



Every person has a story. A story of courage.
A story of hope. A story of faith. Life is
about sharing your story with other

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Photo by Ashel Parsons

ople. By sharing your story,
you shape the generations to come.
You create meaningful relationships. You
cultivate momentous bonds. Your story defines
you. Your story has the power to create change
and shape others' lives. — *Gina Cielo, people editor*

“I always knew that I wanted to serve people, I just didn't know in what capacity.”

Senior Janet Orgain

of Trenton, Tenn. found more than hunger and baobab trees on her three mission trips to Africa. On her third trip to Africa in the summer of 2010, Orgain found a future.

The summer after her freshman year of college, Orgain joined Partners4Africa, a program designed to empower those in need by sharing the message of God's love and providing basic necessities like food, water, clothing and education. With the program, Orgain traveled to Africa, feeding orphans in Swaziland, going on campaigns in Cape Town, knocking on doors and participating in home gospel meetings.

Orgain was very inspired by the Africans' work ethic, as well as their willingness to hear the word of God.

"Seeing the love and the zeal that those people have is really encouraging," Orgain said.

Orgain was pleasantly surprised that she did not miss home while in Africa. This made her decision to return the next year much easier.

In 2007, Orgain once again worked in Swaziland and Cape Town, but the summer held something different in store with the program's first Y.E.S. (Youth Exalting the Son) rally. The rally kicked off in Port Elizabeth with two goals in mind: to spiritually educate and encourage participants in the person and message of Jesus Christ, and to give the youth opportunities to commit to service within their communities.

The trip consisted of extensive traveling, but Orgain said the more traveling, the better, because it was all about

helping people through making connections.

"I always knew I wanted to serve people, I just didn't know in what capacity," Orgain said. "We have the resources and they have the need; we're just connecting them."

For Orgain, every mission trip was a new experience. In the summer of 2010, the team traveled to Zimbabwe, a country they had never been able to visit before due to its lack of safety.

Orgain said that she was used to seeing underdeveloped cities in Africa, but Zimbabwe took poverty to another level.

"You really see poverty, and you really see people in need, and you really see how much you can help," Orgain said.

This last trip was extremely important because Orgain realized she wanted to spend the year after she graduated doing mission work throughout the United States and Africa. After "seeing the need," Orgain jumped at the chance to serve long-term in Africa and began meeting her future team members.

Orgain committed one year of her life to the program, consisting of three months in Zimbabwe, six months traveling the United States raising awareness and funds for the organization, and three months in Swaziland, South Africa.

Though many people would see the difficulties of living outside of the everyday comforts of the First World as much too large a sacrifice, according to Orgain, it was not too far out of her comfort zone, because when one is surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ, everything else falls into place.

Gina Cielo/ Monique Jaques

Janet



Orggain

seniors

Elliot Adams Biochem. & Molec. Bio.
 Sarah Adams Early Childhood Lic.
 Jonathan Aders Theatre
 Kylie Akins Print Journalism
 Katie Albers Biochem & Molec. Bio.



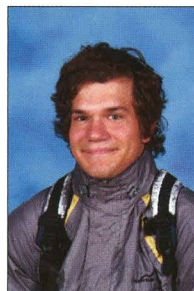
Jonathan Alexander Graphic Design
 Joshua Alexander Accounting
 Benjamin Anderson Mech. Engineer.
 Nicole Anderson Comm. Sci. & Dis.
 Jessica Ardrey Print Journalism



Nikola Arezina Management Info. Systems
 Mary Beth Arnold Youth and Fam. Min.
 Grant Arthur Mathematics
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 Ryan Baker Graphic Design

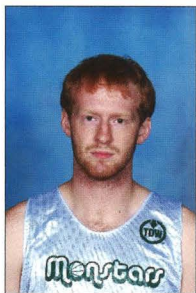


Calea Bakke Interdisciplinary Studies
 Shamini Bassham Early Childhood Lic.
 Mark Baur History
 Ashton Beaver Early Childhood Lic.
 Elizabeth Beazley Nursing

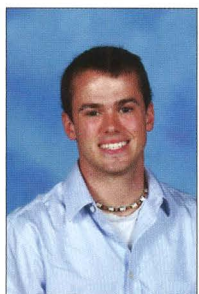


Jeb Bell History
 Amber Bellcock Nursing
 Devon Bennett Graphic Design
 Audrey Bentley General Studies
 Jessica Berrens Nursing





Donna Berryman Social Work
 Kyle Binkley Exercise Science
 Samantha Bjelland Broadcast Journalism
 Heather Bloomster Interior Design
 Jennie Bohmier Fam. and Cons. Sci.



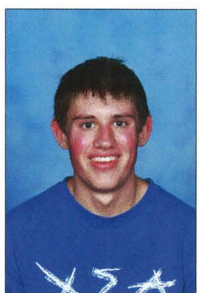
Frank Bolling Preaching
 Kayla Bond Nursing
 Seth Bowden Comm. Sci. & Dis.
 Amanda Bower Mathematics
 Courtney Boyd Comm. Sci. & Disorders



Paul Bradshaw Management
 Lauren Branch General Studies
 Molly Brooks Comm. Sci. & Dis.
 Debbie Brown General Studies
 Lindsey Brumfield Comm. Sci. & Dis.



Lauren Bucher Journalism
 Meagan Bussard Comm. Sci. & Dis.
 Rebecca Carter Comm. Sci. & Dis.
 Lauren Casey Health/Kinesiology
 Jessica Castro Graphic Design



Corey Celsor Man. Info. Systems
 Meagan Celsor Nursing
 Yat-Lung Chan Marketing
 Steven Chandler Public Relations
 Mitchell Cherry General Studies

“Neo” Moss

Emily Chilton Elementary Education
Samantha Clem Psychology
Sydney Clyde Theatre
Allans Coello Management
Jeremy Cohen Biochem & Molec. Bio.



Kristen Collins Comm. Disorders
Layne Collins Exercise Science
Misquel Conjtin Computer Science
Robert Cook Management
Jessica Copeland Early Childhood Lic.



“Hopefully, I could get a statue of myself sitting next to Uncle Bud- just hanging out by the lily pond.”

From the sandy beaches of the Bahamas to the “natural” state of Arkansas, Arsenio “Neo” Moss looked at life a little bit differently.

Moss, a senior psychology major and Spanish minor, believed in working hard as a student but also having a little fun on the side. He also had set some goals for himself during his time at Harding.

“Hopefully, I could get a statue of me sitting next to Uncle Bud, just hanging out by the lily pond,” Moss said. “But I’d really like to be remembered for bringing a lot of positive energy to campus.”

An active leader in many campus activities, Moss said he was once a very shy individual. He came to Harding with no idea what he was getting into and was not very involved with school in his earlier days.

“After I became a sophomore, I put my freshman ways behind me and started to put myself out there and be involved,” Moss said. “Over time I gained more confidence. Now I feel like I can handle any challenge that comes my way...maybe.”

Life had drastically changed for Moss since his life in the Bahamas. He did not get to go home as much as many other students and was extremely nervous when his family left him alone in the U.S.

“I felt more lonely than Simba after Scar convinced him he had killed Mufasa,” Moss said. “That’s pretty lonely, wouldn’t you say?”

However, Moss had a number of experiences at Harding that he would never have had at home. He had the opportunity to play in the snow for the first time, ice skate and cliff-dive. He went canoeing, climbed a mountain, camped in the woods and even participated in Spring Sing. According to Moss, in the Bahamas, there was no

Spring Sing.

“That’s why it’s different. Being here has just made me more open to try new things and just live the dream,” Moss said.

Moss was especially grateful for the friendships he developed through men’s social club TNT.

“All of my experiences with [TNT] have been kind of like being on a TV sitcom,” Moss said. “Some of the most ordinary situations turn into some of the most hilarious times you could think of with the occasional celebrity cameo... Pranking each other, playing sports, going on retreats to Tahkodah, pranking other people, devotionals, road trips and whatnot.”

Moss achieved a personal victory when he was made a Ju Go Ju beau his junior year.

“I would liken it to feeling like a little kid on Christmas, getting a gift your parents originally told you that you couldn’t have,” Moss said. “It’s not always easy to balance everything, but it’s always worthwhile when the girls show such appreciation for our efforts.”

Senior Steven Ramsey admired Moss’s spirit.

“Neo is a fantastic man with a great heart,” Ramsey said. “He loves making people laugh and laughing with them. My life has been so much better since meeting him, and I’m sure many would say the same.”

After graduation, Moss hoped to go to graduate school for psychology and work with school districts in the States and back home. He thought he might even get involved in politics in the Bahamas. All of this, according to Moss, was if he did not get drafted into the NFL, have a career on Broadway or become the new Old Spice guy.

Carrie Martin



Samantha Covalt Early Childhood Lic.
Nathan Covington Electronic Media Production
Shannon Craddock General Studies
Emily Crooks Nursing
Sarah Crowder Nursing

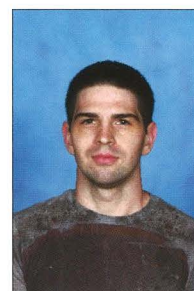


Carmen Cuadra Int. Business
Meg Dalafave Music Ed - Inst.
Cassie Davidson Nursing
Elizabeth Davis Psychology
Erin Davis Graphic Design

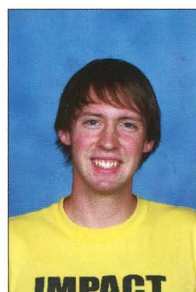
Maggie Davis Early Childhood Lic.
 Brittany Davison Interior Design
 Rachel Dean Inter. Business
 Kellee Dejbakhsh Broadcast Journalism
 Harrison Dell Youth and Fam. Min.



Daniel Denman Man. Info. Systems
 Anna Dennison Psychology
 Meghan Derryberry General Studies
 Audrey Dickenson Criminal Justice
 Bryce Dickerson Comp. Science



Joseph Dickerson Public Relations
 Grant Dillion Elect. Media Prod.
 Kari Dingus Graphic Design
 Cheyenne Dodson Social Work
 Arthur Dollens Accounting



Jordan Dollins Music Ed. - Voc.
 Amanda Dorsey Athletic Training
 David Driskell Biochem & Molec. Bio.
 Darby Duffield Psychology
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Beau Duty Health Care Manaa.
 Brittany Eacret Criminal Justice
 Meghan Ebright Early Childhood Lic.
 Elizabeth Elander Biology
 Julie Ellis General Studies



seniors



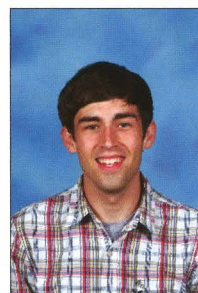
Morgan Evans Biology
Amanda Favazza Spanish
Katie Fittz Public Relations
Emily Flaherty Nursing
Hailey Fletcher Marketing



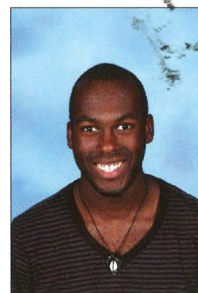
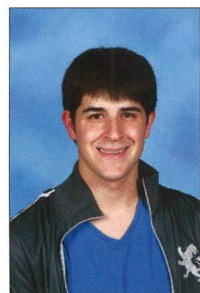
Mary Franklin Social Sci. - Tchr Lic
Rafael Frogoso Man. Info. Systems
Devon Fulbright Biochem & Molec. Bio.
Betty Fulop General Studies
Sarah Gary Chemistry



Gina German Early Childhood Lic.
Eric Giboney Management
Dia Gibson Exercise Science
Kinyata Gray Health Care Manag.
Tiffany Greeley Psychology

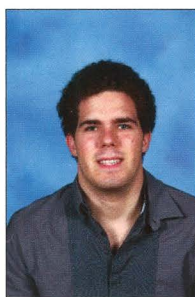


George Green
Rebekah Gunter Early Childhood Lic
Whitney Hall Nursing
Marcy Hammons Finance
William Hancock Biochem & Molec. Bio.

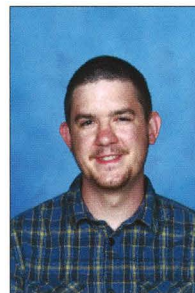


Christopher Hanes Exercise Science
Aaron Hanson Advertising
Andi Hardman Phys Sci/Chem Lic.
Timothy Harless Accounting
Jordan Harris Inter. Studies

Megan Hasler Early Childhood Lic.
Chase Haynes Accounting
Michelle Heasley Nursing
Hannah Henderson Nursing
Mary Hendricks Exercise Science



Emily Hetrick Early Childhood Lic.
Timothy Hicks Youth and Fam. Min.
Chelsie Hoffmann Child and Fam. Sci.
Timothy Hoffmann Computer Eng.
John Houston Bio Chemistry



“A real man is a man who
dreams in flannel.”

Ever wondered exactly

who Senior Mark Slagle is or why he has such an awe-inspiring mustache? Petit Jean staff writer Gina Cielo had the opportunity to ask Mark a few questions.

Mark was a senior global narrative major from Nashville, Tenn. His hobbies included eating Italian food, hiking, traveling, snowboarding, Casual Tie Wednesday and dreaming of the best gelato on earth from L'isola Del Gelato in Scandicci, Italy.

G: What do you think a real man is?

M: A real man is a man who dreams in flannel.

G: You're a man who has explored up to the far reaches of the earth — Florence, Honduras, Kenya, the mountains of Colorado, etc. What compels you to never stop discovering new horizons?

M: I want to live a good story, and good stories are rarely told without a good scene change every now and then.

G: What does it take in an individual to rock the denim on denim combination?

M: Denim is more of a lifestyle than a clothing statement. It says practical masculinity. Some try denim on khaki, or denim on corduroy, but I really think that true testosterone can only be found in the denim on denim combo.

G: Where do you think you would be today without your mustache?

M: My mustache has been with me through thick and thin and it's been a blessing to know it always will be. It wasn't always easy, but I've always believed in the historical importance of the mustache.

G: Do you have a motto or a special song that you carry with you each day? What's the mantra you live by?

M: I live by the song "Smile" by the highly acclaimed band Sweet Action.

G: Who is your celebrity crush?

M: My celebrity crush is Brad Pitt in "A River Runs Through It" or "Legends of the Fall" or Annie Banks, the bride-to-be from "Father of the Bride."

G: Who would you say is the greatest man that's ever lived (besides Jesus)?

M: Rivers Cuomo, lead singer of the small, folk group Weezer. Or Robbie Shackelford. Close call.

G: If you were an animal, what would you be?

M: I'd love to be a bear. I'd enjoy hibernation, but I'm not crazy about salmon. Or I'd be a honey badger. They literally fear nothing.

G: Where to next?

M: I'm spending the spring semester studying in Greece with trips to Israel and Egypt along the way.



Camille Howard Spanish
Jayme Howell Nursing
Kelda Inness Nursing
Laura Jackson Accounting
Monique Jacques Public Relations



Jennifer James Graphic Design
Amanda Johnson Spanish
Amber Jones Athletic Training
Jeanne Jones Youth and Fam. Min.
Sarah Jones Fashion Merch.



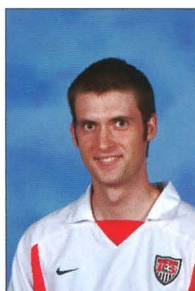
Mark Slagle

seniors

Emily Justus General Studies
Deborah Kee Social Work
Jennifer Kee Accounting
Katie Keese Comm. Sci. & Dis.
Jami Kelley Human Resources



Alan Kirby Exercise Science
Rachel Kirby Nursing
Daniel Kirwa General Studies
Kurstin Koch Dietetics
Ashlie Krudwig Psychology



Clinton Lambert Bible and Religion
Ashley Lance Management
Ethan Lantz Biblical Lang.
Kathleen Larkin History
Amy Lee Psychology



Jong-Hwa Lee Accounting
Alyssa Lemarr Early Childhood Lic.
Annalise Lester Dietetics
Juan Li Int. Business
Alvanell Lopez Nursing



Brenda Louis Early Childhood Lic.
Loghan Lowery Mid Level/Math Sci
Dejun Ma Int. Business
Bonnie Marberry History
Gabriella Marcellini Spanish





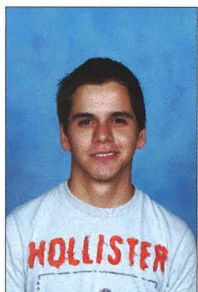
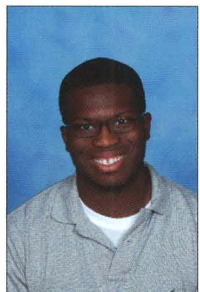
Luz Marchena Broadcast Journalism
 Mary McBride Oral Comm. - Tchr Lic
 Laura McCarty General Studies
 Molly McCoy Early Childhood Lic.
 Kristin McEven Biology



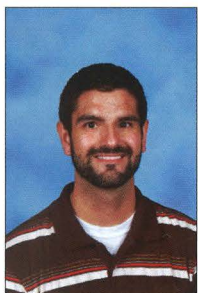
Shayna McGill Youth and Fam. Min.
 Katie McKeever Biology
 Tobey Mesa Biology
 Jane Messina History
 Alicia Miller Art - Teacher Lic.



Katelyn Minerick Int. Business
 Deanna Mitchell Graphic Design
 Francis Morales Management
 Tandi Morgan Early Childhood Lic.
 Abigail Mosby Missions



Arsenio Moss Psychology
 Rylee Muir Mid Level/Math Sci
 Alejandro Muniz Finance
 Christina Neil English- Teacher Lic.
 Amy Neill Psychology



Jenna Nessler Spanish
 Jessica New Social Work
 Devon Newburn Music
 Natalie Nill Mech Engineer.
 Bryce Noblitt Missions

“Sometimes I want to do things my own way, and I’m stubborn like my horses, but God loves me anyway and he’s patient with me.”

Chelsea Hornbeck

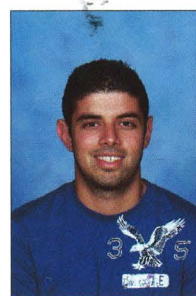
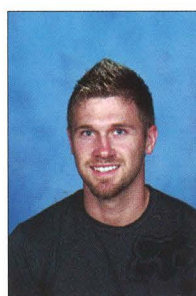
Janet Orgain Public Relations
Leslie Osborne Early Childhood Lic.
Lauren Osburne Nursing
Aleece Overturf English- Teacher
Elizabeth Owusu Early Childhood Lic.



Brooklyn Parker Graphic Design
Matthew Parks Music Ed. - Voc.
Charlste Patterson Early Childhood Lic.
Brooke Payne Biology
Jing Pei Nursing



Nicholas Peirce Painting
Sarah Pence Psychology
German Perez Int. Business
Brittany Perry Marketing
Kacey Persaile Social Work



She was known

as a seasoned game hunter, a goalkeeper for the women's soccer team and the former president of the social work club, but fifth year senior Chelsea Hornbeck's true passion was something that took even more dedication.

Growing up, Hornbeck and her stepfather kept and cared for 20 horses. Through that experience she learned everything she knew about training, breaking and caring for horses. And Hornbeck's love for horses certainly did not fade with her youth.

"In working with horses I've learned that God will lead me to things I might be fearful of and take me through that," Hornbeck said.

Hornbeck not only learned how to better herself through her passion for horses; she also hoped to do equine therapy in the future with young women who had gone through abuse in order to lead them to a better understanding of God.

"Chelsea has a huge love both for horses and for helping others," senior Lindsey Brumfield said. "She uses her talents and love of both people and horses to glorify God."

As of 2010, Hornbeck had two horses of her own, a palomino paint and a stud colt, which were given to her by two different families affiliated with Harding.

Hornbeck did not like to be without her two horses, but she was happy to let them go one summer for a children's session at Camp Tahkodah. At Tahkodah,

inner city children learned to ride Hornbeck's horses, along with many others. In 2007 and 2008, Hornbeck was the head wrangler for the camp. There she found ways to share what she had learned from her horses.

"At camp you see kids who just love horses, but you also see kids who are really scared of horses," Hornbeck said. "It's just so fun to walk a kid through that, seeing a kid grow past their fears and using that as a parable for how God will protect them."

Brumfield said she first witnessed Hornbeck's dedication to helping others via equine therapy at Camp Tahkodah.

"When I worked out there with her, I got to see her love for Christ, love for kids, and love for horses," Brumfield said. "She was always upbeat and smiling. Her joy is infectious, and during camp you could see how much the kids loved to be around her!"

Hornbeck loved letting others share in the joy she felt from spending time with her horses. She had put a great deal of time and energy into caring for them, and her relationship with them often reminded her of her own relationship with God.

"Sometimes I want to do things my own way, and I'm stubborn like my horses, but God loves me anyway and he's patient with me," Hornbeck said. "I remember that patience when I'm working with them, and it helps me reflect on my own walk with God and makes me a better person."

James Taylor / Kelsey Sherrod



Julianne Pettet Elec. Engineer.
Trent Posey Electronic Media Production
Daniel Powell General Studies
Erin Powell Art- Teacher Lic.
Gabrielle Pruitt Public Relations



Kerri Przeczewski Nursing
Amanda Pugh Psychology
Brandon Ragsdale Music
Joel Ramirez Sports Management
Flor Ramos Broadcast Journalism



Margaret Ramsey Phys Sci/ Chem.
Steven Ramsey Finance
Rachel Ranchino Health Care Management
Ashley Reeves Graphic Design
LaRell Reynolds Electronic Media Production

Brittany Riley Social Work
Colby Roberts Marketing
Erin Robison Early Childhood Lic.
Nicholas Rogers Political Science
Suzanne Rogers Nursing



Allyson Roller Exercise Science
Elizabeth Roller Exercise Science
Amanda Rooney Criminal Justice
Katherine Rothe Early Childhood Lic.
Moses Rotich Elect. Engineer.



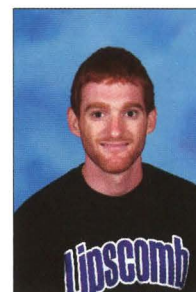
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Marco Ruiz International Business
Caleb Rummel Public Relations
Jacob Rush Social Sci. - Tchr Lic
Karye Saegert Accounting



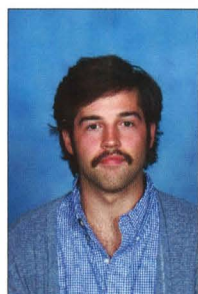
Melanie Sallee Spanish
Tasha Sallee Psychology
Derek Samples Biblical Languages
Tyler Samuel Marketing
Lauren Schlabach Elect. Media Prod.



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Melissa Scott Psychology
Michelle Sexton Nursing
Ty Shelton Health/ Kinesiology
Kelsey Sherrod English



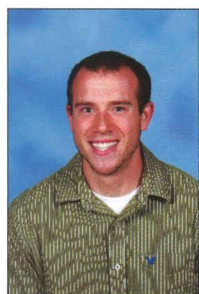
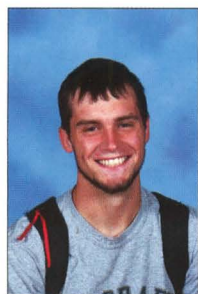
seniors



Mark Slagle Social Sci. - Tchr Lic.
Adam Smith Computer Science
Alana Smith Christian Ed.
Daniel Smith Chemistry
Justin Smith Mathematics



Sean Smith Mech. Engineer.
Caitlin Sober Early Childhood Lic.
Christin Spencer Math - Teacher Lic.
Leslie Stackpole Art
Savannah Steiner Comm. Sci. & Dis.



Devin Stewart Management
Grace Strickland Spanish
Eric Suddeath Youth and Fam. Min.
Samantha Switzer Art Therapy
Malissa Taber Social Work



Richard Tapley General Studies
Kellum Tate English
Ryan Taylor Computer Science
Tia Tesney History
Myles Thomas Exercise Science



Andrew Thompson Art
Kaycee Thornton Early Childhood Lic.
Alicia Tinkle Child and Fam. Sci.
Andrew Townsend Mech. Engineer.
Lauren Treat Interior Design

Aaron Tucker Theatre
Megan Valentine History
Kirvyn Vargas International Business
Anadeli Vasquez Accounting
Adrian Villalobos Elect. Engineering



Brenda Villela Biology
Jonathan Waddell Soc. Sci. - Tchr Lic.
Kathleen Wade Biology
Jennifer Wagner Biochem & Molec. Bio.
Claire Walker Exercise Science



I love coming home to it every day and walking into the camper with the feeling of being on a permanent vacation.

Trailer parks were

far from the typical home of a college student. But in the fall semester of 2010, senior accounting major Kellie DeAtley changed this stereotype by choosing to spend the semester living in her parents' RV in Thompson Trailer Park right off Market Avenue. An avid camper and fifth year senior, DeAtley had housing plans for the fall which were disrupted the previous April. Instead of scrambling to find a roommate for only one semester, DeAtley decided to live in an RV after her mom casually joked about that being a possibility.

DeAtley said her decision was one of convenience and practicality. "I just wanted a comfortable place to live that could suit my needs for the semester," DeAtley said. "I wanted my mom to be able to come down and visit several times during the semester so we could work on plans for my upcoming wedding. Having the RV here for her to stay in versus a dorm room makes her want to visit, stay for a while and enjoy her stay."

However, some of DeAtley's other friends had different opinions.

"I thought it was a joke," junior Laura Green said. "Kellie is a big joke-teller, so I just assumed this was another one of them. I thought she was absolutely crazy."

"Once I processed the information, it actually wasn't that surprising at all," junior Britney Cothran said. "Kellie is definitely the kind of person who could handle a tiny camper all alone in a sketchy trailer park."

Safety was a prime concern for DeAtley and her friends and family when she moved into the trailer park. Several caring people from campus, including President David Burks and his wife, Leah, routinely dropped by to check on Kellie.

"My dad wasn't too keen on the idea at first, especially when he

dropped me off for school and saw the place where I would be living," DeAtley said. "It can be a sketchy location to someone who isn't familiar with the area."

Despite the concerns, DeAtley's love for the outdoors was a characteristic that made the RV perfect for her.

"It just fits her personality," DeAtley's fiancé and fifth year senior Drew Dell said. "She would tent camp for the rest of her life. She would eat s'mores for dessert every meal. Everything about her portrays her love for camping. Honestly, I believe that it comes from her joy of being in God's creation."

Life in a camper as a college student required some ingenuity on DeAtley's part.

"Storage is a bit limited," DeAtley said. "However, there are bins all the way around the outside of it that help. The RV does have 2 pop-outs that create space inside. My 'office' is on the dashboard and I sit in the passenger chair to do my homework."

Most importantly, DeAtley had a cozy place to call her own.

"I love coming home to it every day and walking into the camper with the feeling of being on a permanent vacation," DeAtley said. "All my memories in this camper are good ones from the times my family was able to share together, traveling all over the U.S."

DeAtley considered living in the camper after she got married if housing options were slim in her future location, but her fiancé had other ideas.

"I'm just more of a house kind of person," Dell said.

Nevertheless, the camper was still the perfect retreat for DeAtley during her last semester.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," DeAtley said.

Mackenzie Lee



Erin Walker Music Ed. - Voc.
Paige Walton Painting
Ashley Ward Finance
Jenna Ware Accounting
Kea Watson Social Work



Meg Watson Nursing
DeeAnn Waugh Finance
Brandon Webb Biology
Christianna Wendeborn Nursing
Allison Wertenberger Dietetics



Kellie DeAtley



Ted Wheelley Youth and Fam. Min.
 Jordan Whetstone General Studies
 Andrew White Accounting
 Bjorn White Bible and Ministry
 Garret White Mid Lev/Math Sci.



Kendall White Elect. Engineer.
 Aerial Whiting English
 Holly Wilkerson Biochem & Molec. Bio.
 Elizabeth Willen Oral Comm / Drama
 Amber Williams Child and Fam. Sci.



For extended periods of training, the day of a soldier can be long, but I can't say I don't enjoy going to demolition and firing ranges just like every other little boy has dreamed of doing.

When it came

to multitasking, senior Lucas Heffner had it down. Like any senior, Heffner worked toward graduating and receiving his bachelor's degree in management information systems. However, there was more to Heffner than met the eye: during his sophomore year, Heffner enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"The Army serves as motivation to keep myself in shape but has also taught me that I can tackle any task put in front of me," Heffner said. "It's a constant reminder that I'm a role model whether I want to be or not. For extended periods of training, the day of a soldier can be long, but I can't say I don't enjoy going to demolition and firing ranges just like every other little boy has dreamed of doing. Bringing 'Call of Duty' to life can be fun."

From getting paid to get an education to previous loans being paid to a thousand other reasons, it was a no-brainer to Heffner that the advantages of enlisting outweighed the cons. According to Heffner, what ultimately convinced him was "the thought of needing to take advantage of the youth God has given him."

Some of Heffner's first experiences in the U.S. Army included basic training, drilling one weekend a month in Hot Springs and even searching for roadside bombs.

"I'm a 21 Bravo combat engineer, a specialist and team leader as part of the 704th Engineering Company out of Hot Springs," Heffner said. "Every drill is a vacation of sorts and it's a good excuse for a weekend getaway from Searcy; I've developed relationships with my peers to the point that I look forward to Hot Springs each and

every month."

Senior Kyle Binkley said it was easy to see how Heffner had grown from his time in the Army.

"First of all, he lost a lot of weight and looked like Brad Pitt on 'Fight Club,'" Binkley said. "Also, as cliché as it sounds, the military has given him discipline in all aspects of life."

Heffner said his military experience had definitely affected his Harding experience as a student.

"Mostly it has given me a different view of life in general," Heffner said. "I have a true appreciation for a kind soul now and can spot one immediately."

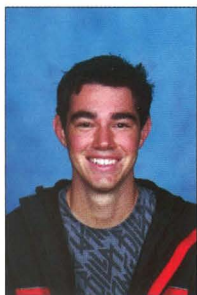
As of 2010, Heffner had about four years left of his Active Reserve Enlistment. At the end of that period of time he would have the option of being honorably discharged, reenlisting or chasing after other military dreams. Heffner also had plans of attending Officer School once he received his bachelor's degree.

"I can't tell you where I'll be in 5 years because I fly by the seat of my britches," Heffner said. "But if I was deciding today, I'd be in for 20 years and become a 2nd Lieutenant soon after I graduate from Harding."

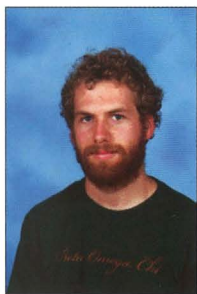
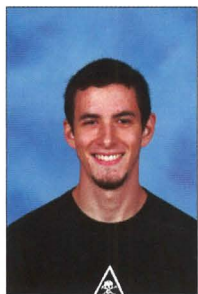
Whatever Heffner decided, he would not trade his time at Harding or in the military for anything in the world.

"Lucas has shown me that sometimes you just need to take life for what it is and either pout over it or love it," Binkley said. "Lucas has learned to take life as it is and make the best of it."

Carrie Martin



Bailey Williams Psychology
Rachel Williams Humanities
Bradley Wolhuter Management Info. Systems
Abby Work Accounting
LaBianca Wright Biochem & Molec. Bio.



Jacob Wrye Missions
Benjamin Yaeger Management
Jonathan Yoder Interactive Media
Megan Youngblood Nursing
Amanda Younger Biology

The genocide in Rwanda was one of the most horrific tragedies ever carried out. Between April and June 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the span of 100 days.

Junior Regis Ngaboyisonga was only six years old when he lived through the genocide, but he said the genocide was not what defined him. Petit Jean editor Nicole Sullenger sat down with Ngaboyisonga, and instead of finding a victim of war, she found a joyful, selfless student with a focus on Christ that took most people a lifetime to discover.

N: What can you remember about growing up in Rwanda?

R: The story I have, it's during genocide. I was six years old, but I can remember some memories. [I could] see people around, dead people, you know, **the way it smelled, the fear.** We were just going from my house, we went to hotel Rwanda. It was called Hotel des Mille Collines. We've been there for, I think, three weeks. And we could spend three days and just eat something that was not enough. We were packed up into a tiny room, you know. And I remember my mom, she used to go see different people, see if they could give food to my brothers. It was really hard but I'm so thankful because God helped us to go through it.

I remember **we could just drink water from the swimming pool, we didn't have enough.** And there was another family that came and joined us, in this tiny room, in a size like this [Editor's note: We were sitting in an office that was less than 50 square feet]. And the family, they came and there were maybe ten, and we were just packed up. I remember it was so tough to sleep.

But **God helped us and we moved** from the hotel and we went to another village that was safer. We went there and spend another two months trying to get something to eat, trying to get something to survive. **We were scared and everyone was dead.** My mom used to do everything for us. And my parents, they had already lost their parents, but I'm thankful because my mom, she was not killed over the genocide, even my dad. That's why genocide didn't really affect my life, but my cousins they are really affected; they lost almost everybody. Sometimes when I think about genocide I feel like it's one of the scariest memories I had, horrible memories.

N: Were you in the hotel when they tried to kill everyone?

R: Yeah, they used to throw bombs in it. We barely survived, that's what I can say. **We barely survived, it was so hard.** But the U.N. [United Nations] was there and they came and they tried to help people out and rescue some people that were still alive, so we got lucky. So I'm so thankful, that's why I'm here. I could have died, you know.

N: How did you get to Harding?

R: At Harding there are, I think, 11 students from Rwanda. It's a program where they come and select a student, the top student.

I had to do a national exam and after the exam, they pick the top student. We compete based on our English skills because they need to make sure this guy, once he gets to the U.S., he gets acquainted quickly. I got picked out and that's why I came here.

N: What are your plans after graduation?

R: Rwanda is a small country and they are investing in education. I came here just to get a solid education, then I need to return home. I'm graduating in spring 2012, then I need to finish my graduate school and go back. My major is computer science. We just need it back home we need people who are good at computers. We need people who can be more creative.

N: How have you seen God working through your life?

R: I love Jesus, so much. My life is based on Jesus, without Jesus there is no way I can live. I now understand the meaning of salvation, I understand why Jesus came. Jesus knew that we needed something, that we are missing something. My mum was a Christian. **She prayed for us,** she prayed for my father and she prayed for her children. I used to go to church because my mom had me, but in 2005 that's when I had my conviction, my personal decision. I was trying to get the answer for: the meaning of life. I would go through the Bible and read, that's when I saw that Jesus is life. **When you give Jesus your life, He changes it,** you know. He starts his job transforming your mind, and then you have eternal life. After I received Christ, He changed everything. My life started changing day after day. So that's why it's so real.

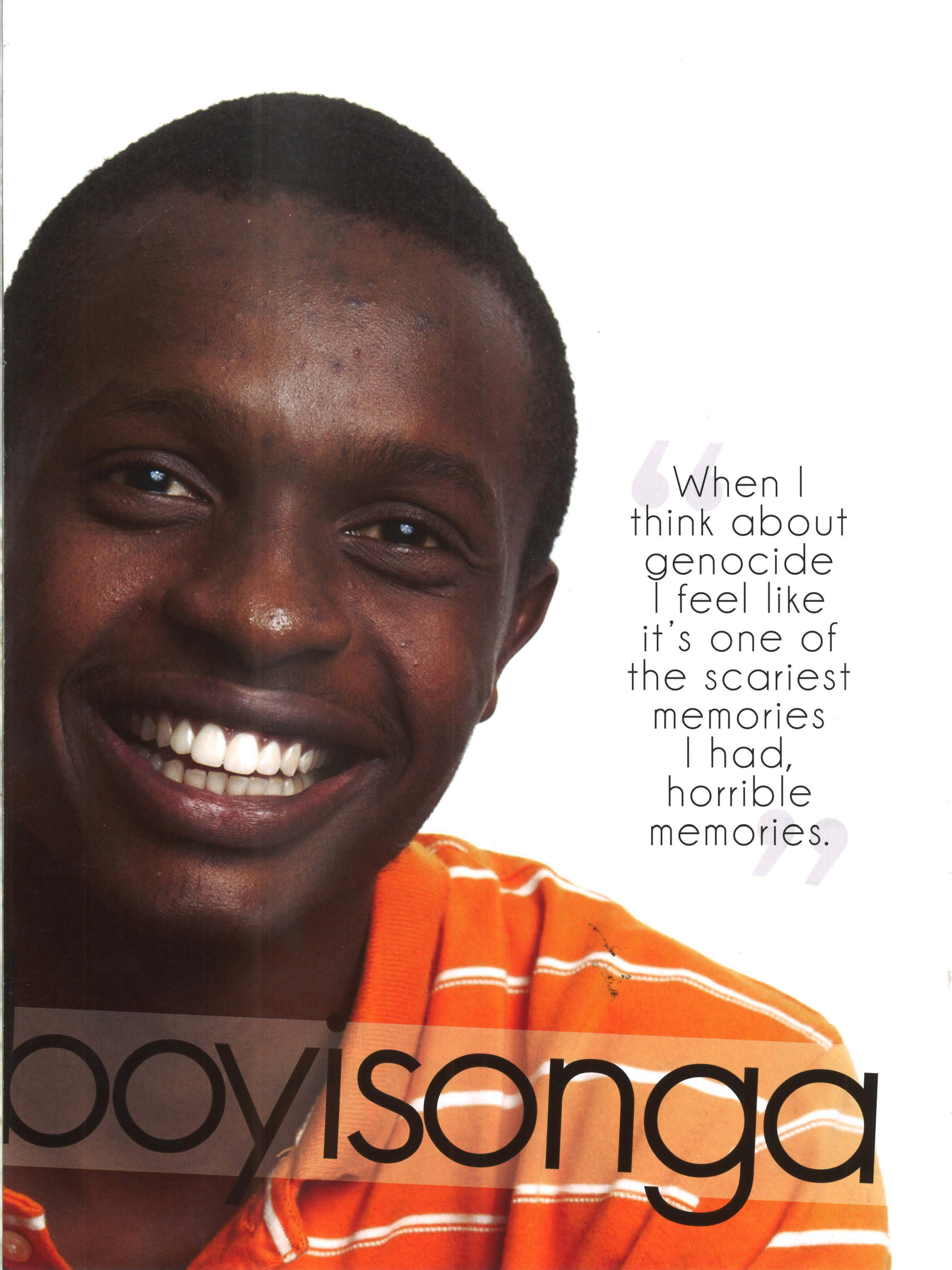
Everything is based on Jesus. Let God live your life through the Holy Spirit. I have a daily reading and I have to pray before I go to class. I wake up early to pray and I praise God. That's how I live. And every time I don't pray or read the Bible, I feel like I'm missing something. You know the scripture from Philippians 4:12, where Paul says I can do everything through Jesus who strengthens me. It shows how Paul is depending on God in everything. So that is what I'm shooting for. Having an intimate [relationship] and depending on God fully.

N: In your life, what makes you happy?

R: Something that makes me happy is to live at peace with everybody. I like to socialize with people and be friends with people. I really like to encourage people. **Anytime I'm just living at peace with everybody it makes me so happy.** Sometime it's hard; people are different and you have different personalities so it's hard to make sure you can please everybody. But I try my best to accept everybody the way they are, the way they seem, regardless of his negative sides. It helps me to be humble to everybody and any time I feel like I didn't hurt anybody, just trying to serve people, it makes me happy. Joy that is based on God, not based on your performance or circumstances or anything else, **that's what makes me happy.** ■

Nicole Sophia Sullenger

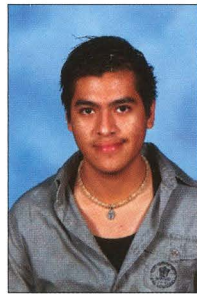
Regis Ngo

A close-up portrait of a young Black man with short, dark hair, smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing an orange and white horizontally striped shirt. The background is plain white.

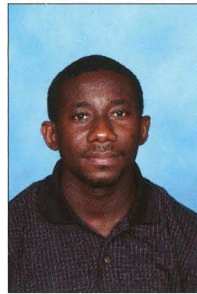
“When I
think about
genocide
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it’s one of
the scariest
memories
I had,
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memories.”

Booyisonga

John Mark Adkison
Christian Aguirre
Kwesi Aninkorah-Yeboah
Caroline Apgar
Austin Augsburger



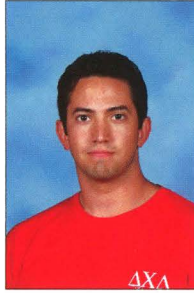
Daniel Avelar
Eric Awuah
Shelby Babcock
Amber Baer
Garrison Baker



Kara Beaty
Colton Beaver
Benjamin Beggs
Hannah Benjamin
Nicole Bennett



Thomas Bennett
Joanna Blake
Wesley Bland
Emily Bohmier
Travis Bond



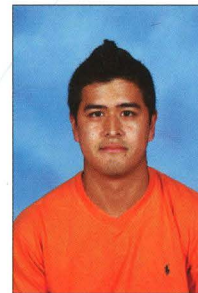
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Jordan Broadus
Christopher Brown
Jacob Brown



Anna Bryan
Laura Burgess
Tia Burt
Emily Buttram
Mary Beth Byrd



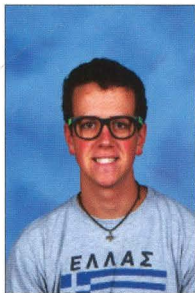
Caleb Cain
Caleb Callari
Aldo Campos
Spencer Carroll
Abigail Chandler



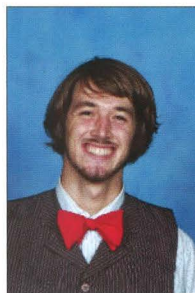
Join junior



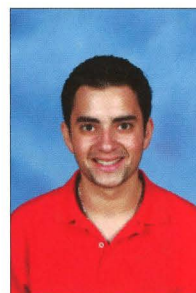
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Megan Cleveland
Kelsey Collins
Laura Cooper
Britney Cothren



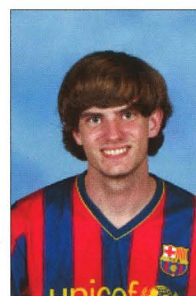
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Stephen Crowder
Ashley Crowe
Kaitlyn Daugherty
Kelsey Daugherty



Alberto De Pena
Jessica Denison
Dwight Denman
David Denzin
Whitney Dixon



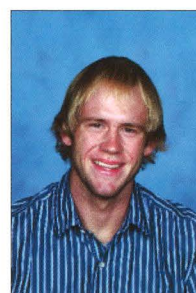
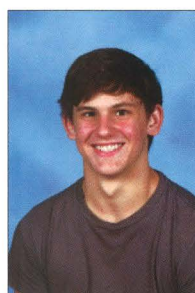
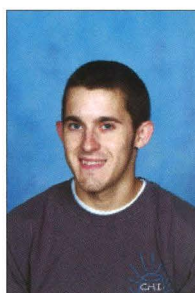
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William Drennen
Sarah Eason
Tyler Eatherton
Jose Elvir



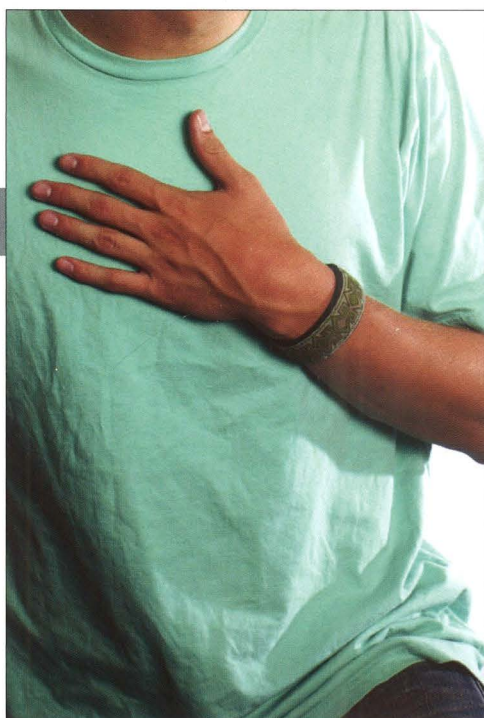
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Emily Faber
Emilia Faraj
Kristopher Feeler
Mark Finch



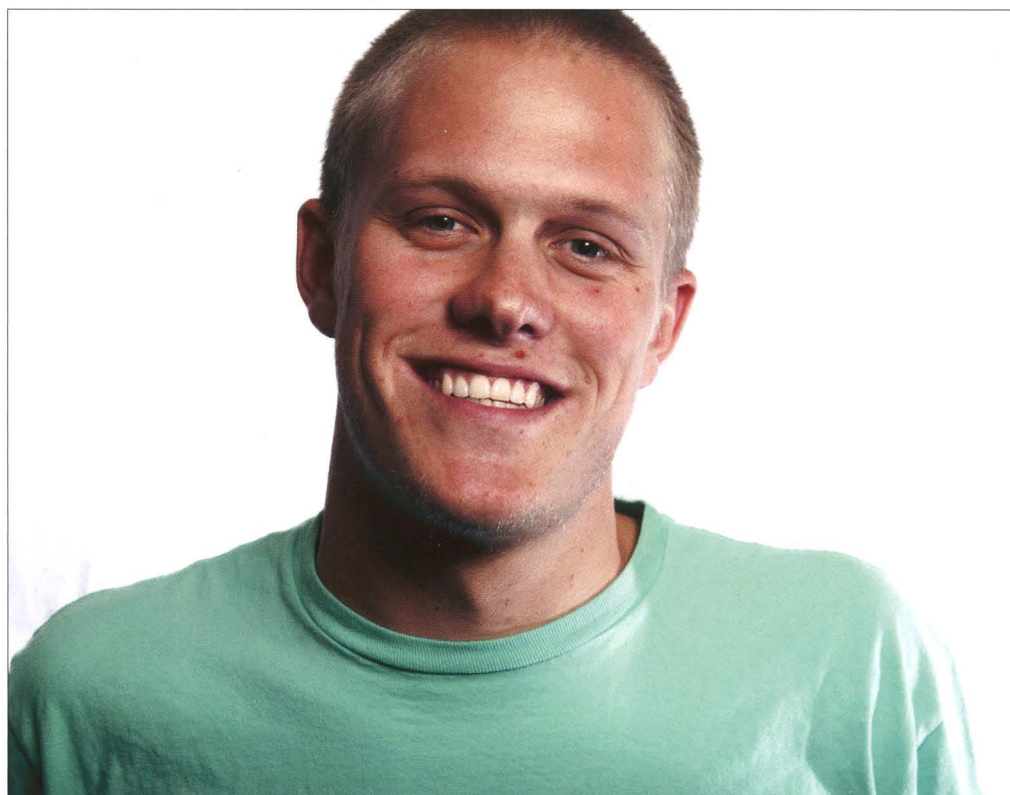
Kevin Flatt
Maria Fonseca
Danielle Fontenot
Franklin Franks
Natalie Freeman



Rachel Fuller
Jonathan Futrell
Taylor Gammon
Jaclyn Garrish
Chase Gentry



John Riley Wilson



“My youth minister called me and said, ‘JR, it’s game time.’”

“I would have to say that Mount French is my favorite mountain,” junior John Riley Wilson said. “It has the least amount of people on it. It’s so secluded.”

Not many students could name their favorite mountain, or even climb one. But for Wilson, climbing mountains was a summer job. Wilson worked as a guide for the past two summers at Wilderness Trek, a Church of Christ-based wilderness camp that took youth groups and other groups hiking for a week at a time. At Trek, two guides were in charge of leading teens and adults of varying ages up 14,000-foot mountains in Colorado, while simultaneously offering them an enriching experience to grow closer to God.

For Wilson, those mountaintop experiences began with a simple phone call.

“My youth minister called me and said, ‘JR, it’s game time,’” Wilson said, “and after talking with him about what it was, I knew this was about to be the coolest job ever.”

Wilson first joined Trek the summer of 2009. “The first summer was more of a mystery; I didn’t have a clue what I was getting into,” Wilson said. “The second summer was an opportunity to really step up and be a leader and take charge of our trips.”

Wilson qualified as a guide leader his second summer of work. According to Wilson, developing a good relationship with the other guides was important because they worked so close to one another.

Junior Ryan Johnson worked at Wilderness Trek alongside Wilson and came to appreciate Wilson’s genuine personality.

“I think one of the qualities I admire most about JR is his ability to be his ‘true self,’” Johnson said, “JR doesn’t change who he is for certain people.”

The team of guides was not only in charge of taking care of each other, but also taking care of the kids they took up the mountain.

“The hardest part about this job to me is dealing with certain kids who are scared out of their minds to go any further up the mountain,” Wilson said. “But it’s also the most fulfilling part because I get to be the one to encourage them that they can do it, and to see them do it is the best feeling ever.”

According to Johnson, Wilson had a knack for relating to the kids and challenging them at the same time.

“On trail, John Riley has the incredible gift of saying what needs to be said,” Johnson said. “He always knows when to give encouragement or tough love. I think the kids respect JR because of that.”

Ultimately, summiting a 14,000-foot peak was nothing compared to the relationships Wilson formed along the way.

“At Trek, I was able to see John Riley’s heart and his love for God,” Johnson said. “Because of that I have gained a tremendous amount of respect for him, but also gained an irreplaceable friendship.”

Caitlin Caldwell



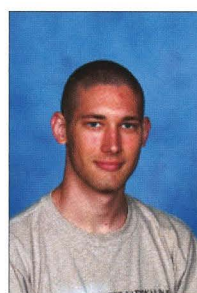
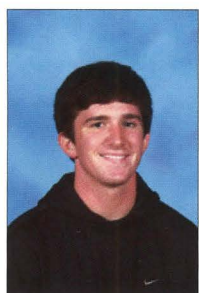
Melvin Gildner
Elizabeth Cordillo
James Gould
Sara Graham
Laura Green



Lindsay Green
Zachary Green
Matthew Griekspoor
Jeremy Haak
Melissa Hall



Sarah Hatcher
Libby Hedeman
Alejandra Hernandez
Daniela Hernandez
Elisa Hester



Raymond Heymann
Deborah Hill
Megan Hill
Richard Hill
Nathaniel Hourt



Sara Howard
Brandon Huber
Andrea Hullett
David Hunzicker
Hiroaki Iizumi

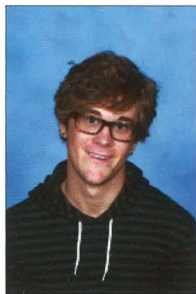


Adam Ingle
Hannah Jackson
Laurel Jenczyk
Melissa Jennings
Ali Jewell



Danielle John
Benjamin Johnson
Meredith Jones
Paula Jones
Tiffany Jones

Tyler Jones
Logan Kays
Byron Kelley
Sheralee Kerr
Melanie Knittle



Kelsey Koctar
Daniel Lance
Whitney Lawson
Courtney Lewis
Amy Littleton



April Littleton
Rachel Marshall
Davy Martinez-Ramos
Daniel Mata
Haleigh Maudsley



Pearson Maugeri
Samuel Maurer
Spencer May
Rebecca Mays
Ryan McAlister



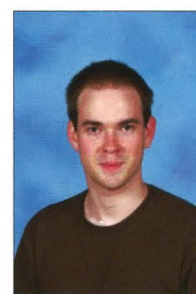
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Jackson McDaniel
Kevin McKee
Bruce McMullen



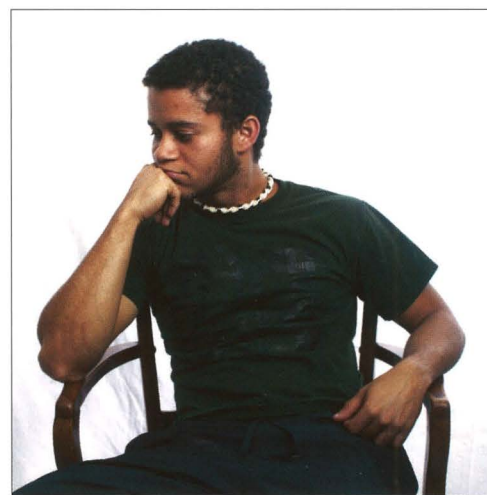
Laura Mitchell
Tiffany Moan
Ashley Moore
Kelly Moore
Carlos Morales



Rachel Moran
B.J. Mowrer
Katharine Nash
Steven Neil
Chris Ngu



Alberto De Peña



“They took us there saying that it was a place we were just going to hang out at for a few days and they would then come get us, but that was a lie,” junior Alberto De Peña said. “They were just going to leave us there.”

De Peña, a junior computer science major, was born in Hato de Yaque, Dominican Republic, a neighborhood of gangs and poverty. His life changed at the age of 10 when his parents dropped him and his three younger siblings off at the children’s home run by Manna Global Ministries in Bobita, Rio San Juan.

De Peña said he and his siblings had no rules growing up; they were troublemakers because they were just looking for things to do. He said he understood why his parents took them to the shelter—they were hoping to give them a brighter future.

One by one, his siblings and many other children returned to the dangerous streets they were used to, but not De Peña. He credited his grandmother for his excelling in the children’s home. She always told him, “If you study, you can be somebody.”

Martin and Gina Staelen worked at the children’s home when De Peña arrived. Gina was responsible for keeping the children.

“She’s kinda bossy, so everyone who went to her house wouldn’t have such a nice time because she would get onto them, which is what she’s supposed to do,” De Peña said. “I didn’t mind so much because I wanted to learn.”

Staelen taught De Peña everything from piano to computers.

“I remember the first time I saw a computer,” De

Peña said. “I thought it was a TV with colors, and I had no idea what the buttons were for.”

When the time came for their ministry in the Dominican Republic to be finished, the Staelens sat De Peña down and made him a proposition: they wanted to adopt him and bring him with them to America. They asked for legal permission to bring him with them to the U.S. and it was granted.

“You’d think parents wouldn’t want people to take their son away, but they said, ‘Take him and make somebody out of him,’” Staelen said.

At age 15, De Peña packed up everything and embarked on a journey to a new life. He had never set foot on an airplane, let alone been out of his country. After two connections and a bustling New York City cab ride, he arrived in Knoxville, Tenn.

“The house we lived in seemed like the ones you see on TV,” De Peña said. “They are people who live in the middle class, not rich, but compared to our people they are. I couldn’t believe it; I was in shock. Going to Wal-Mart was crazy to me, and you have to drive everywhere. In the Dominican Republic you have to ride a donkey or walk and everything is nearby, so here was really different.”

De Peña came to Harding as a freshman in the fall of 2008. Since then, De Peña joined the social club Kyodai and developed close relationships with an extensive group of friends.

“Alberto is one of the few people I will stay close with for the rest of my life,” De Peña’s roommate junior Juicy Thomas said. “He’s just a fun guy and he always has something positive to say when you need it.”

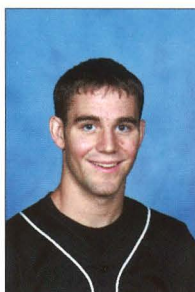
Monique Jacques

“They took us there saying it was a place we were just going to hang out at for a few days...that was a lie.”

David Niswonger
Jeffrey Nuckols
Charlene Nutt
Huston Oliver
Michael Oropeza



Tyler Overman
Rebecca Parker
Ashel Parsons
Amanda Partridge
Branden Paugh



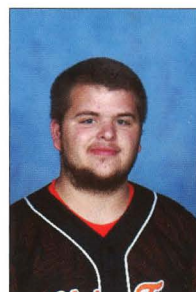
Geoffrey Pauley
Joshua Pilgrim
Isai Pinzon
Emma Poe
Crystal Pope



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Ashley Pritchard
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Chris Pruitt



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Kristen Ragland
Stephen Ramsey
Cordell Rech



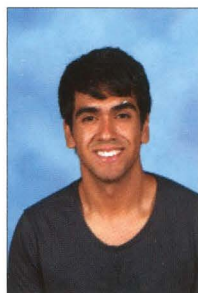
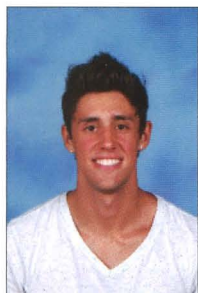
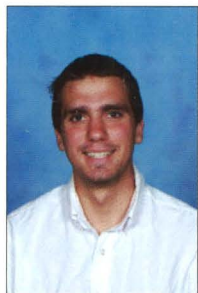
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James Robbins
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Jonathan Robinson



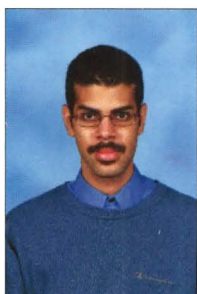
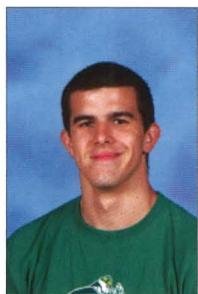
Marisa Rodgers
Karla Rodriguez
Amberly Rogers
Graziella Roos
Kayla Ross



juniors



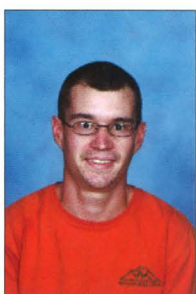
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Patrick Ruhl
Henrique Ruiz
Callie Sanchez
Edgar Sanchez



Rudy Sanchez
Alyssa Sansom
Justin Scoggin
Samuel Serrano
Jarron Sharp



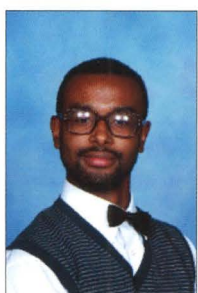
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John Shrable
Caroline Snell



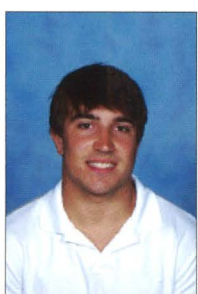
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Cory Spruiell
Andrea Stackpole
Teal Stamatis
Michael Starks



Lydia Steger
Chelsea Stephenson
Amy Stevens
Kailey Stevens
Hannah Stewart



Milton Stewart
Hannah Stidman
Nicole Sullenger
Kaylee Swayne
Heidi Tabor



Cole Taylor
Lauren Taylor
Antwan Thomas
Krista Thomas
David Thornton

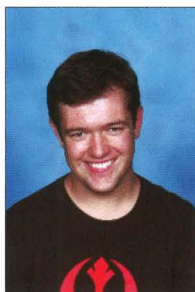
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Xin Wang
Amanda Warzecha
Kelsey Whitener



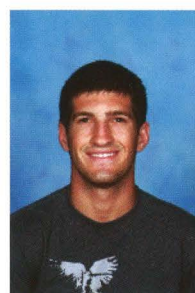
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Reatta Williams
Courtney Wilson
Carissa Woerner
Emily Wood



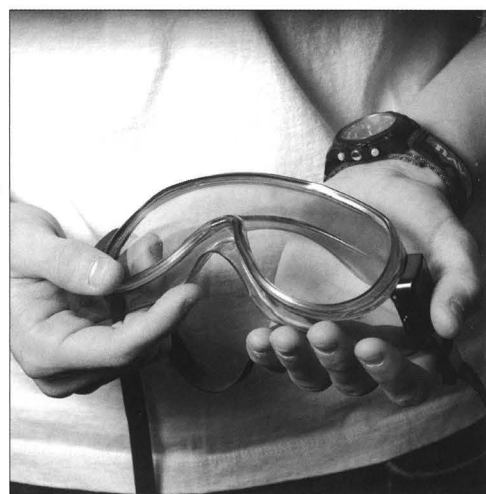
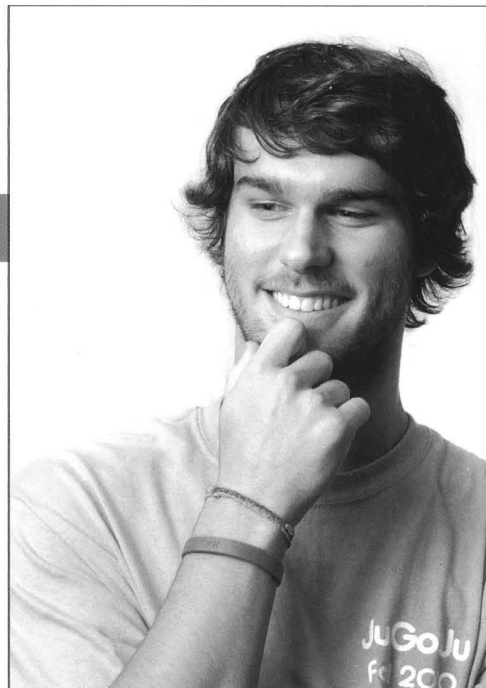
McKenna Wright
Adam Yarbrough
Qing Ye
David Young
Jeffrey Young



John Michael Young
Steicy Zamuria



Daniel Meeker



Summer jobs for

college students usually consisted of life guarding, serving as a camp counselor, or working at a local fast-food joint, but not for junior Daniel Meeker. Meeker, a biochemistry-molecular biology major, conducted cancer research as an intern at the University of Kansas Medical School during the summer of 2010.

"At first, I was looking for an internship because it is a good thing to have on a resume," Meeker said. "K.U. Med. is where I want to go to medical school. The professor who is in charge of the lab at K.U. Med. started talking to me one day while I was doing some work for them, and he found out I was interested and encouraged me to apply for their internship."

That conversation was the starting point for Meeker's 10-week-long internship with the cancer research lab at K.U. Medical School.

"I wanted to work on something that I felt had direct application instead of taking a bunch of data that means nothing to me," Meeker said.

The interns and doctors at the lab ran experiments in which they grew human cancer cells and injecting them into mice. Once the cancer formed a tumor, doctors cut out the tumor and tried to treat it.

"It was a really good experience," Meeker said. "I thought it was going to be so boring, but I ended up getting to work with people and actually experience what it would be like to be a doctor."

Meeker said the experience was not what many people imagine when they think of scientific research.

"I think most people have a view of research

scientists who never interact with other human beings and are constantly looking through microscopes, but that wasn't my experience at all," Meeker said. "There are a lot of great opportunities to collaborate with other people in the field of research."

Junior Carmen Lynn got to visit Meeker while he was working and see what his normal day was like.

"The K.U. Med. facilities were really nice and up-to-date," Lynn said. "It was awesome to see Daniel get to work like that, and besides it being a great learning experience, he felt like he was actually helping people and getting results that would eventually help people down the road."

It would come as no surprise that after Harding, Daniel hoped to get into K.U. Medical School and eventually become a doctor.

"I don't think I would like to do research by itself anymore," Meeker said. "I want to work with patients, so maybe a mixture of research and also helping patients. Surgery and oncology also really intrigue me."

For Meeker, the important thing was not just getting into medical school; it was his experience at the research lab that inspired him to get closer to patients.

"For me, the more direct contact I have with patients, the more I see the benefits of the things I am doing," Meeker said. "If I have the opportunity to see a patient get better instead of committing to doing research in a lab, I have more motivation to make a difference."

Caitlin Caldwell

“If I have the opportunity to see a patient get better instead of committing to doing research in a lab, I have more motivation to make a difference.”



John M

God provided all the steps
for me. I just had to lean
out over the edge of the
boat and take the step.

Like many other

students, sophomore John Moore sat in a comfortable chair in a quiet place, preparing for an upcoming test. However, Moore was not studying in the library like his classmates, he was sitting in a pilot's lounge hundreds of miles away from campus.

Episodes like this were just a day in the life of Moore, Harding's own student pilot. A business management major, Moore had been flying planes since he was 19 years old.

Moore worked at the Searcy Airport after his senior year of high school, where he met Ken McConaughay, the official pilot for Harding. McConaughay informed Moore of an open copilot position and began teaching him to fly a few weeks later.

"God provided all the steps for me," Moore said. "I just had to lean out over the edge of the boat and take the step."

Moore spent about five months training to get his license. He had to collect 40 hours of flying time and pass a written exam as well as a flying check-ride, which was similar to the driving portion of the test to get a driver's license.

After almost two years of flying, Moore had an incident most pilots prepare for but hope to never experience when the right engine of his plane failed

and he had to land the plane where he could receive a quick repair and be on his way. Despite what could have been a serious problem, Moore was not fazed.

"It sounds serious, but King Airs and many other multi-engine turbine aircraft fly surprisingly well on one engine," Moore said. "So our main concern was landing the airplane somewhere where it could be repaired fairly quickly. That's when Ken and I picked Syracuse International. Along with some help from Air Traffic Control, we were able to fly and land the airplane with no other issues."

Aside from the stresses of the job, it also came with a few perks, including getting to know President David Burks on a more personal level.

"Dr. Burks is very personable," Moore said. "He really cares a lot about Harding, but even more about the students. It's been wonderful to be able to see that first hand."

Moore balanced much more than the average student but was thankful for the flexibility and understanding of his professors. Though keeping up could be tricky, Moore continued to spread out his books in pilots' lounges across the country to study and do homework, making him one of the busiest students at Harding with one of the most unusual schedules.

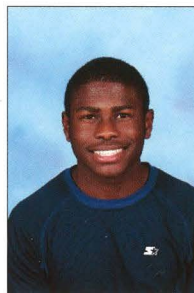
Heidi Tabor

Moore

sophomores

90 people

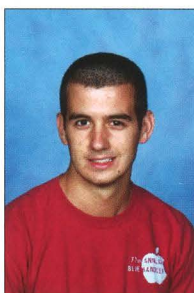
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Paul Aiyedun



Stephen Albers
Katie Allenbach
Jared Altman
Clay Alumbaugh
Lauren Ammerman



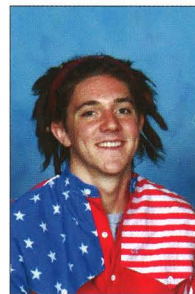
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Abigail Anklam
Brock Ashford
Robert Ballew



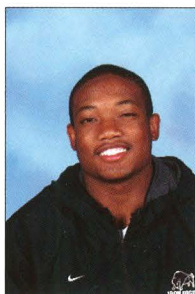
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Kyle Barker
Kristopher Barnes
Kevin Barnett
Michel Barrett



Katie Bay
Kristen Bay
Courtney Beall
David Bell
Kevin Betts



Kimberly Bitting
Jasper Bodiford
Dempsey Bonner
Katie Boren
Jenna Brightwell



Kristin Broadus
Jonathan Brooks
Lacey Brown
Silas Brown
John Brownlow





Michael Bruns
William Burns
Elizabeth Burson
Madison Campbell
Joseph Cannon



Amelia Carney
Jeanie Cavender
Ross Cervas
Cody Chambers
Anna Grace Chandler



Brittany Chase
Claire Childress
Eunhyae Choi
James Chong
Zachary Ciak



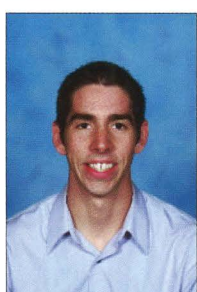
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Alma Cojom
Addison Collins
Robert Collins



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Carl Craig
Sierra Crook
Ryan Crowe

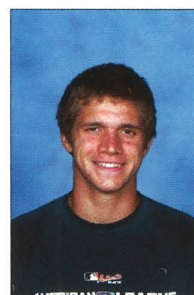
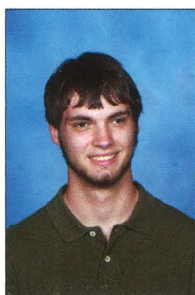
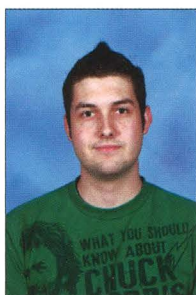


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Christopher Daugherty
Erin Daugherty
Deanna Davenport
Desiree De La Rosa

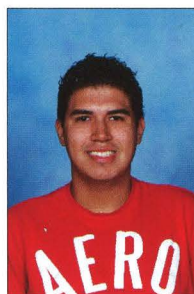


Zachery Decker
Lisa DeSpain
Meredith Dibrell
Russell Dillin
Amy Dorsey

Joshua Duggins
David Dunnagan
Brooke Durgin
Melissa Dykes
John Eddy



Molly Elliott
Jenny Empson
Emilio Espino
Anna Evans
Sara Fahey

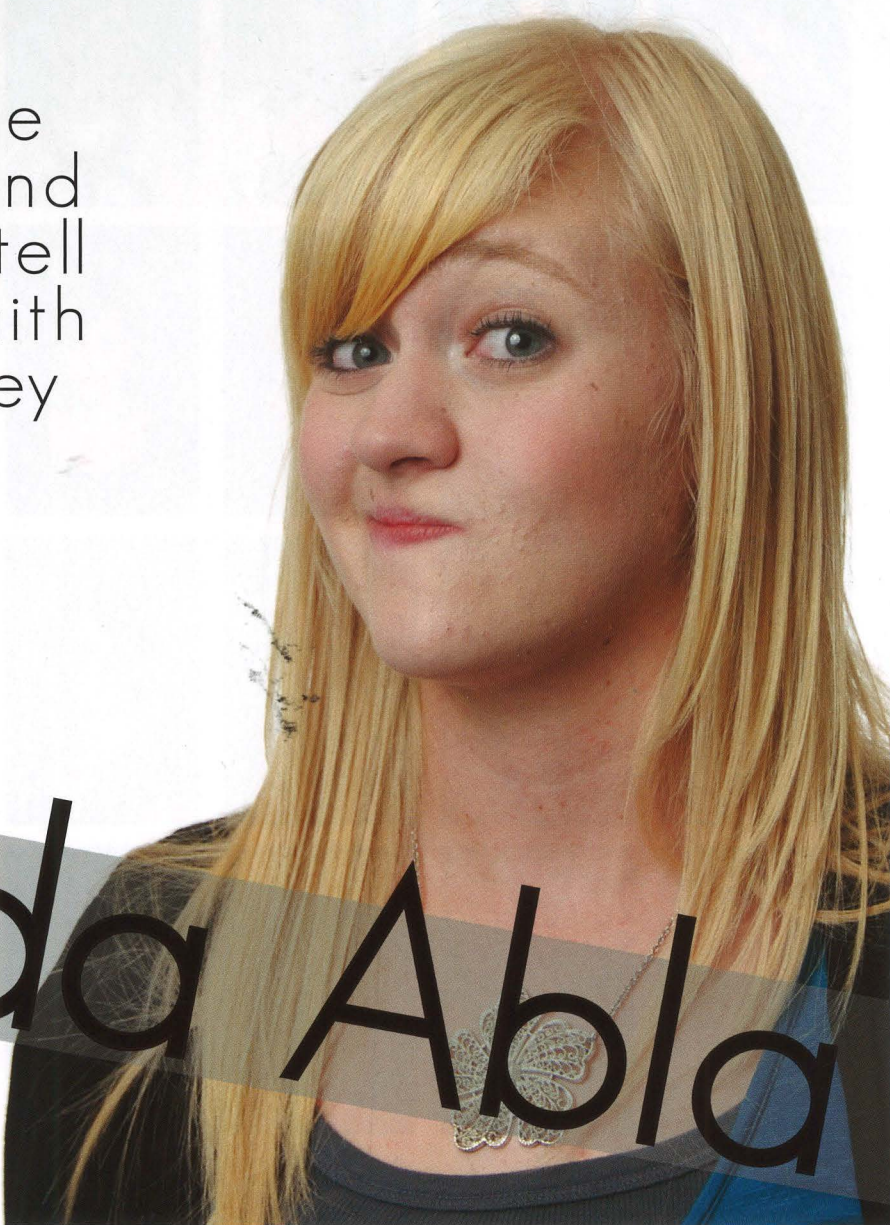


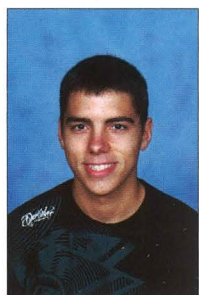
Caitlin Farrar
Annalyse Faulk
Alyssa Ferrell
Joshua Fields
Katherine Finn



“It’s really taught me
to be an example and
not just be able to tell
people about my faith
but to live it, so they
can see it.”

Amanda Abila





Bethany Fleming
Ryan Foster
Daniel Foucher
Jenna Fox
Carey Fraley



Tara Fuchs
Jessica Futrell
Alexandro Galbier
Kayleen Gann
Delaney Giles



Jocelynn Goff
Alannah Gonda
Kristopher Gordon
Heather Gould
Amy Graham

For sophomore Amanda Abl, helping kids was a priority and a talent. At Harding, Abl found the perfect outlet, a way to combine her gifts with her love of acting: Theatron.

Theatron was a Christian drama ministry organized under the Youth Corps charter whose members were selected by audition each fall. The goal of Theatron was to present the message of Jesus through drama and focus on reaching teenage students specifically, which is where Abl made herself right at home.

Abl was inspired to take the stage and join theater while in high school. It was during her first major production, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," that Abl was able to take part in the bonding that goes on among actors and members of a play. It was the first time she had gotten to know the cast members on a personal basis.

"We just bonded and became a family," Abl said. "And I think that in itself was something that piqued my interest."

Abl tried out and joined the "family" of Theatron her freshman year and loved the experiences of that close-knit group as well. With her acting talents, it made sense for Abl to feel right at home with the group, especially after the amount of time they spent together in practice, on the road and in shows. Some of her favorite memories were made while traveling, such as on Theatron's Florida tour in summer 2010. She also loved working with the children for whom she performed one-on-one in settings

like the camp they visited in Missouri during the fall 2009.

"I just love that [Theatron] kind of put together my love for goofing-off on stage and then just getting to know kids," Abl said.

Abl loved getting to know the kids' stories and speaking with them after shows, a process she described as "planting that seed."

"Where Amanda has always shone is in her interactions with the teens," junior Jacob Brown said. "That is what our ministry is really about, and she took to that so naturally."

Theatron certainly required individuals to step out of their comfort zones to perform, but it also required them to think about their faith. It helped them develop skills like teamwork, patience and time management in a creative way while utilizing the talents that God had given them.

For Abl, who majored in psychology with a minor in social work, this experience through Theatron was invaluable because it was with the age group that she planned to work with in the future. More importantly, perhaps, was the way Theatron helped shape her faith. Abl also loved the way Theatron brought individuals with different talents and majors together. According to Abl, this "common passion" uniting individuals was one of her favorite things about Harding, and she summed up her feelings in a few words.

"It's really taught me to be an example and not just be able to tell people about my faith but to live it, so they can see it," Abl said.

Gabrielle Pruitt

Bailee Graham
LeAndra Grant
Bryan Gray
Rachel Griffith
Caitlin Grymes



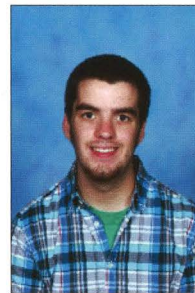
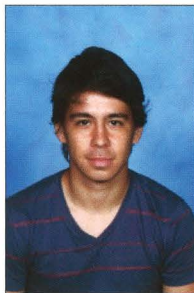
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Rafael Guillen
Breanna Gulledege
Erin Gurchiek



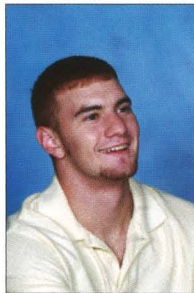
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Caleb Hall
Stacy Hall
Rebecca Hammond
Daniel Hardison



Helio Hashimoto
Melody Hastings
Joshua Hatfield
Patrick Hawkins
Jessica Heckmann



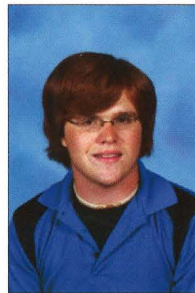
Clayton Hendrix
Colton Henley
Michelle Henry
Sheyli Hernandez
Brock Hinerman



Catherine Hines
Tara Holloway
Sarah Holup
Ann Horton
Amanda Hostetler



Kayla Howard
Nathan Howell
Allyson Hunter
Blake Hunter
Arianna Hurst

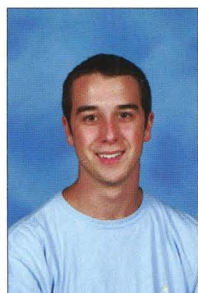




Holly Imes
Kendra Isenberg
Diogene Ishimwe
Sarabeth Ivey
Brenae Janes



Bradley Jenkins
Gretchen Jetton
Alyssa Jones
Elizabeth Jones
Morgan Jones



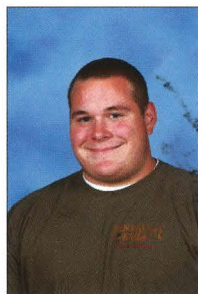
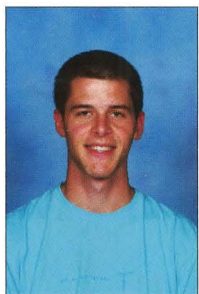
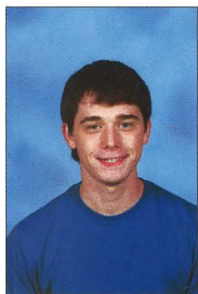
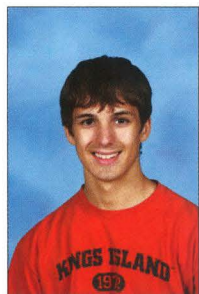
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Darren Kentner
Kirsten Ketchersid
Bong-joo Kim



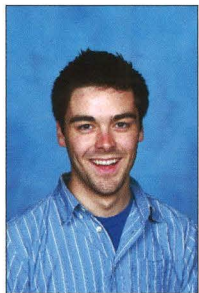
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James King
Michael King
Rachael King
Lauren Kinney



Britt Kinslow
Katherine Kirkpatrick
Amber Kuhn
Katelyn Lammons
Timothy Landuyt



Amanda Lane
James Lanier
Kaleb Lape
Andrew Larsen
Clayton Lemmons



Melissa Lester
Lindsey Lewis
Trey Lewis
Joshua Little
Tina Liu

Sophomores

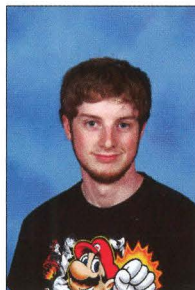
I don't like
to call myself
funny. That's
a jerk thing
to say.

Kendall Stafford

Erin Lodwick
Paige London
Daniella Lopez
David Lopez
Mariana Lopez



Sofia Lopez
Mark Lowery
Angelica Lozano
Jessica Maddox
Michelle Makool



This sophomore transfer

from Little Rock, Ark., might not have been interested in the same hobbies most students were into. While most students might have been studying, getting coffee at Midnight Oil or watching TV on a Tuesday night, Kendall Stafford was at a comedy club participating in a comedy competition. Petit Jean staff writer Caitlin Caldwell sat down with Stafford to get to know "the real Kendall."

C: So Kendall, how did you first get involved with comedy?

K: In my old school in Minnesota, we had an open mic night, and my friends encouraged me to do it because they thought I was funny, so I did. I'm really glad I did.

C: What are the competitions like?

K: Really kind of relaxed. I'm friends with a lot of the people who participate, so it's nice because it's just friendly competition.

C: We heard you have some interesting tattoos; please share.

K: I'm a big fan of Edgar Allen Poe, so my first tattoo was a raven with the words "never more" from his poem "The Raven." Most interesting is the dark mark on my arm like a death eater from *Harry Potter*. I have always admired the dark side of things and that is why I aspire to be a death eater in life.

C: We also heard you love Gossip Girl. Tell us why.

K: GG is just amazing. If you have ever looked into the eyes of Chuck Bass then you will fall in love with it too. He is like the devil, there is a little devil in all of us, and that devil wants to be with Chuck Bass.

C: Why did you transfer? Do you like it here at Harding?

K: I transferred for some family stuff. I'm really liking Harding so far. It's a lot of fun to meet new friends.

C: What do you like to do in your spare time?

K: I enjoy hanging out with my friends, writing new jokes.

C: Who do you look up to in the comedy world?

K: Jim Gaffigan and Jerry Seinfeld.

C: What is your most embarrassing moment?

K: One time, I was in Wal-Mart not too long ago, and somehow my pants fell down in the middle of the store. It was pretty embarrassing.

C: What's your dream girl like?

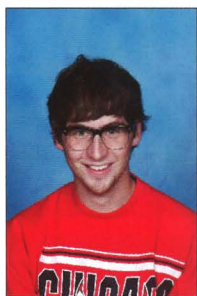
K: I haven't really thought about it a lot, except she looks exactly like Hermione in Harry Potter.

C: What does your dream job look like?

K: I really like this comedy stuff so it'd be really fun to get to travel around and tell jokes for a living. I've met a lot of people who do that and would love to do what they do.

C: Do you consider yourself to be funny?

K: I don't like to call myself funny, that's a jerk thing to say.
Caitlin Caldwell



Lisa Marchesseault
Slader Marshall
Callie Maxwell
Mitchum Maynard
Amber Mayo



Sean McCartney
Loryn McCaughan
Zachary McCleese
Matthew McEuen
Aaron McCaughy

Victoria McIntosh
Meagan McLain
Joseph McManus
Mary McNabb
Kaysi McNichols



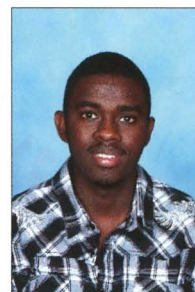
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Lauren Meeker
Kimberly Miller
Denis Miranda
Daniela Misas



Claire Moody
Danielle Morales
Amy Morris
Katie Morris
Stephen Morton



Taylor Mote
Casey Mott
Victor Moya
Honore Murenzi
Rebecca Musgrove



Melissa Nelson
Mark Nesslage
Chelsea Nester
Michelle Ngo-Wenang
Andrew Norwood



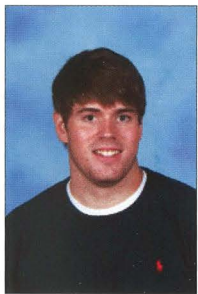
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Caity Oliver
Emily Owens
Laura Paden
Heather Parker



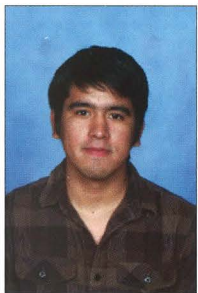
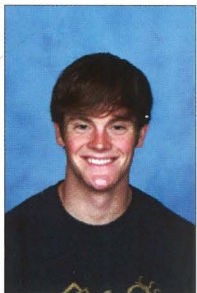
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Rachael Perez
Evann Perry
Phu Pham
Elizabeth Phillips



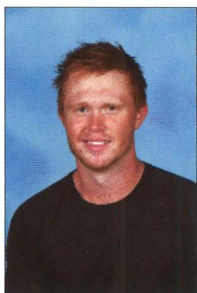
sophomores



Abby Picker
Larissa Pinczuk
Wade Porter
Lisette Prato
Mallory Pratt



Amanda Priddy
Preston Pugh
Edgardo Quevedo
Fabian Quiros
Shelby Rackley



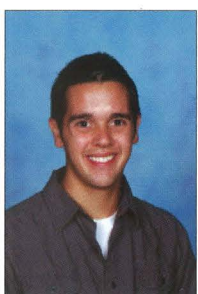
Courtney Ralston
Victoria Randolph
Amanda Reynolds
Dustin Richter
Ellen Robbins



Amy Roberts
Carter Robison
Ethan Robson
Zachary Roddenberry
Cody Rogers



Haley Rogers
Diana Rojas
Rhiannon Roper
Ashley Rosenbaum
Maggie Rothe

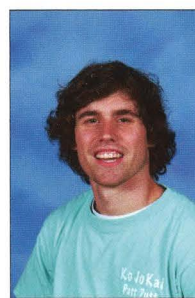


Ashli Roussel
Ashley Russell
Anthony Saegert
Jenna Sampson
Kinsey Savage



Courtney Schandavel
Lauren Scharf
Kristi Schoenberger
John Schol
Katherine Schreiner

Amanda Scott
Anna Scott
Tiffany Scott
Christopher Seifert
Erin Shaddock



Anna Shafer
Jillian Shamblin
Jasmine Shawver
Leila Shelburne
Molly Shoaf



Collett Skaggs
Bonnie Smith
Brittney Smith
Dara Smith
Darr Smith



Sophomore Amber Kuhn

first felt the tug on her heart when she took a trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. It was the first time she had ever seen people living in poor circumstances, and although she was familiar with the poorer areas of her own hometown, she could not believe what she saw.

"I remember having the urge to want to do something more," Kuhn said.

Though this was the first time Kuhn had experienced a specific calling towards inner-city ministry, she was able to see how the seeds of her passion had been planted much earlier. As a child, Kuhn lived in a home where people who were down on their luck were always welcome.

"My parents always taught me to love people without limits," Kuhn said. "When I was younger, my parents always offered our home as an open door. They were constantly giving of themselves."

When Kuhn came to Harding, her passion for inner-city ministry was only further explored through a spring break campaign in Orlando, Fla. She had not planned on going on a campaign, but when she saw the opportunity to do Vacation Bible School in an inner-city environment, she could not resist.

"Going on that trip really encouraged even more my yearning to be a part of people's lives in the inner-city," Kuhn said. "It really showed me that God's love knows no boundaries. His love doesn't know race, doesn't know social status, and doesn't know labels."

Kuhn also spent the summer before her sophomore year volunteering at a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. She learned a valuable lesson that summer about the homeless.

"Another thing that I love about that community of people is the hope and life that I see just waiting to break loose in their lives," Kuhn said. "I see brokenness, but I know that I serve a God who loves to restore."

Sophomore Morgan Jones worshipped with Kuhn at an inner-city church, where she saw how much Kuhn loved helping those in need.

"Amber has taught me the importance of selflessness," Jones said. "She lives her life in a way that reminds me that material things really are not everything in this world and that we are here for so much of a greater purpose."

Kuhn was working on her degree in family life education, which she believed would be very helpful for her ultimate goal of working in the inner-city environment. Though Kuhn felt a particular pull towards Detroit, Mich., she did not want to be too narrow-minded about what God had in store for her.

"The passion that I have is not just an interest, but something that God has given to me," Kuhn said. "The more I have been seeking Him, and the more He has been working and changing me, the more I see who He first created me to be. Being Jesus' hands and feet is not something that I want to wait to be when I complete my major, it's something I want to start being in the right here of my life."

Heidi Tabor



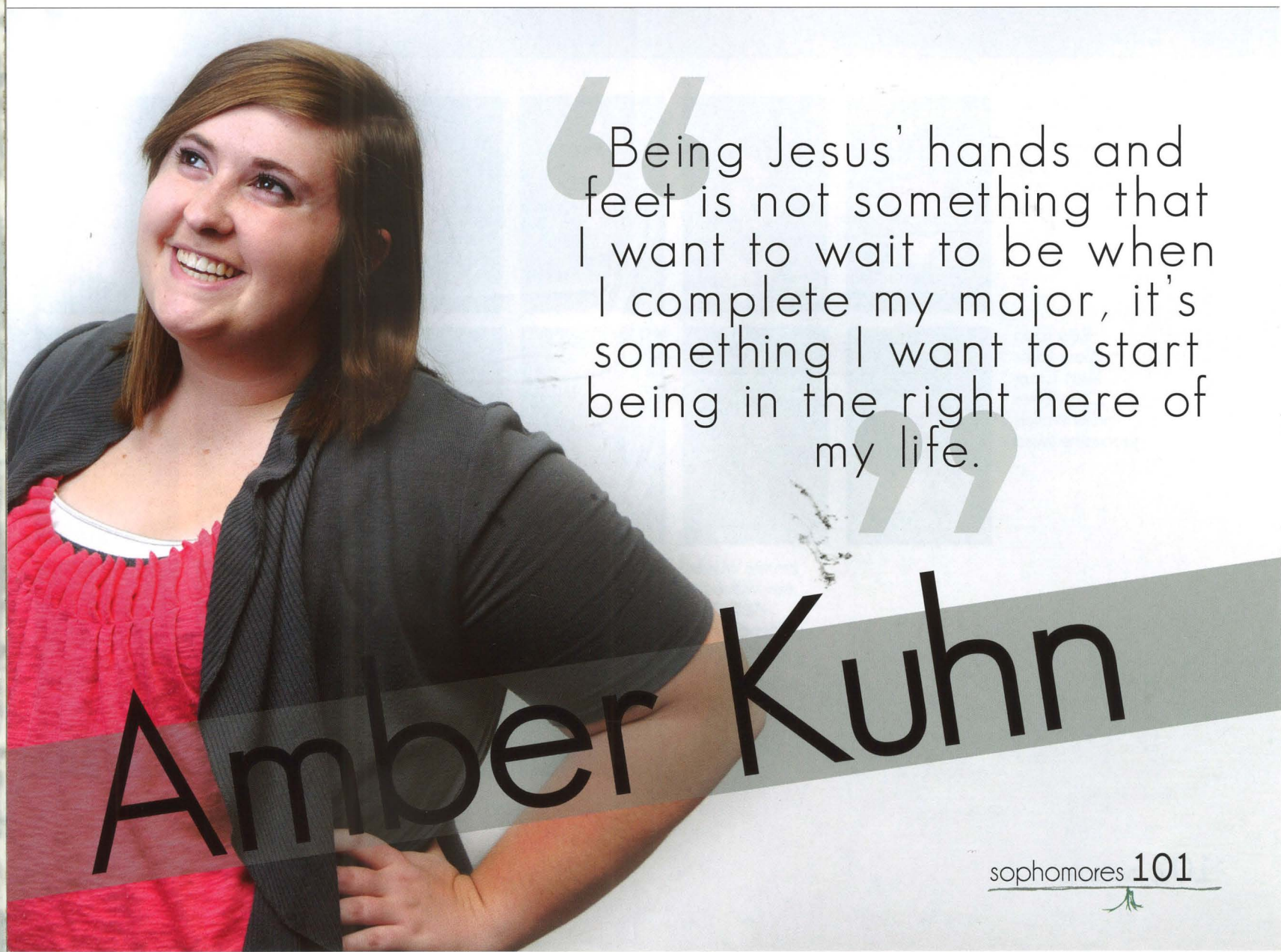
Reagan Smith
Kelsey Sparks
Stephanie Spradling
Allison St. Aubin
Justin Stanley



Lyndal Steiner
Ben Stevens
Courtney Stilwell
Eric Strandvold
Mary Elizabeth Strange



Anna Strock
Corey Stumne
Kaitlyn Stutz
Brant Swafford
Teresa Tanner



“Being Jesus’ hands and feet is not something that I want to wait to be when I complete my major, it’s something I want to start being in the right here of my life.”

Amber Kuhn

I absolutely love being a big brother.
It's really what defined my personality.

Growing up on various military bases with eight siblings, sophomore Ben Stevens did not live an ordinary childhood by any means.

Stevens' father was an officer in the U.S. Air Force, and because of this, Stevens had lived a life of traveling, living in California, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, England and Germany.

One of Stevens' most vivid memories from his childhood came from September 11, 2001. His family was living on the base in England when the tragedy struck. The base was immediately locked down, and he remembered being scared to death because neither his mom nor his dad were home. After many hours of waiting anxiously, Stevens was reunited with his parents, and since then Stevens said his family had grown much closer.

"After 9/11, a lot of security was imported to the base; there were more checks when going off and on the base, cars were searched and people were searched and arrested," Stevens said.

Stevens recalled one event in which the base was infiltrated. Since the base was a transmission hub, his father had been working satellites. Stevens said the infiltrators came in and tore down the satellites.

"The base went crazy; there was firing, there were people being shot and arrested all over," Stevens said.

Being the eldest of eight siblings, Stevens was often left to take care of his brothers and sisters while living on the various bases.

"I absolutely love being a big brother," Stevens said. "It's really what defined my personality."

Stevens was always given a lot of responsibility, especially when his two-year-old sister, Esther, was diagnosed with diabetes. Stevens was pulled out of school and taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital, where he took college level classes on how to care for someone with diabetes. From then on, he was responsible for her well-being, making sure she had her shots and everything she needed.

"That was just one of those situations where I had to grow up really fast," Stevens said.

Coming to Harding was definitely a transition for Stevens, as he learned to live on his own surrounded by friends instead of family. While he was a bit homesick his first semester, Stevens said he had warmed up to Harding and became involved not only on campus but also in the community.

"I help coach the Searcy High wrestling team — that was a big thing," Stevens said. "And I'm on campus a lot, so meeting people has been a big part of being at Harding. But also I call my mom every week, and I talk to my brothers all the time."

Stevens said that Harding had allowed him to learn more about himself and grow as a Christian. He had experienced so many things in his life, and he said it felt good to be in one place.

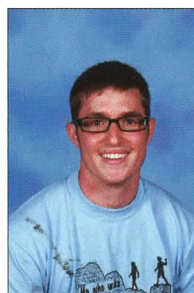
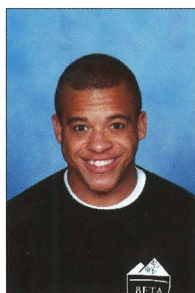
"I've moved around a lot and seen the world, but I probably need to calm down, set some roots and start a family," Stevens said.

Gina Cielo

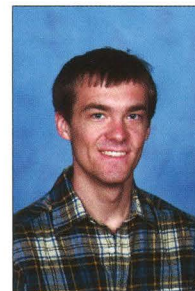
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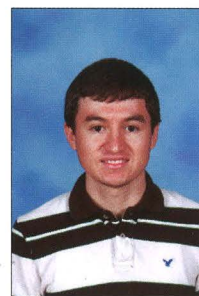
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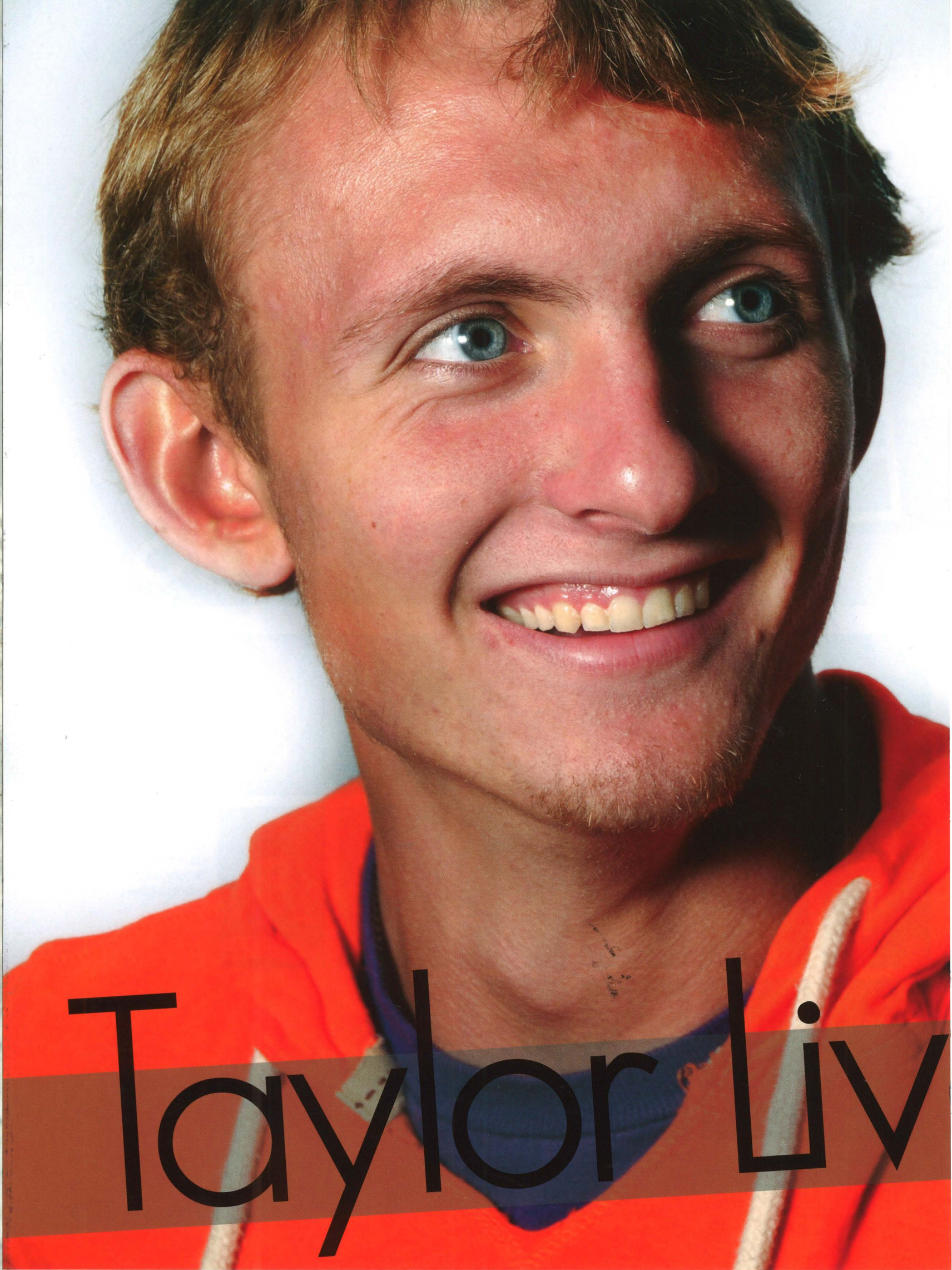
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Jessica White



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Meredith Whitman
Lori Wilkinson
Lauren Williams
Brittany Wilson
Wilfred Wolmers



Hye-jin Won
Victoria Wood
Kevin Wren
CarolAnne Wright



Taylor Liv

“Lively” would be an understatement for freshman cross-country runner Taylor Lively of Lake Dallas, Texas. Diagnosed at 17 years old with cystic fibrosis (C.F.), a disease from which only 30,000 Americans suffered, Lively defied the odds and the doctors with his extraordinary hobby.

Lively had been a runner for years, but he had no idea he was running for his life. He began running in the seventh grade when his mom, who was also a runner, encouraged him to try out for the track team. It was very painful for Lively, and by the end of his seventh-grade year he wanted to quit and try his luck with basketball. Lively and his mother made a deal: if he did not make the team, he would give running another go. As it turned out, basketball did not work out for him, and after a grueling second year on the track and cross-country teams, Lively said he was ready to throw in the towel again. However, his high school coach thought differently. He told Lively, “You don’t get the quitting option when you run like that.”

When Lively investigated the cause of his running pains, the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis came as a shock for him and his family. Because he had not been tested for the disease at birth, he had no idea this was the cause of his discomfort. Doctors told Lively that most C.F. patients could not survive without a lifetime of treatments and large amounts of medication. However, because Lively ran, his lungs were unusually strong, an asset that ultimately saved his life.

“For a while I wondered why I was running because I kept getting sick and it was very painful, but when doctors told me that I had C.F. and that running had saved my life, it all made sense,” Lively said. “I find a lot of encouragement from Jeremiah 29:11. It reminds me that God’s got a plan, and you may not know exactly what God’s will is but He’s there.”

After years of building strength and stamina, Lively embraced

his talent for running and went on to break four records at his high school and to win the Boomer-Einstein National Scholarship.

Because Lively was such a talented athlete, one might have wondered what led him to Harding over the many other schools recruiting him, but Lively credited his decision to the influence of Coach Steve Guymon. While other coaches sounded less than thrilled at the news of a track star with C.F., Guymon perked up. According to Lively, Guymon was only the second coach in his entire running career to say that he believed in him.

Lively’s mother, Charla, agreed that God had a purpose for him because Lively was doing things he should not have been able to do.

“He has a message for kids that it doesn’t matter what obstacle is in your path,” Charla said. “It’s not about winning every race; it’s about how you got there and how you handle yourself afterward, something Taylor does with a lot of grace.”

According to Charla, the coach of an opposing team at one of Lively’s last high school races told her that his team doubled in size from the year before after being inspired by Lively’s story. He was shaking up the running world. After Lively was featured on news programs in Dallas and on ESPN, Charla began receiving phone calls from emboldened parents all over the U.S. saying Lively’s story had restored their optimism and inspired newfound hope.

Lively hoped to continue to make a difference at Harding and on into the future. Although he was not sure where his path would take him, he had the goal of raising awareness for C.F. as a spokesperson. Lively was also considering a career as a track and cross-country coach.

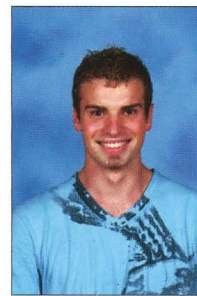
“A friend of mine once told me that if you can touch one person with your story, your life will be complete, so that’s my goal,” Lively said.

Monique Jacques

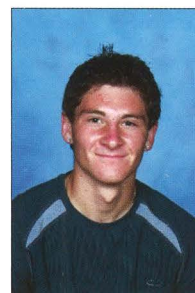
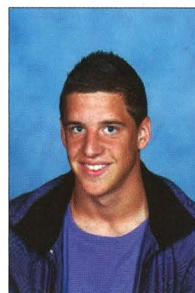
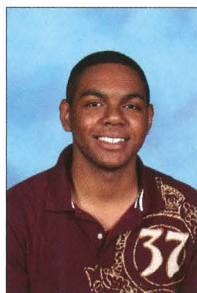
“A friend of mine once told me that if you can touch one person with your story, your life will be complete, so that’s my goal.”

Lively

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Abbie Adkison
Megan Afeld
Matthew Albright
Chelsea Allen



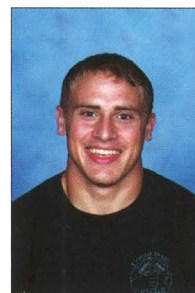
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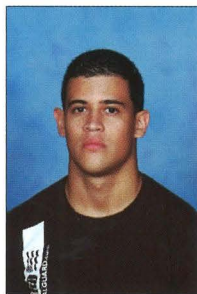
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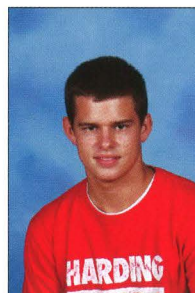
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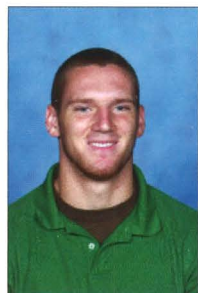
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John Bone



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Latifah Booker
Zachary Bowman
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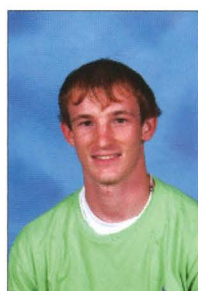
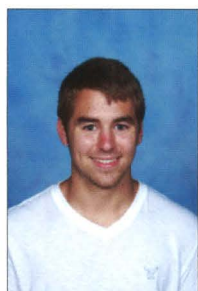
freshmen



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Hannah Brittain



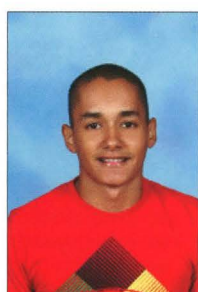
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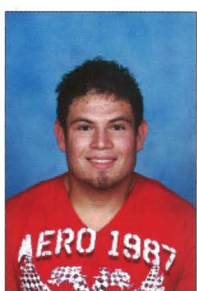
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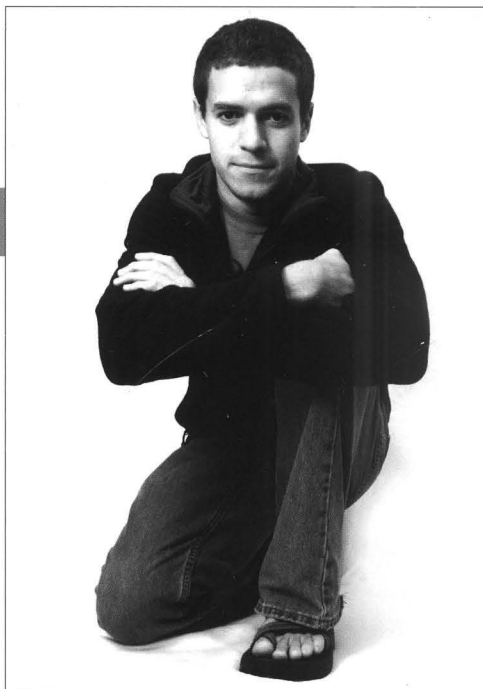
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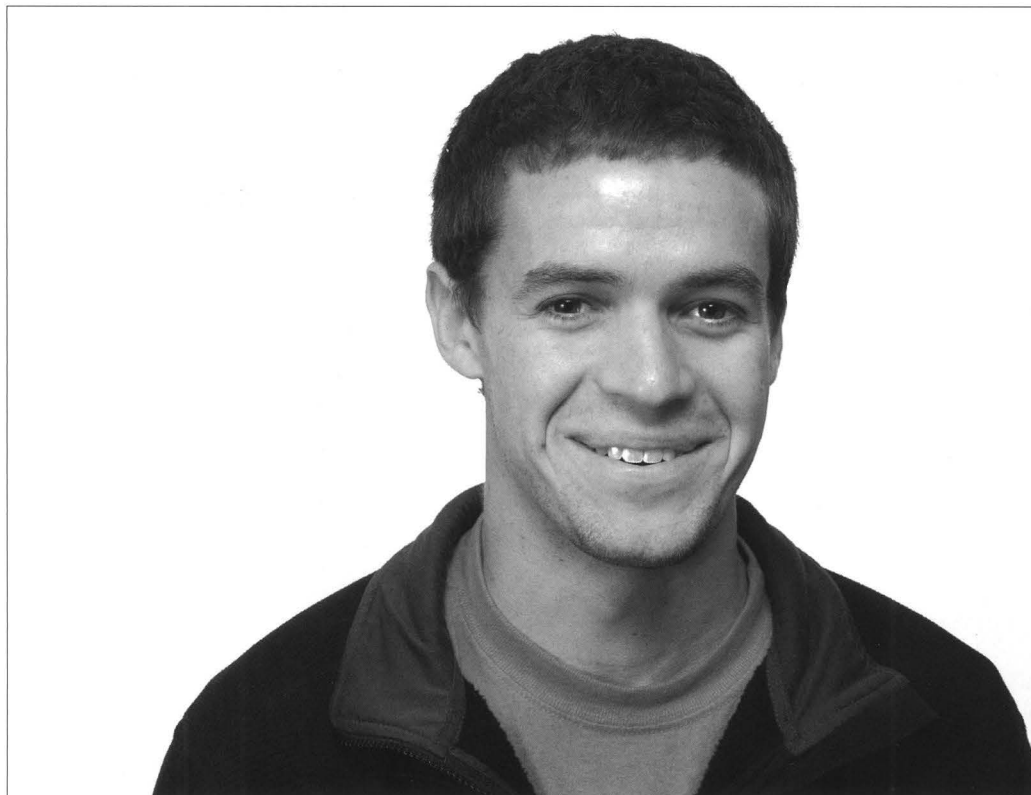
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Matthew Chaffin
Erin Chambers
Jose Chamorro



Rachel Chandler
Bensylton Claiborne
Brady Clark
Ethan Clay
Korey Clayton



Justin Sims



“I didn’t know at all what I was going to be doing down there. They gave me no plan. I just showed up.”

“Passionate, visionary, committed — these words were not generally used to describe a freshman, but they accurately fit Bible and Spanish major Justin Sims.

Sims spent four weeks during the summer of 2010 teaching English in a boys’ home in Honduras, an experience that deeply moved him and shed light on his purpose in life. After that experience, Sims was committed to sharing Christ with Hispanics through teaching English.

“The best thing about Honduras was being able to interact with kids from a completely different culture, in a completely different language, and still find that there are so many underlying values, underlying desires, and wishes and dreams that we all share,” Sims said. “To talk to kids there about their dreams to become doctors even though they have lived on the streets for 16 years, and to talk to them about their faith ... those were the best things.”

Sophomore Alannah Gonda said she was impressed at how Sims was pursuing what God had put before him.

“Justin is very involved with Spanish ministries because he has such a strong desire to bring redemption to broken stories,” Gonda said. “God has blessed him with an incredible ability to speak the language, and I am so encouraged by his passion for the culture.”

That talent was not always so obvious for Sims, however. The first time Sims went to a Hispanic church, he was the only non-Spanish speaker there, but he continued to attend and to study the language. Eventually, he became fluent, led singing and served as a mediator between the elders and

the Spanish church. Later, Sims went to Honduras for the first time on a week-long mission trip and felt compelled to return.

“I just had to buy a plane ticket and said, ‘Well, I have to go now,’” Sims said. “I didn’t know at all what I was going to be doing down there. They gave me no plan. I just showed up and said, ‘I am willing to work and I speak Spanish and English.’”

Among other things, the time spent in Honduras sharpened Sims’ Spanish skills.

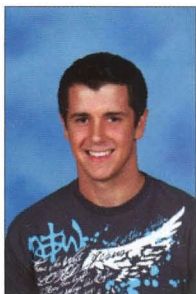
“These kids were from the street and they speak a lot of slang,” Sims said. “So I learned a lot of slang while hanging out with the guys all day. I spoke Spanish from 5:30 in the morning when the rooster next to my bed would wake me up until 10:30 at night — all the way through. It was a great way to learn.”

Sims decided to return to Latin America after he obtained his graduate degree in Bible. He envisioned a new missions paradigm, one which stressed community development and interconnectedness between cultures.

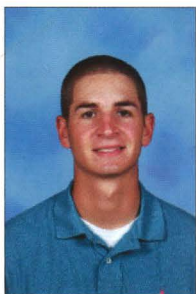
“I would love to build schools and establish churches, but to do it in a very connected way,” Sims said. “I want to build schools and use it to bring the community together to do missions. I want to come live with and partner with the community to build the school and employ an indigenous teacher, who would also teach them the Bible. We would use that as a gateway to preach the gospel.”

With his knowledge of both Bible and Spanish, Sims hoped to build bridges between both English and Spanish speakers for the rest of his life.

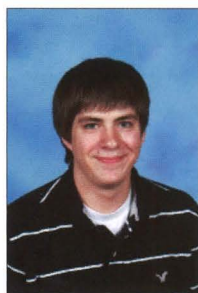
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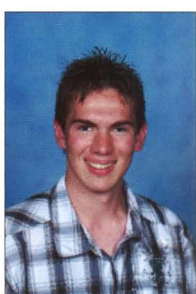
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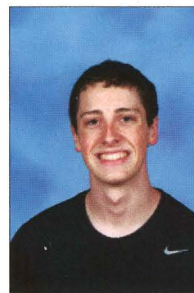


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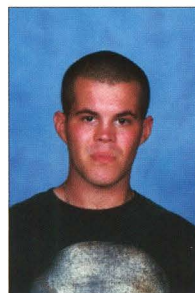
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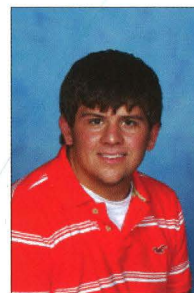
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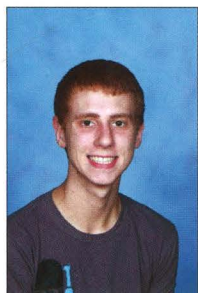


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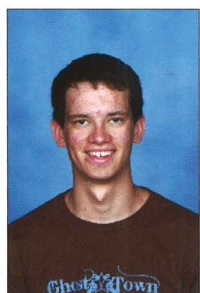
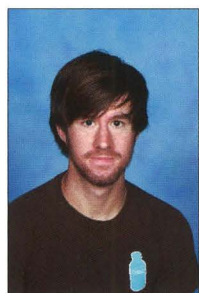




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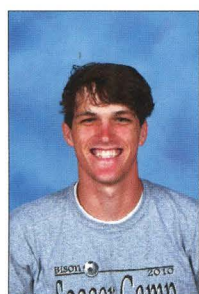
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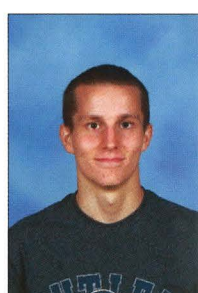
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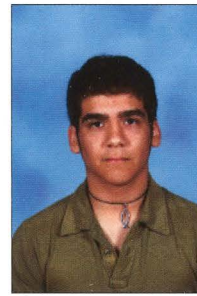
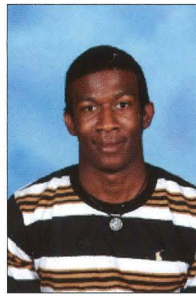
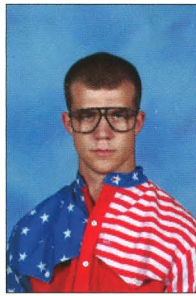
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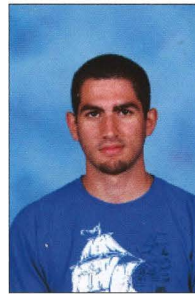
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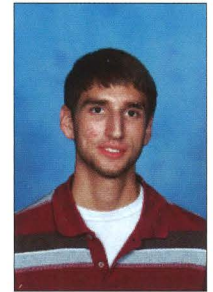
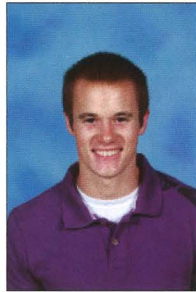
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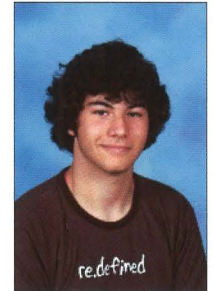
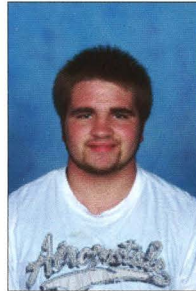
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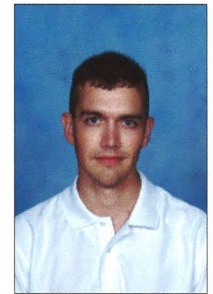
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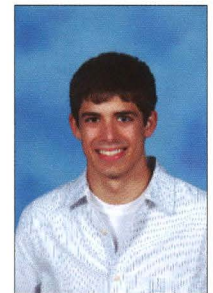
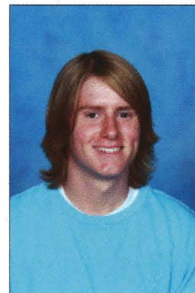
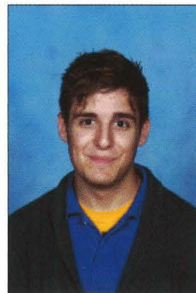
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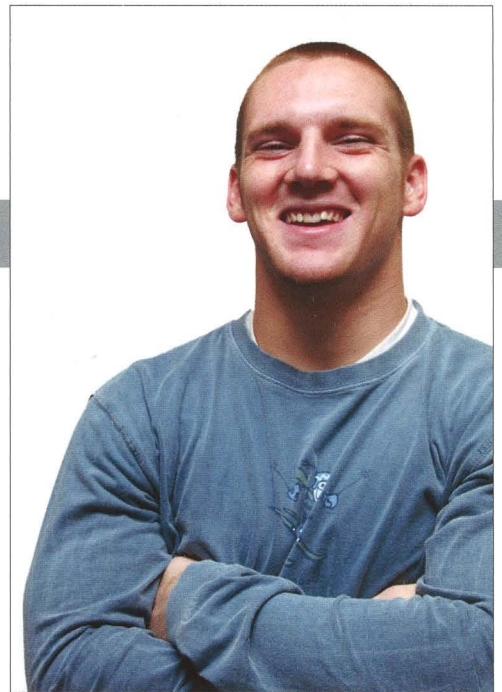
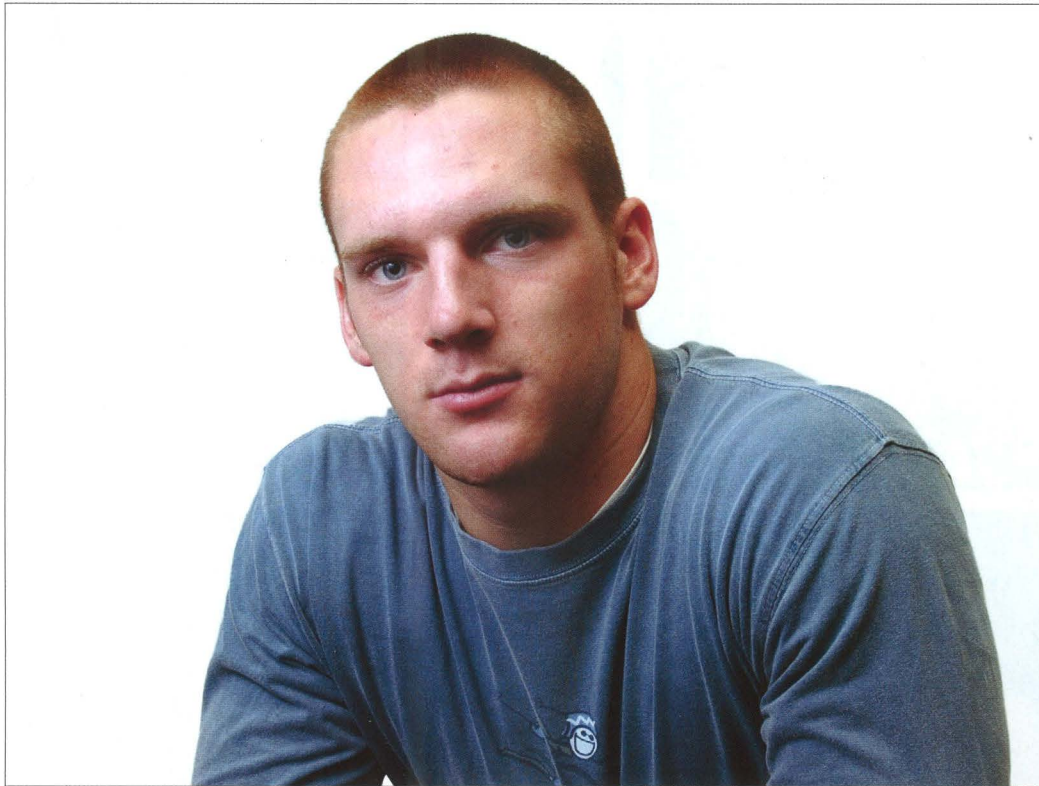
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Sarah Kirby
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Adam Knoske
Matthew Kreh



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Daniel Kulik
Micah Lacefield
Kelsey Lane
Travis Lanier



Andrew Brackins



When most people

heard the words "church family," they pictured well-dressed people coming together on Sunday mornings to sit in pews and listen to a minister preach from behind a podium. For freshman Andrew Brackins, however, "church family" came to mean something entirely different.

After moving to Prattville, Ala. his freshman year of high school, Brackins arrived just in time to play for Prattville Christian Academy's first year of football. The small private academy had a rough start, with only three wins in its first three years, and the future did not look much better. Then the school hired Grey Powell as head coach during Brackins' senior year.

"Coach Powell knew he was not coming into a successful program," Brackins said. "But his goal was not to turn us into a team that won a whole lot. His goal was for us to glorify God."

Powell was a Harding alumnus who had played for the Bisons. After graduating in 1996, he coached at several different schools, including Harding Academy.

"I completely reorganized everything on the team," Powell said. "I opened up the offense, changed the game play and even re-branded the team. I wanted the words 'Honor God' to be on everything from their helmets to their shirts to the walls in their weight room."

And Powell's new strategy seemed to work: in his first season as head coach, the team scored seven wins and went to the playoffs.

After the Prattville Panthers' strong season, the academy began accepting several transfer students from public schools and inner cities, many

of whom did not know Christ.

"Christ was foreign to most of these guys," Brackins said. "And they suddenly found themselves on a team where 'Honor God' was everywhere."

With all the new players came an opportunity to share Christ's love and to change lives. Their chance came on a hot July day during summer practice, when Powell felt led by the Holy Spirit to incorporate worship into their practice routine.

"I did not want us to simply honor God with our lips," Powell said. "I wanted to praise Him fully. So after the players finished weight-lifting, I loaded them all up on a bus and drove them to a nearby church where we sang praises together."

As soon as the service ended and they left the church, Powell turned to Brackins and asked if his pool was still open.

"It was like the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch," Brackins said. "We were not going to wait to baptize them. We were going to do it as soon as possible, which meant going to my pool."

The football team traveled to Brackins' house, where Brackins baptized six players and one coach in his own swimming pool.

"I remember after I baptized one guy, I told him 'Welcome to the family,'" Brackins said. "He did not say much, but I could tell he knew what I meant. He knew he had become a part of something great."

Despite his attachment to his new brothers in Christ, Brackins said he felt good about leaving the football team behind and starting a new chapter.

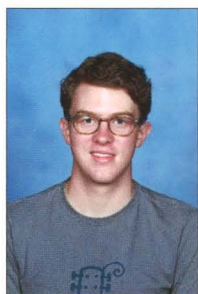
"God had my family move to Prattville for a purpose," Brackins said. "And now I feel that purpose has been finished and the team is in good hands."

John Mark Adkison

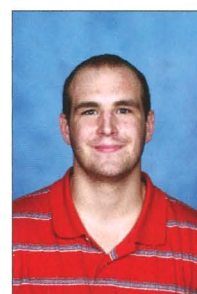
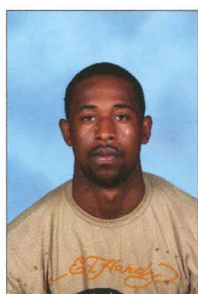
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freshmen

Alex Leach
Joshua Ledbetter
Mackenzie Lee
Megan Lehmann
Gregory Lewis



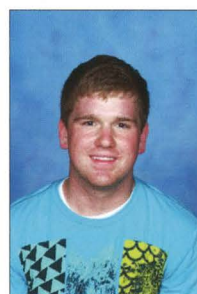
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Brian Maurer
Jared Mayes
Jordan McBride



Michael McCafferty
Ethan McCollum
Olivia McConaughay
Rebecca McCready
Lisa McDougal



Taylor McElrath
Erin McInnis
Caleb McMinn
Sisan McNeil
Candice Meadows

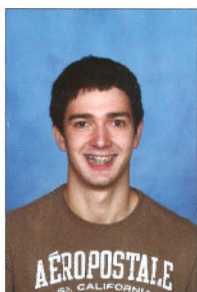
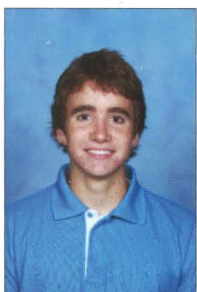


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Samantha Melton
Soffia Metzler
Max Michael
Abigail Miller





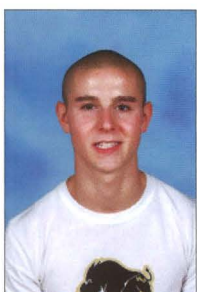
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Christopher Mix
Jaella Molina
Lauren Momont



Cara Moore
Elise Moore
Josiah Moore
Joshua Moran
Zachary Morgan



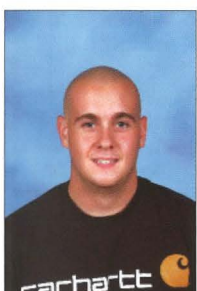
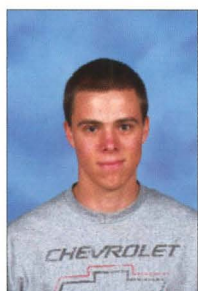
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Meghin Morris
Kelli Mott
Brittney Mullen
Blake Muncy



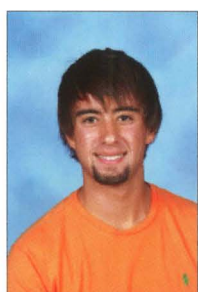
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Jared Neely
Alex Neff
Amanda Neil



Cody Neville
Elana Newell
Austin Niblett
Stephanie Nill
Lynette Niznik



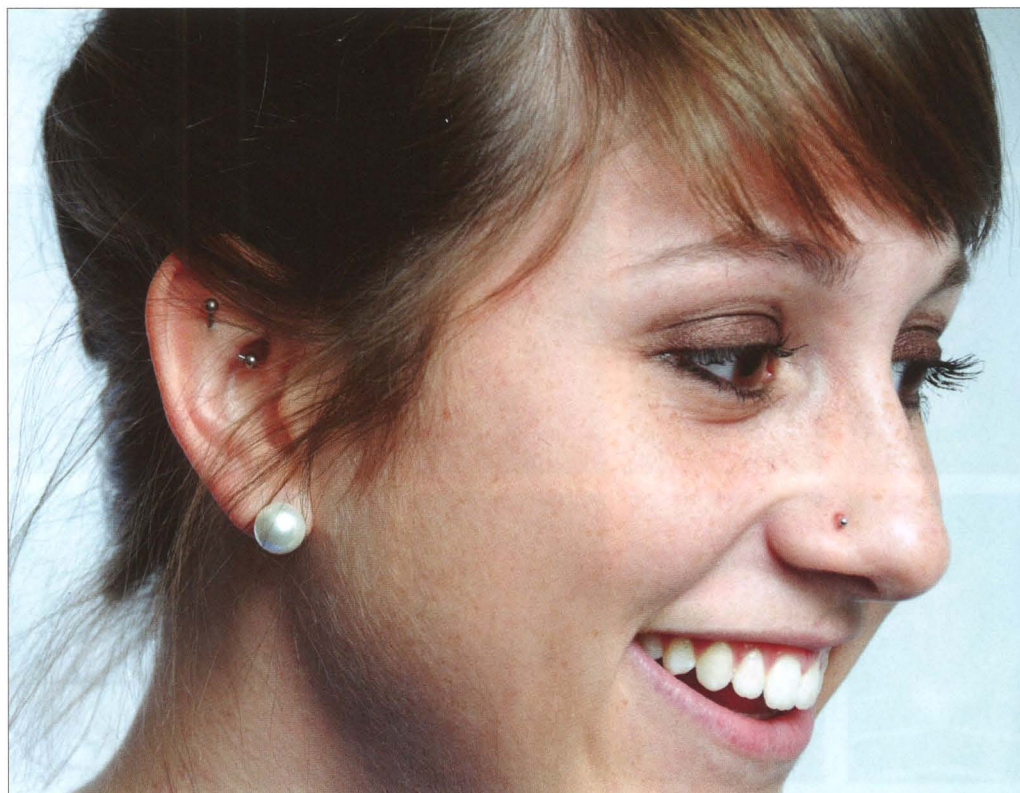
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Alexander Osborn
William Overhultz
Tana Overman
Emily Owens



Logan Page
Abigail Partlow
Maegan Paxton
Audrey Pennington
Anna Pentecost



Lauren Tesh



“It was extremely difficult to learn how to ride. I’m sure you can imagine that, but it’s exactly like it looks.”

Like most students,

freshman Lauren Tesh enjoyed activities such as hiking, doodling, mountain biking and traveling, among other things. But one of Lauren’s hobbies stood out from the rest: Lauren was a unicyclist.

Lauren began riding the unicycle in the second grade when several of her P.E. teachers wanted to get a team together to perform. A few students showed interest, and the learning process began.

“I wanted to learn because it looked like fun and it was rare for someone to ride it, so I thought it would be cool,” Lauren said.

Learning to ride the unicycle was a big challenge for Lauren. It took her months just to learn the basic riding motion. Extra tricks like riding backwards and idling took even longer.

“It was extremely difficult to learn how to ride,” Lauren said. “I’m sure you can imagine that, but it’s exactly like it looks.”

Lauren’s brother, junior Justin Tesh, affirmed the difficulty level of learning to ride, recalling his amazement at his sister’s rare talent.

“For Christmas, one year, she got a unicycle,” Justin said. “I didn’t believe she could ride it, but next thing I know, she’s literally riding circles around me, going backwards, and even doing jumping on it.”

Lauren had many opportunities to perform

her talent previous to attending Harding. Her elementary school team was able to perform at a halftime show for the Wake Forest basketball game in North Carolina, one of Lauren’s most memorable experiences.

As her skill with the unicycle grew, Lauren learned more and more difficult stunts, including riding a six-foot-tall “giraffe” cycle.

“It’s very impressive,” Justin said. “It’s actually pretty funny to see fifth graders ride on them.”

While riding the unicycle was not Lauren’s only talent, it was certainly one of the most fascinating. Many of her friends discovered this hidden talent belatedly due to the fact that Lauren did not bring her unicycle with her to Harding for the fall semester. However, with requests and performances in high demand, she made the decision to bring her cycles to campus for the spring — both the regular unicycle and the six-foot-tall one!

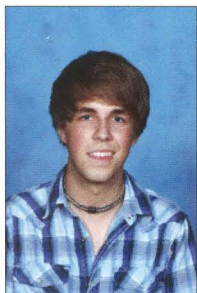
Many of Lauren’s friends and family, including her brother, attested to the fact that Lauren’s unicycle talents only reflected how unique and individual she was as a person.

“I love having Lauren on campus with me this semester,” Justin said. “She is a really fun person and a great unicyclist. I really couldn’t ask for a better sister.”

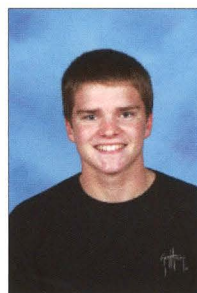
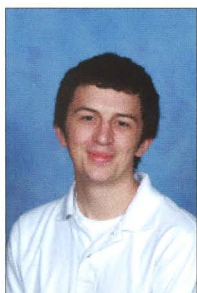
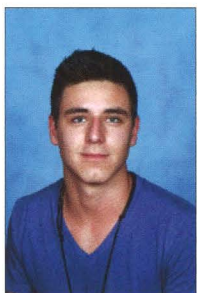
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Azel Peralta
Tiffany Perez
Thomas Perkins
Rachel Perry
Alexander Pettey



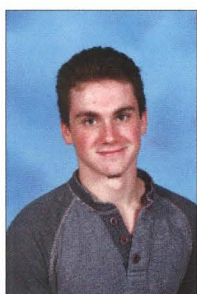
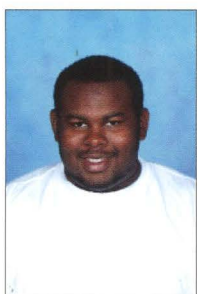
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Laneigh Pfalser
Logan Phillips
Tyler Phillips
Erin Pitts



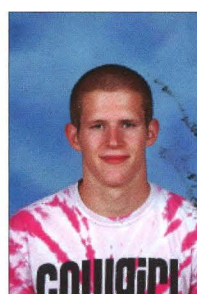
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Katie Poinsett
Christopher Pollreis
Jose Portillo
Paul Potier



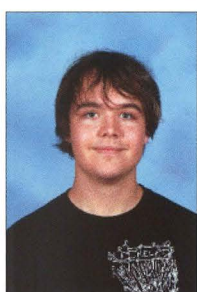
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Ashley Ragland
Alex Raiford
William Ralston
David Ramsey



Zebadee Rankin
Lindsey Raynor
Joel Reed
Marion Reed
Jessica Revelle



Jessica Reyes
Emily Rice
Holly Richards
Tyson Richardson
Cooper Riggs

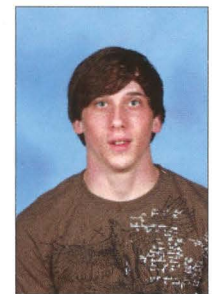


Christa Roberts
Hallie Roberts
Nathan Roberts
Mackenzie Robinson
Alexandra Robison

Hannah Robison
 Pamela Robison
 Emily Robson
 Maria Rodriguez
 Olivia Ross



Kayla Rosu
 Melanie Routt
 Meredith Rowlett
 Samuel Rowlett
 Roger Rowsey



Sabrina Ruiz
 Liberty Ruskamp
 Christopher Saffley
 Victoria Sams
 Esther Samuelson



Seb Sanders
 Thomas Sanford
 Kelsee Sawrie
 Alyssa Schulz
 Ahmad Scott



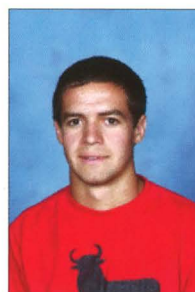
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 Mariah Scott
 Molly Scott
 Bailee Searcey
 Dabraham Searcy



Paige Seymour
 Kayla Sheehan
 Megan Sherk
 Taylor Sherrill
 Alyssa Short



Jordan Simpson
 Chelsea Sims
 Justin Sims
 Michael Sinclair-Whitely
 Morgan Sitzes





Jacob Sloan
DeAntionette Smallwood
Charles Smith
Devon Smith
Drew Smith



Kendra Smith
Spencer Smith
Jessica Snell
Ryli Snider
James Sniffin



Kristi Soto
Alexa South
Lidia Soza
Kodi Speers
Emily Spencer



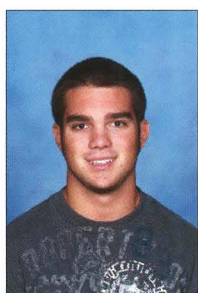
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Hope Stanger
Nathaniel Steritz
Sarah Stidman
Abby Stilwell



Dustyn Stokes
Hannah Stone
Talea Struck
Chelsey Sullivan
Katie Sullivan



Sean Surber
James Sutherland
Alison Sutherlin
Brooke Tabor
Jenna Taylor



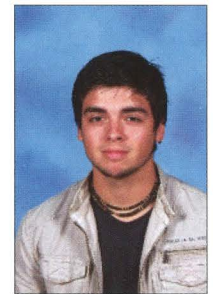
Kelsey Taylor
Rachel Tchen
Laura Teachworth
Alex Tebo
Caleb Templeton

freshmen

Derek Tharp
Kelsi Thomas
Megan Thomas
Miles Thompson
Rebecca Thompson



Samantha Thompson
Cynda Toillion
Lindsey Tolbert
Samantha Tosh
Jay Toyos



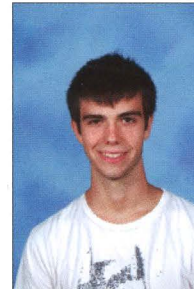
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Heather Vandiver



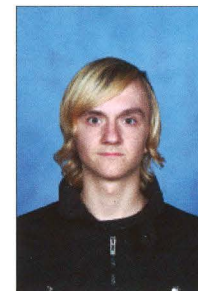
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Alicia Villafuerte
Anna Vinzant
Patrick Waites



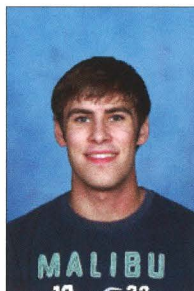
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Elizabeth Walker
Caleb Walle
Monica Wallers
Kenneth Waluube



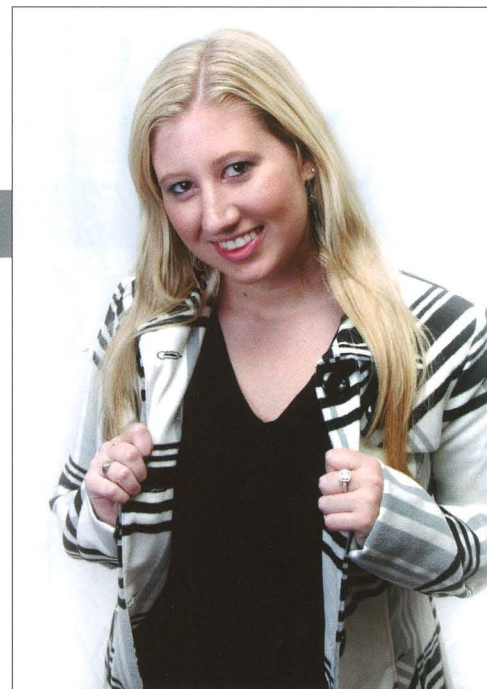
Shelby Ward
Adam Watson
Alex Watson
Dylan Watson
Joshua West



Alex Westjohn
Emily Weston
Morgan White
Taylor White
Jackson Whitley



Katie Fieth



Many people have

been blessed with talent, but few are willing to give that talent back to God. Freshman Katie Fieth was one of those rare people who was strong and courageous enough to use her gifts to bless others.

"I have always loved to sing," Fieth said.

Fieth had taken vocal lessons since the sixth grade and spent years singing around her house. She never considered music as a possible career until she was a junior in high school, however. That year, with the support of her parents and friends, Fieth was introduced to a producer and subsequently began recording and performing her music.

"When I first heard Katie sing, I felt that she was a diamond in the rough," Fieth's producer David Browning said. "She had this innocence to her voice, but she was dying to be powerful. I was also taken aback by her heart and passion for music in ministry."

People close to Fieth were also struck by the talent she possessed.

"The first time I heard [Katie] sing, we were sitting together in service singing worship songs," sophomore Chelsea Hunt said. "I could immediately tell her voice was particularly amazing."

Fieth recorded contemporary and pop rock Christian music with the help of her producer. While the song writing and recording processes were amazing experiences for her, she felt that the best part was the reaction she received from her fans.

"The most memorable moments from this experience so far come after someone hears [a song] and responds," Fieth said. "This encourages me to keep doing it. Their responses stay with me.

They are lives I can say I touched through Christ."

Fieth hoped to turn her gift of singing and music into a ministry for Christ.

"I currently sponsor a child through Compassion International, and I would love to become a Compassion artist one day to promote their work at my concerts," Fieth said.

Fieth's life matched up with the positivity of her lyrics.

"I love Katie's attitude," Browning said. "She is a very hard worker and she always wears a smile. I could be having a terrible day and she would walk in and light up the room. How could you stay upset? She has such an infectious personality."

Fieth said she planned on going on tour soon and had high hopes for her music career, and everyone who witnessed her passion also had faith that this would happen.

"Because Katie is kingdom-focused, she will do great," Browning said. "I believe in and love working with people who have that heart for people. You don't find them often. If Katie continues with her current mission-based mindset, finds her niche market and continues to put out great songs, she will have a lasting career and will change lives eternally."

Fieth also had high hopes for her singing career.

"I hope that people will hear my music and be impacted as much as I have been by it already to turn their lives over to God," Fieth said. "Everything has fallen into place in two years and so many doors have been opened, which keep on reassuring me I am called to serve Christ through my music. This is where God has led me."

Mackenzie Lee

"I hope that people will hear my music and be impacted as much as I have been to turn their lives over to God."

Katie Long

“After I had Chay, my whole life pretty much turned around. It was nothing really but a blessing.”

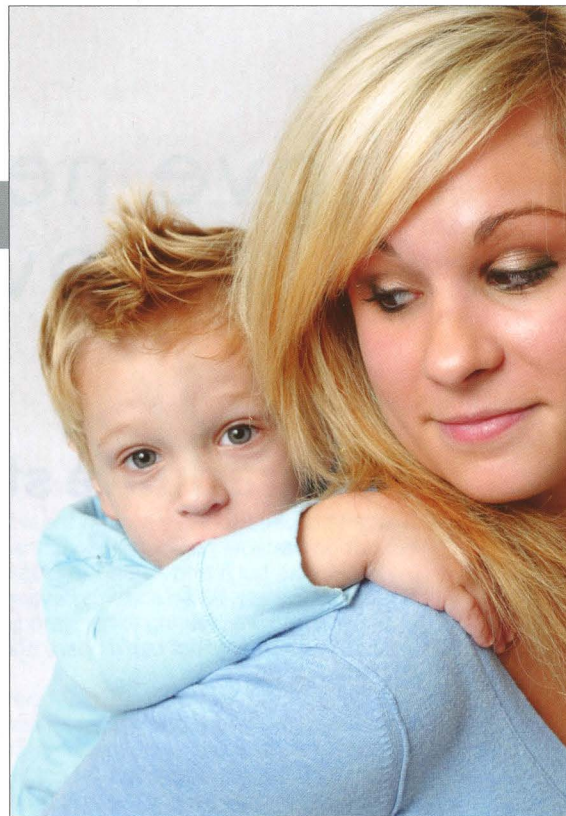


Jerrica Williams
Rebecca Williams
Ann Wilmsen
Jillian Wilson
Victoria Wisely
Lisa Wolgamott



Rachael Wood
Jessica Word
Megan Young
Teresa Zarr
Xiahua Zheng
Desiree Zulim





While most students were participating in club sports or hanging out in their dorm rooms, freshman Katie Long was putting her three-year-old son Chay down to bed.

Long became pregnant at age 15, and since the birth of her son, Chay Long, she became a different person. She learned to live without regret and knew that everything happened for a reason.

"After I had Chay, my whole life pretty much turned around," Long said. "It was nothing really but a blessing."

Instead of questioning God, Long understood God's plan for her better than ever.

While being young was a struggle as she began to raise Chay, she embraced the situation and continued with her rigorous day-to-day schedule. In high school, Long took AP classes, was yearbook editor and worked a part-time job.

"My motivation was mainly Chay," Long said. "I wanted to do better so I could provide for him."

According to Long, her mother and close friends were also a tremendous help. She knew that with her willpower and support system, she could live her life as normally as possible.

As Long searched for a college to attend, she remembered coming to Uplift as a child. When she thought about the good times she had had at

Uplift and how much she had enjoyed the people, she knew it was God's plan for her to come to Harding.

Long was the first to admit that her life was very different from the average Harding college student. Her weeknights and weekends revolve around Chay, and she could only start her homework once he had gone to bed.

"You have to time manage everything double what a normal college does," Long said.

Even with her busy schedule, Long decided to go through induction week in order to join social club Zeta Rho. With the help of her mother, Long was able to participate in all of the events.

"[Katie] is just really good at managing her time while making time for Chay as well as making time for her social life," junior Brigitte Roberts said.

Long's future plans included attending a two-year program where she could become an occupational therapist assistant. She hoped after those two years, she could begin working and eventually buy a house, where she could support Chay on her own.

"Katie has a lot on her plate, but she's a great mom and student," freshman Whitney Maharry said. "She always stays so positive and cheerful even while juggling potty training and school work."

Gina Cielo

I have never experienced
love like this.

For graduate student

Snezana Lepki, a journey around the world pursuing her education became her journey to Christ.

Lepki was born and raised in Bosnia, a country in Southeast Europe. When she was 23 years old, she left the country due to war, fleeing to her grandparents' house in Poland. It was there that Lepki heard about a three-week Christian camp.

The idea of attending a Christian camp sounded ludicrous to Lepki, who grew up an atheist. However, when she heard Americans were teaching English there, she became interested. At the camp, Lepki witnessed people sharing the love of God for the first time and her life was changed forever.

"I have never encountered love like this," Lepki said.

Poland proved to be the first of many countries Lepki would travel to in the process of teaching English and learning about Christianity. Because of the lack of opportunities and declining economy in Poland, Lepki decided to move to Edmonton, Canada. In order to get to Canada, she was forced to spend five months in a refugee camp in Austria before obtaining her visa.

"Through that experience, God worked in my life to open my eyes to his goodness and love," Lepki said. "He sent angels to carry me out."

In Edmonton, Lepki found a Church of Christ and immediately became involved. She was baptized and claimed, through reading the Bible, she "discovered a jewel."

Lepki then attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton and obtained a Bachelor of Science and Physical Therapy degree in 1999. With her degree, she quickly found a job at a nursing home, where she tried to physically and spiritually serve and encourage the patients. Soon after, she felt called to do mission work in Lithuania, where she

taught ladies' Bible classes and helped kids at a Christian camp similar to the one she had attended.

When Lepki returned to Edmonton from Lithuania, she met Harding's former lectureship director, Dr. Howard Norton. It had been Lepki's personal desire since her baptism to gain more knowledge about the Bible, and she expressed this goal to Norton. He strongly encouraged her to come to Harding, and after another year of traveling, Lepki did just that.

After studying at Harding's School of Biblical Teaching for only a year, Lepki decided she wanted to go to China and teach English. In China, she taught 570 students at a nursing university for one year, conducting home Bible studies and ladies' classes once again. While there, Lepki came down with bronchitis six or seven times, making it very difficult to continue teaching.

"I walked with the Lord during this time," Lepki said. "It was a faith-growing experience."

Through her experience in China, Lepki realized she still had so far to go before she could be satisfied with her faith. She returned to Harding the following year and graduated with a Bachelor of Ministry in the summer of 2010. She then entered the Master's of Science and Education program, simultaneously teaching English as a second language to Chinese students. Lepki planned to graduate in December 2010, and her future plans were still up in the air, even though she had thrown around ideas of traveling to Cambodia and working in a Bible English School there.

"God only knows," Lepki said. "I am praying to the Lord to guide me."

No matter where she journeyed in the future, Lepki was sure of one thing: God would be with her every step of the way.

Gina Cielo

Snezana



а Lepoki.

Natalie Oliver

Charis Bragg
Siyun Chen
Alyssa Davidson
Tessa Deaton
Cari Field
Snezana Lepki



I do not remember a time in my life when I was not fascinated by other countries and their cultures and languages.

To say the least,

graduate student Natalie Oliver's family was extended. With the help of her father, grandfather and great-uncle, who all worked in the College of Business, Oliver traveled all over the world to get to know the rest of the family: her brothers and sisters in Christ.

As a graduate student completing her MBA, Oliver also worked in the College of Business as deputy director for Harding Character Initiative (HCI).

"We facilitate business seminars in Eastern Europe and Central America on the importance of character and ethics in business and how to start and run a small business," Oliver said.

Oliver spent four weeks of her past summer in Central America with the HCI.

"Part of the time I was coordinating HCI's summer seminar at Baxter Institute in Tegucigalpa, Honduras," Oliver said. "The other part was for pleasure, visiting many of the wonderful friends I have made through the Walton Scholar program and meeting their families."

Through her passion for international relations, Oliver had met many people. Junior Carlos Morales said he admired Oliver for her friendliness with other cultures.

"She has been really helpful, always receiving the students when they come to Hebert's office with a big smile," Morales said. "I feel really comfortable with her because I feel that she is almost like us, almost like a Central American. I can trust in her without problems."

Oliver had always been intrigued with learning about other cultures.

"I do not remember a time in my life when I was not fascinated by other countries and their cultures and languages," Oliver said. "God made us all so unique and diverse, and I love learning about the similarities and differences between people."

As a graduate student, Oliver had plans to continue working with her father and grandfather and also returning to Central America. She planned to return to Central America to coordinate and facilitate campaigns in Honduras and Panama, as well as to visit Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Until then, Natalie would enjoy being surrounded by both family and diverse friends.

"When God is ready to move me on, I'll go, but until then I'll continue enjoying the Harding experience and the blessings God has given me here," Oliver said.

Caitlin Caldwell



Jian Li
Haifeng Liang
Allison Parker
Ellie Poe
Lorumy Reed
Sarah Roy
Lyndi Wolhuter

“After that I was just mentally preparing myself for how bad the landing was going to hurt.”

While flying planes,

racing cars, hunting, deep-sea fishing, waterskiing and snowboarding may have just been dreams to many students, these extreme sports were part of everyday life for sophomore Christian Baughn.

Growing up in Atlanta, Ga., Baughn became interested in many sports and hobbies as a young child. Since the age of 6, Baughn spent his summers at the lake learning to water-ski, slalom ski and wakeboard. At an even earlier age, Baughn could be found snow skiing and boarding on the slopes in Colorado, Canada and Utah.

“I have always loved to ski ever since I was young,” Baughn said. “There is just something about carving up some fresh powder or making the perfect cut across the wake that keeps me coming back for more.”

When he was in high school, Baughn fell off a 40-foot cliff while snow skiing in Whistler, Canada. However, after 45 minutes of struggling, he finally made his way out of the perilous situation.

“When I fell off the cliff, the first thing that went through my mind was ‘I hope I’m going to clear those rocks,’” Baughn said. “After that I was just mentally preparing myself for how bad the landing was going to hurt.”

Although the extreme sports Baughn did often came with risks, sophomore Gabrielle Rowden qualified that Baughn always took precautions.

“Although most of the stuff he does is dangerous, I trust him, and I know he’ll be careful,” Rowden said. “He is very brave.”

In every way the outdoorsy type, Baughn also made hunting and fishing a large part of his life, and more than anything else, deep-sea fishing and bass fishing were his greatest passions.

While deep-sea fishing a couple of years ago, Baughn was pleasantly surprised when he caught his first shark.

“I was pretty excited to catch a shark, even though it was not very big,” Baughn said. “I had seen other people catch a shark, but it was a special moment when I landed my first one.”

Being the “man of many trades,” Baughn’s hobbies did not end there. After converting a street car to a track car, Baughn began autocross racing a couple years ago.

“What I really enjoy about autocross racing is the opportunity to improve my driving skills and to see those improvements on the timing sheet,” Baughn said.

Fascinated with anything with an engine, Baughn obtained his private pilot’s license a year ago. He had always loved planes, going to the airport and flying around the world.

“Ever since I was a little boy, I have pictured myself in the captain’s seat of an airplane,” Baughn said. “When I climb into the cockpit I feel at home.”

While Baughn worked on attaining an international business degree, his real hope was to someday be a pilot. With so many natural talents, it was clear that Baughn had many different roads to success available to him, and Rowden agreed.

“Christian is a ‘man’ in the fullest sense of the word and the sweetest, most thoughtful person I have ever met,” Rowden said. “I think the variety of his hobbies makes him interesting. There is definitely never a dull moment.”

As for his own opinion, Baughn said he was open to whatever the future held.

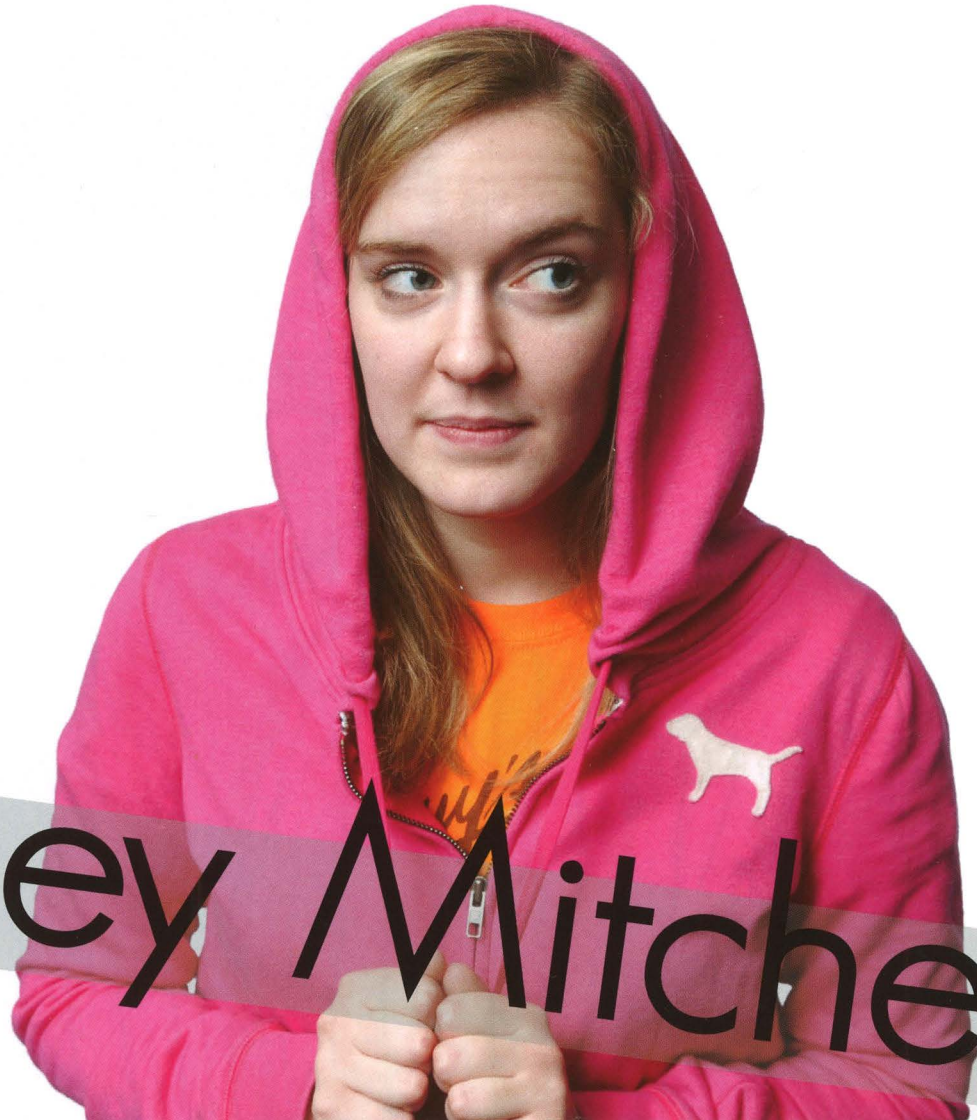
“I hope to either become a commercial pilot or to work my way into the corporate world,” Baughn said. “I’ll just have to see where God leads me when the time comes.”

Gina Cielo

Christian



Baughn



Chaney Mitchell

Richard Allen
Anna Ambrose
Lyndsey Ammons
Hannah Beall
Michelle Cascio



Emilie Chambers
Sun Kyo Chung
Chanelle Conner
Caleigh Cronan
Angela DeCamp



overseas

“My dream job would be making money doing what I love to do – photography.”

Photography and the

ability to capture emotions in time became junior Chaney Mitchell's passion during high school, and since then, her camera has always been at her side.

"I got started in photography because I have always seen things differently than other people," Mitchell said.

After high school graduation, Mitchell was presented with the opportunity to work alongside a wedding photographer in Midland, Tex. She happily accepted and since then had shot between 20-30 weddings. Mitchell said she liked weddings because there were so many opportunities to take candid shots, and there was always an unlimited amount of small details.

"I enjoy telling and showing these couples their story," Mitchell said.

After shooting numerous weddings, Mitchell realized she could see a future in the profession. She chose to attend the Art Institute of Austin, where she hoped she could develop her passion for photography into a career. While she did learn a lot there, Mitchell said she just did not feel like she fit in. Being a longtime Harding advocate, she transferred to Harding in the fall of 2010.

"At my old school, nobody would talk to each other in class and there was absolutely no campus life," Mitchell said. "When I got to Harding, it was unbelievable how many people came up to

me and introduced themselves like they really cared about me."

Mitchell decided to major in print journalism at Harding with hopes of using her degree to further her photography career.

Junior Clare Brown said it was Mitchell's keen eye for details that made her photography really stand out.

"Chaney is really good at making a point to bring her camera along even when we're just with friends hanging out," Brown said. "I think that's really cool because it shows that she captures just every day moments in her photography."

Mitchell's suitemate, junior Bethany Johnson, expressed how glad she was that Mitchell chose Harding for her education, allowing them to become close friends.

"I had met Chaney once or twice before she came to Harding but didn't really know her that well," Johnson said. "She moved into our suite at the beginning of the semester, and it seems like she has been here since freshman year."

Mitchell's future plans included obtaining a master's in photography and doing editorial photography for a magazine or newspaper. From photographing friends' weddings at Harding to seeing her photos on the covers of acclaimed magazines, Mitchell had big goals and a big passion for capturing the emotions of life with a single click of the camera.

"My dream job would be making money doing what I love to do – photography," Mitchell said.

Gina Cielo

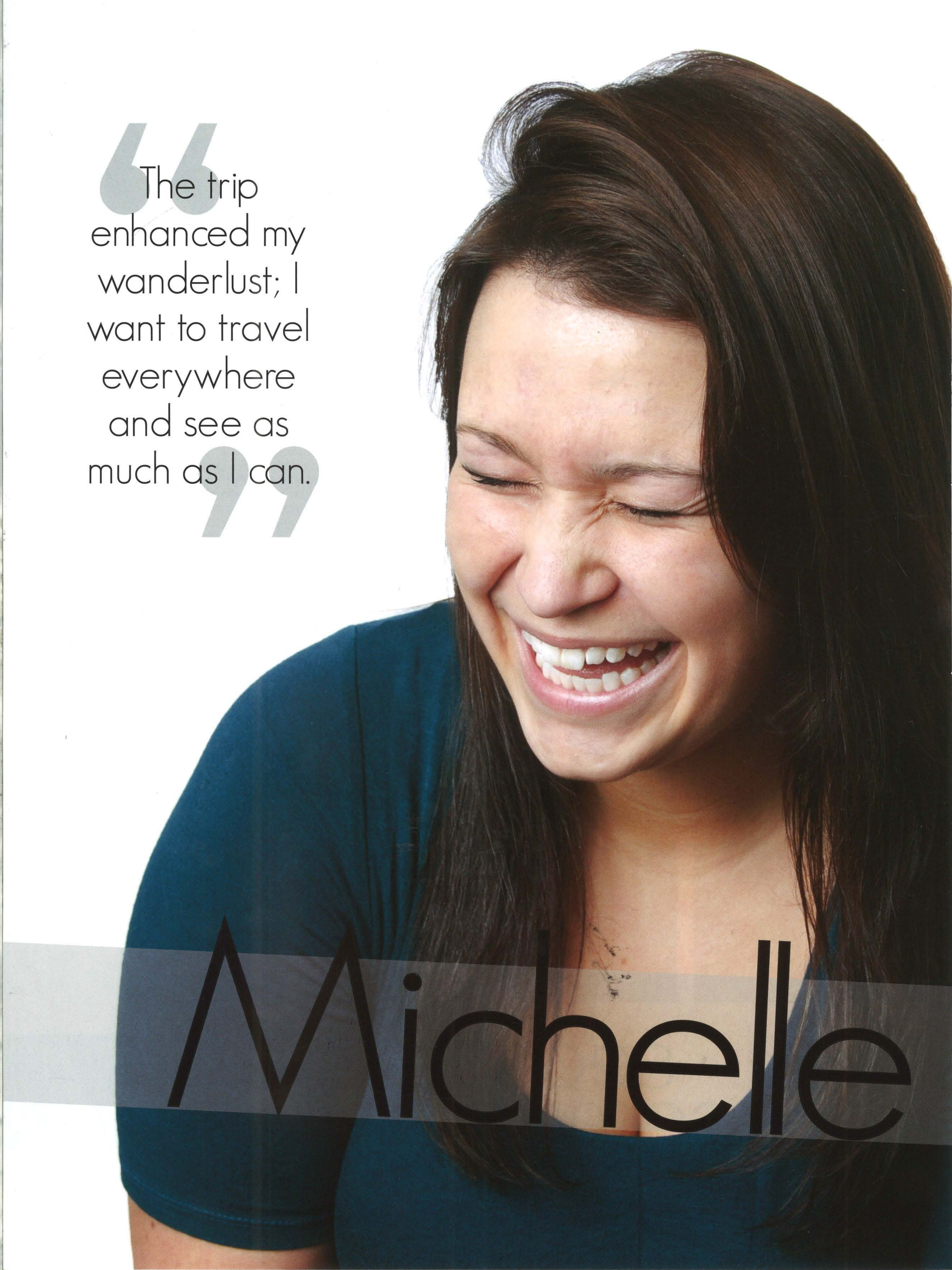


Lydia Dickey
Kari Fontenault
Lauren Gajdosik
Melinda Gross
Kristin Hall



Kimberly Hawkins
Amanda Hurt
Mari Ishii
Emily Johnson
Conor Kirkman

second semester



“The trip
enhanced my
wanderlust; I
want to travel
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much as I can.”

Michelle

In the midst

of traveling to breathtaking Australia in the fall of 2010, junior Michelle Cascio made sure she would never forget her experiences. She documented all of her adventures in her online blog, michellesinaustralia.wordpress.com. From bungee jumping off the tallest cliff in New Zealand to eating a fried tarantula leg in Cambodia, Cascio never had a dull moment, and the following were some of her entries that captured it all.

9/8/10: WE'RE IN AUSTRALIA!

... And it's Wednesday. We left on Monday. You better believe there's been a slew of Back to the Future and Doc Brown jokes circulating. It's 9 a.m. here, but 6 p.m. in Arkansas. They drive on the left side of the road and the steering wheel is on the right side in the car. We're still waiting to find a toilet that swirls so we can let the world know if it swirls differently than in America.

9/15/10: Eleven Bizarre Australian Things I Have Learned

11. You can't get ice cubes anywhere. They just don't use ice in drinks.
10. You would think you'd find Australians in Sydney. Nope, we found mostly Asian tourists.
9. It's not all sunshine and warm temperatures; we've been wearing fleeces and jeans.
8. You can go to the Outback for two days and not see a single kangaroo. Whoever said they are like roadkill lied.
7. Australia "lost" their prime minister, Harold Holt, in the ocean one day in 1967. He sank under a wave, never to be seen again.
6. A box of Froot Loops can cost \$7! Minimum wage for 21-year-olds is \$21/hr (according to a grocery store kid fresh out of high school).
5. Australians have a \$2 coin. It's smaller than the \$1 coin.
4. If you ask for jelly with your toast for breakfast you WILL be scoffed at.
3. "Hope you have a fair dinkum bonza Christmas" means "We really hope you have a good Christmas."
2. Trash is called rubbish.
1. Australia has the most animals that can kill you in the worst ways.

9/18/10: Kookaburra sits in an old gum tree...in Binna Burra rainforest

If you are thinking, "Certainly it must be warm in a rainforest in Australia!", you are sorely mistaken. My hands were numb as we trudged through the 13-mile hike. We saw so many beautiful ... trees. Trees, trees, trees ... trees with buttress roots, trees with epiphytes, trees with deadly stinging leaves that will leave you forever blistered ... the trees were definitely endless. We saw

paddymelons (like small kangaroos) and platform spiders (So big. And gross. Of course I was the one that spotted it ...) and a red-bellied snake (extremely venomous apparently).

9/28/10: Possibly the BEST DAY so far!

Today was probably the best day I've had so far- we went to the Australian zoo! Here are a few highlights: we got to hold a koala, feed and pet kangaroos and watch the Irwins do a show!!

10/13/10: I just jumped out of a plane at 12,000 ft...

It was beautiful! It was scary to watch three of your friends jump out of the plane and scream before you went last, but it was so much fun!!!! The freefall was amazing — it lasted 45 seconds — and even better was after the parachute opened, 1. because it opened and you could finally breathe a sigh of relief that you weren't plummeting to your death and 2. you got to see the amazing landscape that is New Zealand.

11/16/10: Bungee Jumping!

This was the scariest day of my life. I'm not going to lie; I freaked out. Standing up there on that ledge, all I could think was, "This is stupid! This is a perfectly good ledge, why would I want to jump off it?" But jump I did. After that initial feeling of instantly thinking I made a mistake when I jumped and wanted to grab the ledge again and hang on for dear life, it kind of felt like free-falling during skydiving. By far actually jumping was the worst part. I laughed the rest of the way down and loved bouncing.

3/1/11: I can't believe my trip is over! I can honestly say studying abroad in Australia was the best decision I have ever made. I met some great friends, and shared so many unforgettable memories with them. I crossed off many things from my bucket list, and consider the trip as a whole as one personal test to overcome my fears. I jumped out of a plane at 12,000 feet, voluntarily jumped off the tallest bungee jumping ledge in New Zealand at 143m (470 feet for you Americans), got my cartilage pieced (I'm extremely afraid of needles) in a tattoo parlor, found my way around a country with no passport by myself and ate a tarantula leg on the side of a road in Cambodia. I have held a koala, and pet and fed a kangaroo. I have seen and experienced many different cultures and seen how others live their daily lives. I have seen unshowered children begging for a dollar to bring home for their family. We brought candy and gifts to the poorest school in Cambodia, and witnessed their genuine overexuberant excitement to get a lollipop, a marker and a noisemaker. The trip enhanced my wanderlust; I want to travel everywhere and see as much as I can. I am so blessed and fortunate to have gotten the opportunity to study in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. God is good!

Gina Cielo

Cascio

second semester

Jerry LaFevers
Trey Lynch
Darah McDaniel
Amanda Michaels



Nicholas Parker
Brandon Perry
Emily Sansom
Samantha Scanlon



“...As we walked
up the stairs, the
colors on the
walls and floors
turned from
whitewash to
black soot.”

Whitney Chambers

overseas



Hannah Shelton
Samantha Simpson
Courtney Stone
Nicole Thoman
Austa Walton



Jordan Ware
Emily Wood
Carter Wright
Ellis Zeigler

A semester abroad was supposed to be a time of no worries and little stress, but after two incidents in the fall of 2010 at Harding University in Florence, junior Whitney Chambers realized these things were not always guaranteed and learned to count her blessings instead.

Chambers and the rest of the group were away on free travel when she received news that a fire had severely damaged the villa in Florence where students stayed during the semester.

Chambers vividly remembered their return to the villa the next day and the nerve-racking walk up the hill to its gates.

"When we walked in, the first floor had a light layer of black ash on everything," Chambers said. "As I walked through the rest of the upstairs thicker black ash covered everything from people's beds and clothes down to their personal belongings like their computers and jewelry."

After the initial shock, Chambers said reality sunk in, and while she was fortunate not to have lost anything in the fire, many others were not so fortunate. With one room blocked by caution tape, it was obvious that the girls would not be living in the villa for a while. However, Chambers and the rest of her group found ways to make the best of the situation given them.

Senior Hannah Beall, another student on the HUF trip, talked about the unexpected ways in which God worked through their losses.

"Every single person in our group had a spiritual blessing that really helped everyone who was affected," Beall said. "We had people who were comforters, encouragers, leaders, optimists and an entire group of prayer warriors."

Chambers and Beall, along with all 15 other girls, were taken over to the nearby Bible School, where they stayed until their trip to Rome.

"The positives of the Bible School were that we could have reliable Internet after midnight, and whenever we were craving an American snack all we had to do was pay a euro and get whatever we wanted," Chambers said. "The negative side was that we were separated from our HUF group and missing out on villa life."

Just when she was finally feeling like things were looking on the bright side again, yet another incident occurred.

A week after the villa fire, the group went on a trip to Naples. Upon their return, Robbie Shackleford, director of HUF, informed the group that someone had broken into the villa while they were gone. This time Chambers walked upstairs to find closet doors open, clothing thrown on the floor and drawers searched through. Many computers were stolen, including Chambers'.

While the robbery and fire could have destroyed the semester abroad, Chambers said, instead it brought the students closer to each other.

"Any walls that our group had before were torn down," Chambers said. "I didn't have the distractions of Facebook and Skype; I really started to get to know the people that I had already spent two and half months with."

Beall agreed that the group was brought together in ways that would have been impossible had the fire and burglary not happened.

"After everything that happened, it was hard to be positive," Beall said. "But what we all came to see is that no matter what happens, God is going to be there. The reason it was such a rewarding experience is because not only were we blessed with the opportunity to study abroad, but we also experienced unexpected hardship and learned so much about God that we never really knew before."

Gina Cielo