enrollment, so students had a head start on meeting the classmates they

would see every day.

While some aspects of Impact remained practical, others aimed to entertain. Hayley Waldron said her favorite part of the weekend was “the interlude,” a massive group routine that all of Impact could do simultaneously.

One major addition to Impact 2014 was the Harding Spectacular, a talent and game show featuring students both new and old. Freshman McKenna Crabtree impressed her new peers by yodeling and playing guitar. She was named the winner of the Spectacular by crowd vote and received a gift card for \$200 to the Harding Bookstore.

“I’m glad I did it,” Crabtree said. “It’s helped me to make friends because people already know me, so they just come up and start talking.”

The show also included singer-songwriter senior Micah Woods, who delivered his contribution to the show by breaking out in dance before performing an original song.

“As a freshman you’re kind of tense,”

Woods said. “I thought it was a good time for everybody to loosen up a little bit and enjoy being at Harding.”

As always, themed dinners served as entertainment for energy group leaders and incoming students alike. “Throm” — or “throwback prom” — took place on the front lawn, featuring puffy-sleeved dresses, pumped-up kicks and songs from the ‘80s that stirred up line dances. The following night, Impact attendees filled up the cafeteria for “Denim and a Movie” where the attire ranged from ‘90s glam to cowboy rugged. The crowd watched “Heavyweights” over corn dogs and mashed potatoes.

Coming together for a weekend of Impact created a great starting point for new Harding students to begin adapting to campus life, and it gave returning students an opportunity to reconnect. Impact 2014 was truly a groundbreaking year of new traditions and new additions to the student body.

By Chloe Savage



Through weeks of long rehearsals and hours of prosthetic application, junior James Morgan went green to play Shrek, a grumpy ogre learning how to love and how to be a friend. Morgan, who began acting in elementary school, said his love for the imagination drew him to the hobby.

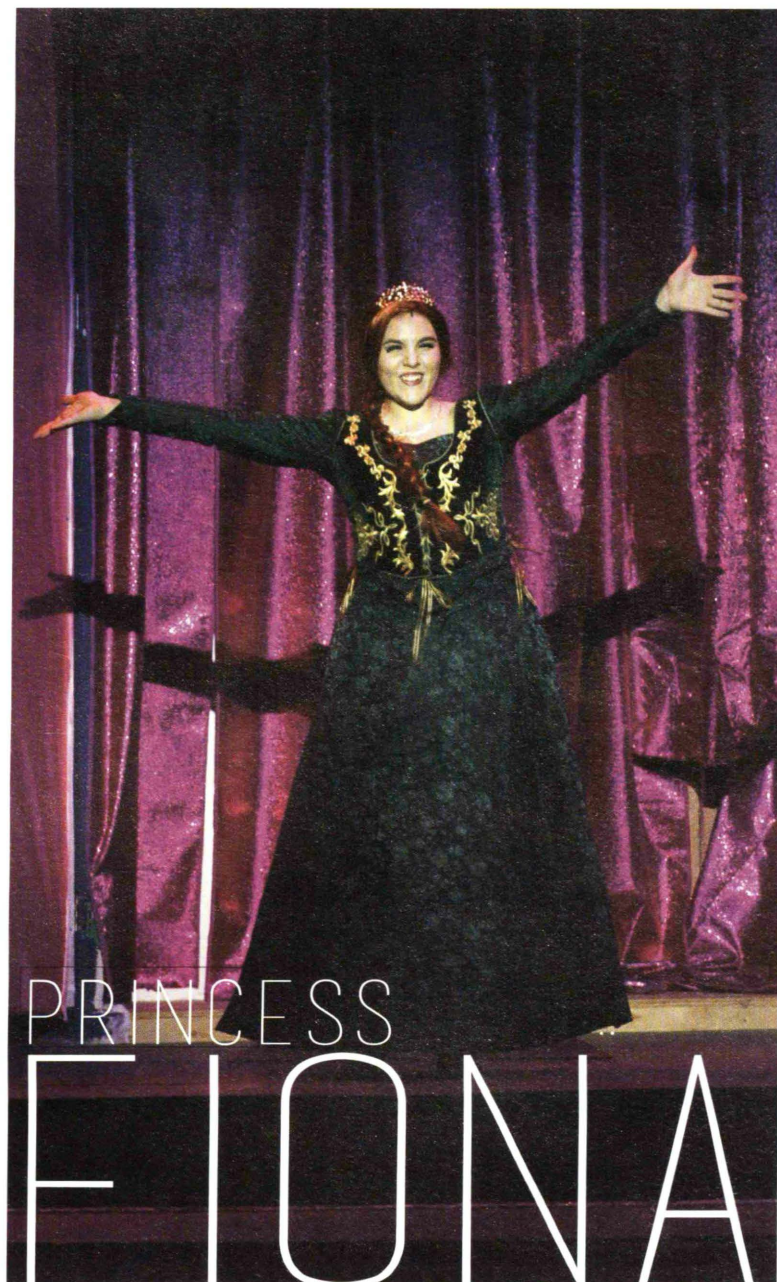
"I guess I've kind of had, like, this incessant need to play pretend," Morgan said. "I just love the idea of playing a hero, or sometimes a villain, or just something that's completely out of who you really are."

According to Morgan, "Shrek," even more than other theatrical productions, provided a doorway into that childlike world of make-believe. He hoped that audiences were able to share in the same magic he and his cast-mates experienced.

Morgan faced several challenges during production, including a battle with vocal cord nodules, which kept him from singing for an entire week. However, he left his "Shrek" journey proud to have participated in something bigger than himself.

"To have an opportunity to just stand there in front of 4,000 people a night and take them away from whatever they're frustrated or stressed out about is such a beautiful thing," Morgan said.

By Melissa Hite



Senior theatre education major Dustyn Stokes took on the role of the fiery Princess Fiona. Stokes began acting when she was 4 years old.

By 2014, her performance resume included being a 2014 Spring Sing hostess and acting in three other Homecoming musicals: "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Pirates?! A Pillaging of Gilbert and Sullivan." Fiona, Stokes's first lead role, proved challenging because of the character's complex personality. All at once, Fiona was feisty, down-to-earth and hiding her secret life as an ogre.

"I've had to really focus on differentiating between three different types of character within one character," Stokes said.

Working with the set's revolving turntable also provided new experiences for Stokes, but it was nothing that she could not overcome.

"It's one of the best sets we've ever had. It's incredible," Stokes said. "It is definitely a challenge, but a great challenge."

While practices tended to run long at times, Stokes said that working on "Shrek The Musical" taught her "patience and endurance, but also gratitude."

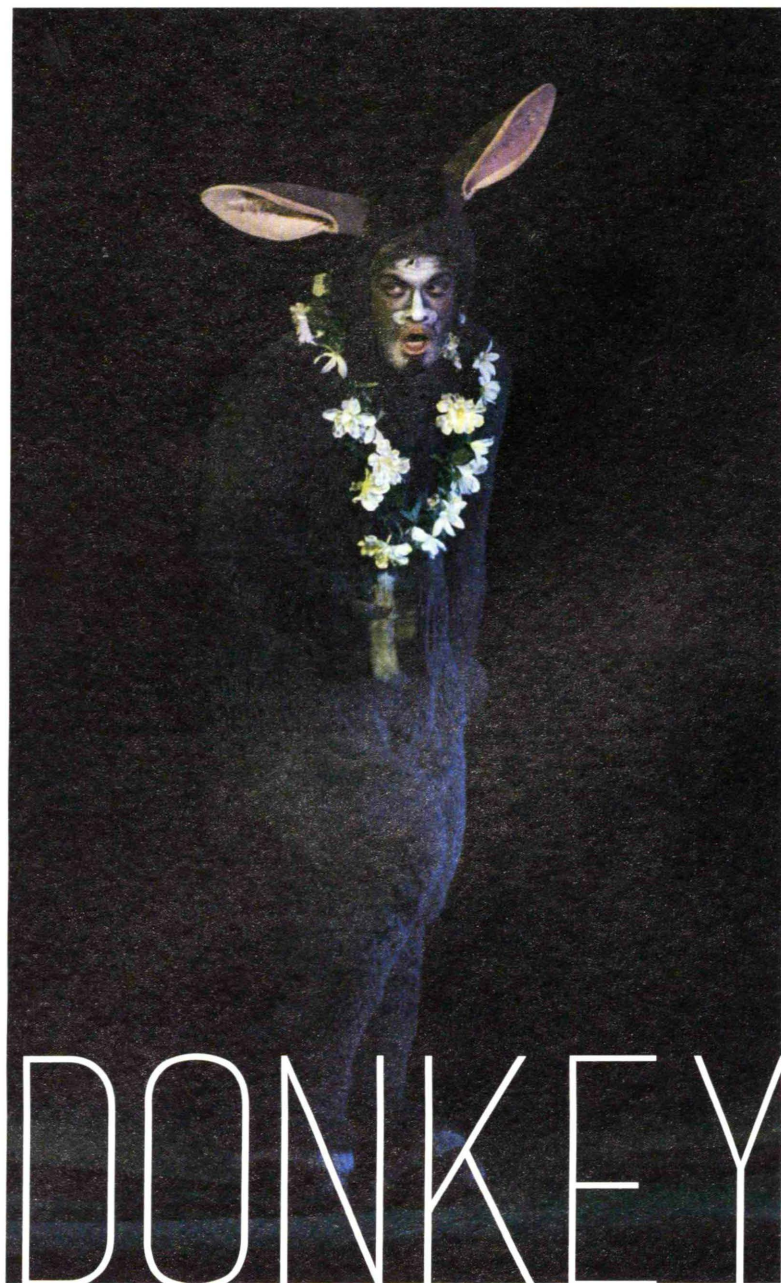
By Nakisha Milton

Junior James Morgan channels his inner ogre during a showing of "Shrek The Musical" on Nov. 1. Morgan performed in the musical with thick prosthetics and heavy makeup, applied fresh for each performance and dress rehearsal.

Photo courtesy of Abby Tran

Senior Dustyn Stokes performs with arms spread wide as she takes on the role of Princess Fiona. A 2014 Spring Sing hostess, Stokes had performed in three homecoming musicals before being cast in a lead role for "Shrek The Musical."

Photo courtesy of Abby Tran



DONKEY

Junior theatre major Jonathan Andrew starred as Donkey, an iconic character known for his obnoxious yet lovable personality. Hoping to break into a new kind of role, Andrew originally auditioned for the part of Shrek. However, he came to love playing the character of Donkey, who was "very loyal and ... very good at knowing how other people are feeling."

According to Andrew, Donkey exemplified the show's theme of acceptance in the face of alienation and awkwardness. He said Donkey accepted all the other characters without regard for their appearance or actions.

Andrew began performing in eighth grade and continued to advance his acting career in high school. In his collegiate career, Andrew participated in plays and musicals, joined the improvisational children's theatre troupe Pied Pipers and worked with multiple theatre groups during summer breaks.

"Acting is a way to share with people," Andrew said. "I see it as a ministry more than anything. It is a dark field — very worldly. There are a lot of people that don't know the truth and don't know God. I see that as an opportunity to share with people the message by the way I interact with cast-mates or co-workers."

By Tin Nguyen

Junior Jonathan Andrew belts a note during the Nov. 1 performance of "Shrek The Musical." Andrew added his role as Donkey in the musical to an acting resume that began when he was in the eighth grade.

Photo courtesy of Abby Tran



LORD FARQUAAD

Armed with two layers of kneepads and a costume full of color, junior Jesse Hixson took on the role of Lord Farquaad. In bringing a well-known animated character to the stage, Hixson faced many unique challenges associated with overcoming the preconceptions of his audience, but he said those challenges made him grow as an actor.

Hixson said that even though Lord Farquaad was "outlandish," he did not have trouble slipping into the character.

"I have a tendency in day-to-day life to kind of play characters — like when I'm telling jokes, I will sometimes slip into different voices," Hixson said. "When I got the role and started going over the lines, I felt like I had done that character a lot just messing around."

While the film version served as inspiration, Hixson hoped to create his own interpretation of Lord Farquaad.

"I think, to an extent, we are making sure we are being reminiscent of those characters, but we are not at all trying to copy them," Hixson said. "I hope people will walk away from the show thinking that it was like the movie, but it also had better qualities and made them love the story more."

By Rachel Brackins

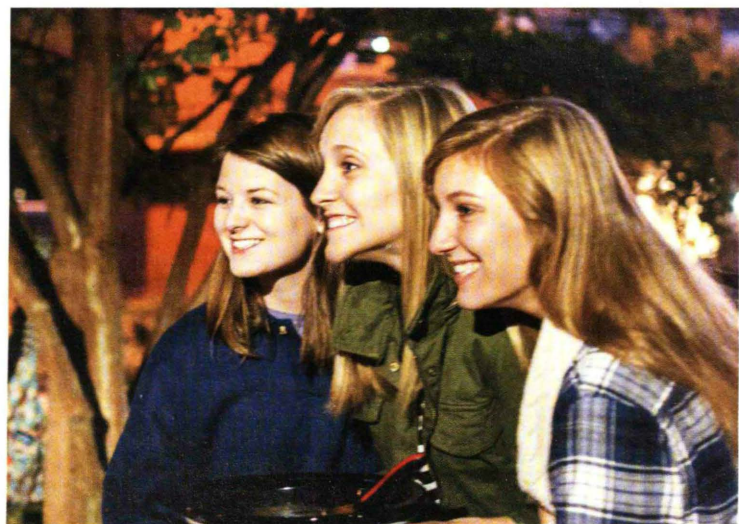
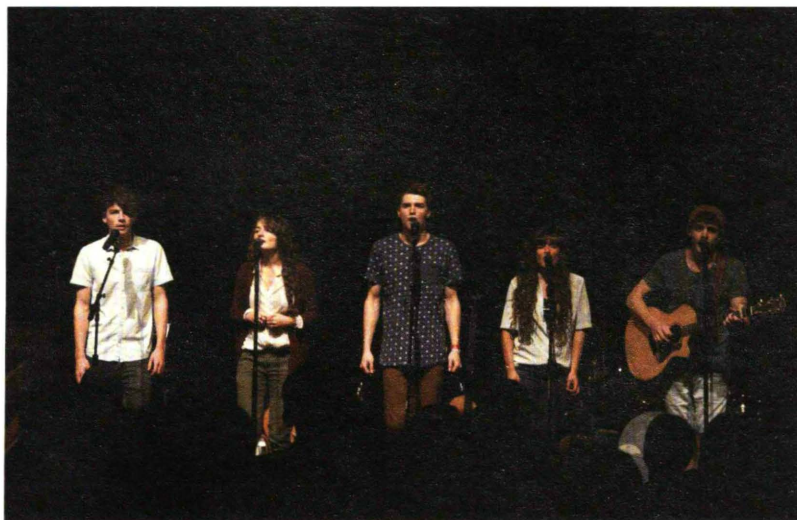
Junior Jesse Hixson shows the loud personality that his character Lord Farquaad is known for. Hixson amplified aspects of his own personality in a role that required him to perform the entire musical on his knees.

Photo courtesy of Abby Tran

Tuesday, Oct. 28 – To celebrate the “It’s Festive” part of I Heart HU Week, The Hunts impress the audience with their unique blend of harmony and stringed instruments. The seven brothers and sisters from Chesapeake, Virginia, recently

released their EP titled “Life Was Simple” in August. After performing for a crowd of over 600 students in the Administration Auditorium, the siblings posed for pictures and signed autographs in the lobby. **Photo by Grant Schol**

OCTOBER 28



OCTOBER 30

Thursday, Oct. 30 – At the chili and queso cook-off, juniors Anna Britton, Brittney Firquain and Kristen Rose hold up their crockpot filled with queso. Participating in the “It Gives” day during I Heart HU Week, the women won second place in the cook-off while junior Kelsey Allen came in first for her queso recipe. As students arrived at the cook-off in front of the Administration Auditorium,

they were asked to donate a pair of socks as a part of Kid President’s Socktober challenge. The Socktober movement aimed to recruit two million people to help the homeless population of America. Over 100 students donated socks and voted for their favorite recipes. The socks were given to Hope Cottage, a women’s shelter in Searcy.

Photo by Owen Brown



Friday, Oct. 31 – Sophomore Elyse Beshirs enjoys the festivities at the block party in Legacy Park. The “It’s a Celebration” day of I Heart HU Week offered hot chocolate, s’mores and fire pits in front of Starbucks beginning at 10:30 p.m. The deejay, alumnus Stephen Sawyer,

played top-40 hits with his own unique spin as confetti fell over several hundred attendees. CAB decided to host the block party after receiving great feedback from the previous fall’s block party.

Photo by Kazuhiro Fujisawa

OCTOBER 31



NOVEMBER 1



Saturday, Nov 1 – “Shrek The Musical” cast members sing about the story of their life in the final performance of the Homecoming musical on Nov. 1. The cast included over 40 students taking on roles as classic fairy-tale characters. The set crew began work on the show’s revolving turntable

and massive dragon puppet in the spring, continuing set construction until the weeks before the musical opened. Throughout the show, the audience watched as Shrek the ogre made unlikely friends and encouraged the kingdom of Duloc to let their “freak flag fly.” **Photo courtesy of Abby Tran**



ANDY GRAMMER

In the fall, Harding's Campus Activities Board hosted singer-songwriter Andy Grammer for an evening of high-energy music and entertainment. CAB promoted this event in a number of ways, hanging posters and flyers all around campus, even on the backs of chapel seats. CAB also made announcements in chapel and on the new CABtv YouTube channel, and played Grammer's music at the CAB booth in the student center. Director of Campus Life Logan Light said that the Alice 107.7 and B98.5 radio stations offered ticket giveaways to promote the event to the Searcy community.

"There is a process to bringing in any form of entertainment to campus," junior CAB employee Phoebe Cunningham said. "We work with a management team, who's like a middle man. They work with us and the musician in the industry."

While CAB had long considered Grammer as a possible act, scheduling conflicts prevented the performance until September of 2014.

"When his first album came out and 'Keep Your Head Up' was a big song, he's someone I thought would do really well at Harding," Light said. "But we could not fit him in schedule-wise."

Light described Grammer as "very laid-back, but very engaging," and said that an artist like him could dominate the stage with his personality alone. Cunningham agreed that Grammer's sound and style appealed to Harding's demographic.

"In the past we have been successful with that genre of music," Cunningham said. "It is popular right now, and it's easily transferred through different groups of people and their interests."

Students who attended the concert considered it a successful start to the CAB concert season.

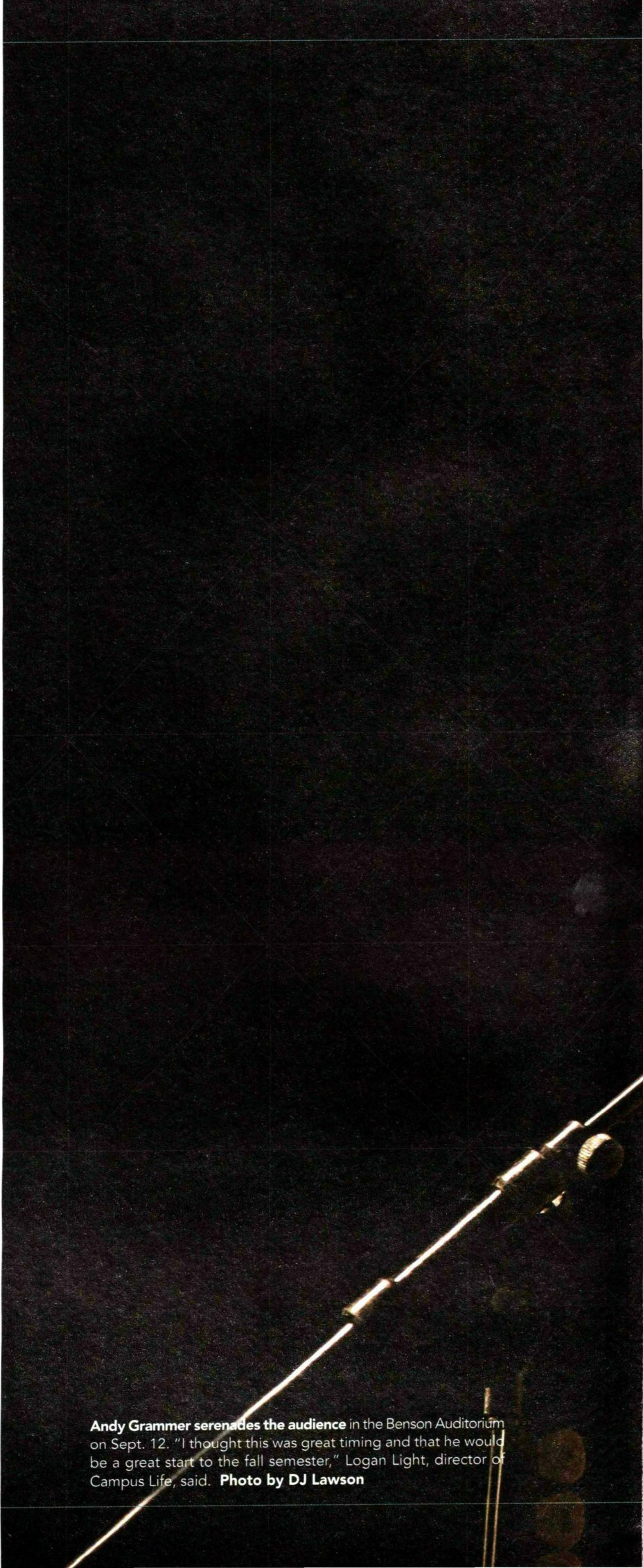
"When talking to my friends, even people who did not really listen to his music beforehand seemed to take away a good impression of the show," senior CAB employee Jake Owens said.

The CAB office worked hard to present fun and entertaining musicians, giving students an enjoyable weekend event during which they could step away from business as usual, if only for an evening.

"The fall is really busy," Light said. "There are lots of people trying to divide your attention. We just want to provide a fun night for people and some really good music."

The concert drew a large crowd, selling more than 1,500 seats in the Benson Auditorium. Senior Austin McCoy, a CAB staff member, said that Grammer's show saw better attendance than the other Benson concerts he remembered. Overall, Grammer's poised, comfortable energy made for a memorable night.

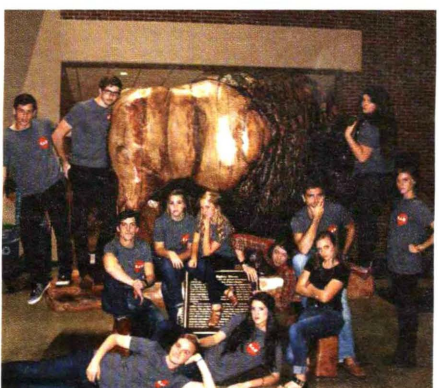
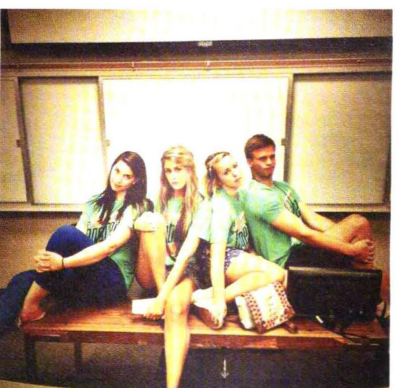
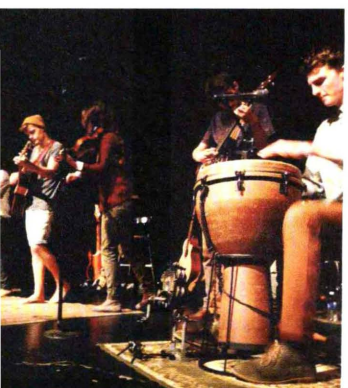
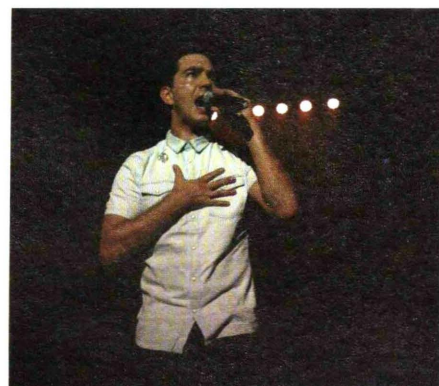
By Alexa Stover



Andy Grammer serenades the audience in the Benson Auditorium on Sept. 12. "I thought this was great timing and that he would be a great start to the fall semester," Logan Light, director of Campus Life, said. **Photo by DJ Lawson**



#instaCAB



In the fall, the Rock House, Campus Activities Board, Student Association and office of Alumni and Parent Relations collaborated to host a series of activities called Big Events Week. According to SA president senior Philip Habegger the events, hosted during Club Week, promoted campus-wide involvement, especially for those not participating in clubs.

"Really, kind of separately, we all came up with the idea," Habegger said. "Then the Rock House kind of pulled it together."

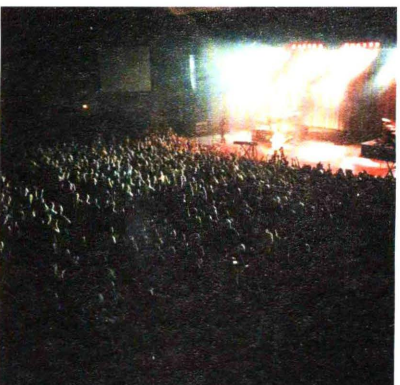
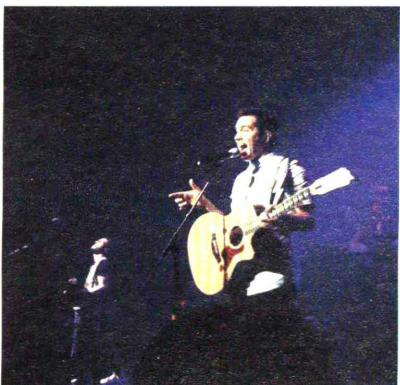
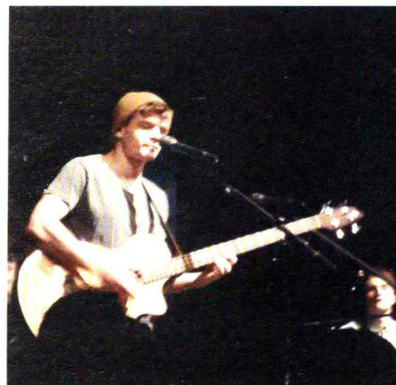
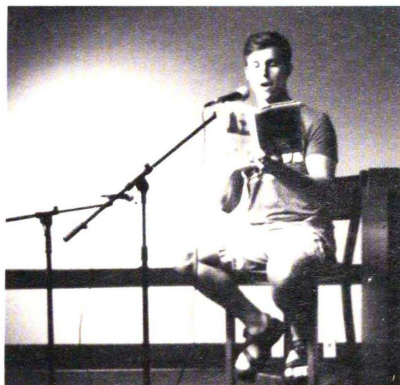
Senior Logan Keim, who served on the Big Events Week planning committee, said brainstorming began about a month into the semester.

"A lot of these groups had thought

about doing something along these lines," Keim said. "There have been other efforts in the past, but nothing organized on this level."

Habegger said each organization led activities on their designated night of the week. On Sunday, the Rock House provided dinner, volleyball games and s'mores; on Monday, CAB held a board game tournament; on Tuesday, the SA put together a pumpkin carving and movie night; and on Thursday, Liz Howell, director of Alumni and Parent Relations, hosted a dinner and karaoke night at her house. Wednesday was left open for various student devotionals.

Freshman Caleb Brackney especially enjoyed the karaoke night that Howell hosted. According to Brackney, the



awkwardness from the karaoke fostered stronger connections between students. He found that Big Events Week showed those who had not been accepted into their club of choice that they could build relationships in other ways.

"I feel like Harding kind of builds [clubs] up so much," Brackney said. "But in the end, you don't have to be in a club to have fun at Harding. You don't have to have [big club sisters or brothers] or jerseys to feel like you're special."

Keim said that the week was meant to provide an alternative to club activities but remained open to anyone who wanted to attend, club members included. Whether students were already in a club or totally removed from the process, all were welcome to the big events of the week.

Brackney said that while Impact at the beginning of the school year helped students make acquaintances, Big Events Week helped them strengthen already-formed friendships. Habegger said it succeeded in these goals, and with so many organizations coordinating the events, he expected Big Events Week would remain a tradition for years to come.

"It's always a little bit difficult when you collaborate with different agencies, but I really think it went smoothly," Habegger said.

The week's events served as a reminder to all students to get involved on campus outside of clubs, because college life included myriad possibilities.

By Daniel Casella



Junior Luke Smith prepares Alaskan dumplings for customers on Nov. 12. Smith was the first employee hired when Slader's Alaskan Dumping Company opened in January 2014. **Photo by DJ Lawson**



Senior Aubrey Hitt, freshman Jonah Turner, sophomore Lyndsey Harrell and freshman Elizabeth Woodruff gather around a table with friends at Sonic on Nov. 13. Happy Hour, from 2 to 4 p.m., was a popular time for students to meet friends to hang out. **Photo by DJ Lawson**



Sophomore Mark Anklam drives to Nashville, Tennessee, on a road trip in September. Students drove all over the United States to get home for breaks or to visit other students' homes. **Photo courtesy of Abby Tran**



Students meet at the home of Ann Harrington, professor of English, on Nov. 12 for a Wednesday night home Bible study. Faculty, staff, alumni and current students opened their homes each week to host Bible studies and to build friendships with students during their time at Harding. **Photo by Kazuhiro Fujisawa**

ON THE CLOCK

Several students maintained Harding connections by working at small businesses opened by alumni. Senior Parker Burgess worked at Beyond Boundaries Outdoor and Adventure, an outdoor recreation store opened by alumnus Blake Norman in 2013 as he pursued his major in global economic development. He was later hired as a purchasing and inventory manager for the store. Burgess

said that the business allowed him to reach out to people in the community.

Junior Luke Smith began working at Slader's Alaskan Dumpling Company when 2013 alumnus Slader Marshall opened for business in January 2014. The restaurant served only one item: Alaskan-style dumplings, a version of Russian "Pel'meni." Promoted through word of mouth and social media, SADCo took its place as a

popular hangout for Harding students.

Senior Kylee Coble, also a SADCo staff member, enjoyed working for a business that brought a unique flavor to Searcy.

"The place has a really cool atmosphere," Coble said. "It's just something that is really unique to Searcy and unique to anywhere because it's from Alaska."

By Tania Salgado

OFF THE CLOCK

To entertain themselves, students attended sporting events, went on late-night Walmart runs and took spontaneous trips to Little Rock. Yet Sonic, America's favorite drive-in, became Searcy's central hangout among a stiff field of competition for students' free time. At three locations in Searcy, students enjoyed trips during Happy Hour with friends, making memories and unique soft drink combinations.

According to sophomore Taylor Thomas,

Sonic's popularity stemmed from its low-pressure environment and its inexpensive menu. She said the drive-in helped her cheer up friends after a bad day and even meet new people.

"It's just a run to Sonic," Thomas said. "I think it has definitely changed my Harding experience because I'm a lot more comfortable asking people to get to know them better."

Senior Colby Wallis said he went to Sonic at least five times a week for his favorite drink

combination, a Route 44 vanilla Dr. Pepper. For Wallis, a unique Sonic memory was made when a friend of his showed up in a bunny costume to ask a girl to a function. He said he loved the spontaneity of a Sonic run.

"Harding students are known for being resourceful — for making their own fun," Wallis said. "I feel like Sonic is a place that really makes that possible."

By Taylor Gleaves

ON THE ROAD

For many Harding students, road trips provided opportunities to build stronger relationships both with friends and with God. Over spring break, junior Luke Smith and seniors Ben Hansen, Philip Habegger, Kyle Nossaman and Austin Messer drove 27 consecutive hours to Utah, bonding through the experience. According to Hansen, the trip was mostly spontaneous; though the group originally planned to go hiking in Utah, they extended their trip to include five different

national parks and even went skydiving.

"There is something special about doing things spur of the moment and connecting with someone," Hansen said.

The road trip also offered an opportunity to unplug from the world and build faith together.

"We read through the book of Hosea throughout our trip," Hansen said. "It was unique to be the one group at the campground that was quietly reading at the campfire instead of being rowdy on spring break."

Senior Emma Keith took a shorter road trip with seniors Shannon Burke and Clint Peyton to Winterfest in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, stopping along the way in Nashville and Memphis. Keith loved the experience because it allowed her to form new memories.

"I think everyone should take a road trip in college, especially with people you don't know very well," Keith said. "It is such a great way to form new relationships."

By Megan Smith

ON THE PATH

Bogged down by the stress of the school week, many students found a source of peace at their Wednesday night Bible studies. These devotionals, led by professors, students or church members in Searcy, provided a time to rest and refocus on their spiritual lives. Though each Bible study had a slightly different focus, all had one trait in common: fellowship.

Dr. Mel Sansom, Harding's vice president of finance and chief financial officer, led a

home Bible study for 11 consecutive years with his wife Lori, her sister Terri Rine, and Terri's husband Dennis Rine, a Harding teacher and counselor. Sansom emphasized the value of Wednesday night devotionals in forging strong, Christ-centered connections between students and faculty.

"One of the biggest things is to form deep relationships built on spiritual things," Sansom said. "That's why we're here — to build up

each other spiritually."

Participating students were also thankful for the community their home Bible studies provided.

"It's a different feel than just going into a church building," senior Tyler Samuel, who began attending the Sansom and Rine devotional in 2011, said. "It's a lot more like a family."

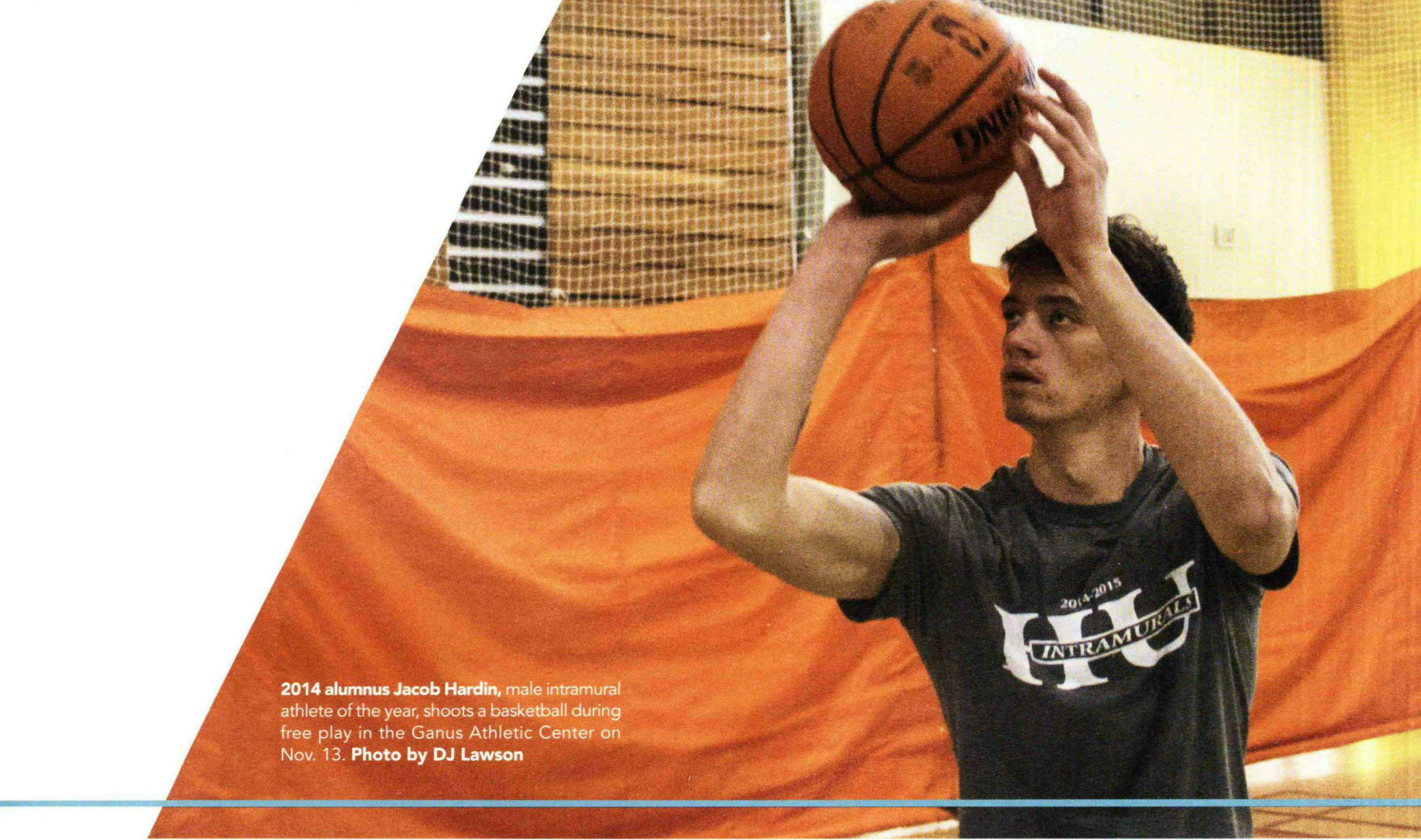
By Layton Moore

ATHLETE of the year

Lara Couch

Female intramural athlete of the year
senior Lara Couch stands on the mound at the
intramural softball fields on Jan. 27.
Photo by DJ Lawson





2014 alumnus Jacob Hardin, male intramural athlete of the year, shoots a basketball during free play in the Ganus Athletic Center on Nov. 13. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

Jacob Hardin

During a special chapel presentation in the spring, senior Lara Couch and 2014 alumnus Jacob Hardin were recognized as the Intramural Athletes of the Year.

The committee who selected the recipients of the award based their decision on several criteria, including the number of activities in which the athletes participated and their overall performance in those activities.

Couch participated in all the intramural activities, but she especially loved playing softball and volleyball as a team captain in both sports. For four consecutive years, her volleyball team took home the intramural trophy.

"I was my own self-motivator," Couch said. "Seeing the excitement on my teammates' faces was motivation enough to continue playing intramural sports."

As captain, Couch made sure her team competed well but also had fun. Most importantly, she kept a spiritual focus on and off the court.

"She always was ... the first to encourage us to all pray together after

our games with the other teams and often led the prayer," freshman Lindy Leggett said. "It was always about ... spiritually uplifting each other — it wasn't just about sports."

Hardin, a dedicated athlete, played intramurals during each of his four years at Harding. Over the course of his college career he participated in approximately 300 individual and team sports events. He said that though he did not play sports before attending college, he discovered they were a good way to relieve stress.

Hardin said he had tried in his freshman and junior years to earn a letter jacket. During his freshman year, he was disqualified for missing an event; as a junior, he received the Spirit Award but not the jacket. He did not give up, however, deciding to try again his senior year, and he won not only the jacket but also the recognition for standout athlete of the year.

"I didn't do it for the recognition," Hardin said. "I did it just to know that I could do it. It is not that big of a deal.

What I was looking for — the only recognition I like — is having my picture up because [it] is up there, and you can see the guys that have been up there from 1969. ... It is nice to have a mark somewhere for something you did, and I am proud of what I did."

Hardin also encouraged his teammates on the field. Junior Andrew Mauldin, one of Hardin's friends, said they met while playing intramural softball.

"I remember that he always plays hard and is a great sport whether we win or lose," Mauldin said. "I have learned from him to always keep a smile on my face whether I make a good play or bad play, because it is not the end of the world if I mess up."

For both athletes, the relationships made through intramural sports meant more than the recognition they received.

"Intramurals is ... an opportunity for me to meet new people and take on a leadership role and hopefully mentor others," Couch said.

By Tania Salgado and Nakisha Milton