

INTERNATIONAL

Studying abroad creates opportunities for a change of mind and a change of heart. Having our eyes opened and our thoughts provoked, we begin a journey with friends both new and old. We cross items off our bucket lists, learn new languages, walk new paths and honor ancient monuments. We

see — and come to understand — how others live their lives thousands of miles away from our own comfort zones. We leave these places renewed in mind, body and soul. The opportunity for change was given to us, and we took it to all four corners of the earth.

EDITOR MARIANNA WOODRUFF



TOP 10

- 1 **Seeing the Northern Lights in Iceland**
Sophomore Stephanie Stanfield, HUE, Fall 2014
- 2 **Climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower**
Sophomore Sarah Eldridge, HIP, Spring 2014
- 3 **Riding bikes around Easter Island**
Junior Titus Dauck, HULA, Spring 2014
- 4 **Bungee jumping in the Corinth Canal**
Senior Summer Gibson, HUG, Summer 2014
- 5 **Visiting the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris**
Junior Brett Taylor, HUG, Spring 2014
- 6 **Rafting the Zambezi River**
Sophomore Lane Hull, HIZ, Fall 2014
- 7 **Scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef**
Freshman Jacob McCall, HUA, Fall 2014
- 8 **Riding elephants in India**
Sophomore Claire Patton, HUA, Fall 2014
- 9 **Staying overnight in a medieval castle overlooking the Casentino region of Italy**
Graduate student Leighton Teague, HUF, Summer 2014
- 10 **Swimming in the Blue Grotto at Capri**
Sophomore Reed Siler, HUF, Fall 2014



WHAT'S ON YOUR
BUCKET LIST ?

HULA

HARDING
UNIVERSITY
LATIN
AMERICA

At the end of February, a new set of students began a South American adventure: a semester at Harding University in Latin America. Along with four faculty members, the group of 23 students flew from the United States to Santiago, Chile, to see what a different part of the world had to offer. All were excited to meet HULA administrators Tom and Pam Hook and start the semester.

As with every international trip, the "HULAgans" of 2014 encountered some rough patches as they began their budding friendships. While everyone kept an open mind about the new set of friends, they initially wondered whether the gaps between them could be bridged.

"I wasn't sure about the group at all," junior Spanish and leadership and ministry double major Titus Dauck said. "[But] as

the semester went on, I got to know a lot of people and ended up making a lot of new friends out of it by the end."

The HULA group's first trip took them to Patagonia and the Lake Regions in Southern Chile. This excursion changed many students' impressions about the trip and their companions. Being in each other's company for long periods of time helped the students get to know one another.

"In Patagonia there were lots of bus rides," junior Spanish major Lauren Heffington said. "The best part about that was getting to sit by new people every single time. I think Patagonia was the perfect first trip."

Though the group could have seen their differences as barriers to friendship, they instead chose to use their diversity as a catalyst for connection.

"All of our strengths, which were in different areas, played into each of our weaknesses, which were also in different areas," junior social work major Elise Quinn said. "We were able to challenge each other and make each other grow. At the beginning ... I didn't know if being different would be a good thing, [but] in the end being different was the best thing our group could have been."

The unusual friends that made up the spring HULA group were full of different perspectives and dreams. Through their unlikely but rewarding friendships, they not only adjusted well to life in Chile, but they also drew closer as brothers and sisters in Christ.

By Andrea DeCamp



1. Juniors Caleb Rowan and Lauren Heffington take a selfie in front of the Easter Island heads on April 7. The giant statues, called "moai," were created by the Rapa Nui people. **Photo courtesy of Erin Davis**

4. Juniors David Pencarinha, Catherine Wamack and Jacob Baker pretend to eat huge chunks of salt while hiking around the Atacama Desert. Students were in Salar de Atacama, outside of San Pedro de Atacama. **Photo courtesy of Jackson Petty**

2. HULA students pile into a raft to go on a white-water rafting adventure. The raft went down the Lake Region of Chile near Volcano Osorno. **Photo courtesy of Catherine Wamack**

5. Junior Molly Helton celebrates a day full of exploration in Patagonia. The group went white-water rafting earlier in the day. **Photo courtesy of Erin Davis**

3. Senior Alex Traughber relaxes in a hammock after a day of activities in Chile. The hammock hung outside of a restaurant that the group visited that evening. **Photo courtesy of Erin Davis**

6. Sophomore Tanner Main performs a back flip in front of the moai on Easter Island. The group spent the afternoon wandering around the island, looking at the 887 statues. **Photo courtesy of Catherine Wamack**

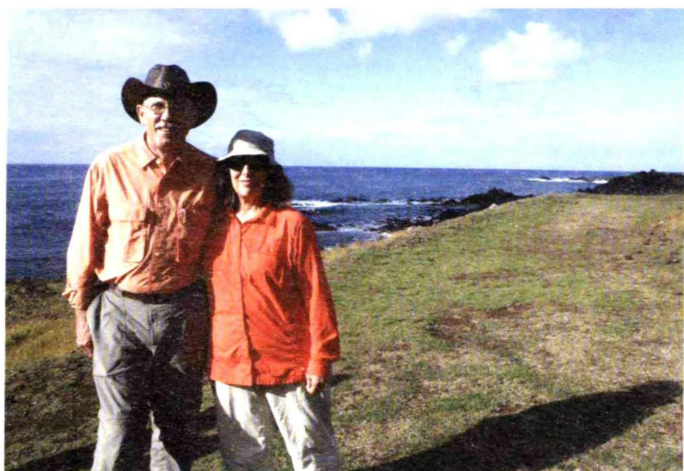


Photo courtesy of Sydni Sansom

TOM AND PAM HOOK

HULA Director Q & A

1. How long have you been the directors of Harding University in Latin America?
12 years

2. What have you both crossed off your bucket list while living in Latin America?
Pam: Easter Island, the Amazon Jungle — I was afraid of that one at first, and now I love it — Machu Picchu; the climb ... I only did it once, but Tom has done it many times.

Tom: The activities done, especially ziplining over canyons and white-water rafting.

3. What is something that you have learned about yourselves while at HULA?
Pam: That we never cease to learn something from every new group of HULAgans.



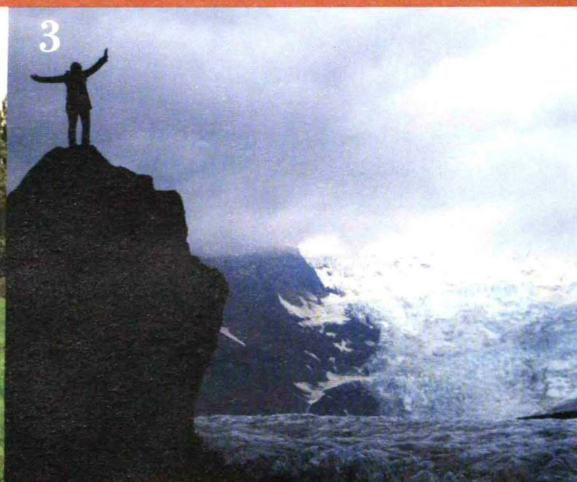
1. Tyler Knight, husband of HUE director Lauren Knight, delivers a lesson about the history of the Jesus College of Oxford. Founded in 1571, the Jesus College enrolled approximately 500 students.

Photo courtesy of Noah Darnell



2. HUE students enjoy a day in Regent's Park in London. One of the Royal Parks of London, it was home to Regent's University London and the London Zoo.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Stanfield



3. Sophomore Kelsey Neuhold climbs to the top of the Vatnajökull Glacier on a group trip to Iceland on Sept. 8. The Vatnajökull Glacier was the largest and most voluminous Icelandic glacier that they visited.

Photo courtesy of Kristin Melville

4. The HUE group walks around the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford, England, on Oct. 15. Besides their group trip to Oxford, the students also traveled to Cambridge, Dublin and Paris. **Photo courtesy of Noah Darnell**

5. Sophomore Kristin Melville snaps a picture while at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, England. Blenheim Palace was the birthplace of Winston Churchill in 1874.

Photo courtesy of Noah Darnell

6. The students of the 2014 HUE program pose in front of Blenheim Palace. The palace was the main residence of the dukes of Marlborough.

Photo courtesy of Noah Darnell



Photo courtesy of Noah Darnell

LAUREN KNIGHT

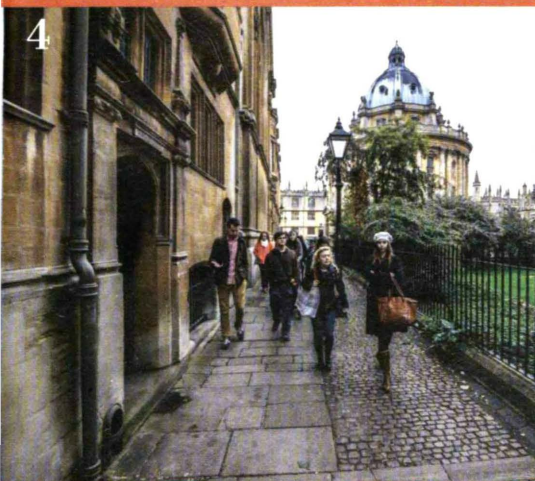
HUE Director Q & A

1. How long have you been the director of Harding University in England?
Since August 2010

2. What have you crossed off your bucket list while living in England?
Working with Harding has allowed me to see so many amazing things with our students. From the 2012 Olympic Games, the Diamond Jubilee and the Royal Wedding and so much more — not only do we get to see great sites, but the events we get to be a part of are pretty amazing.

3. What has been your favorite tradition at HUE?
We are always rethinking the program and keeping it fresh, but some of the things we could never replace are Moo-Moo's Milkshakes in Oxford, dinner at the Elephant House in Edinburgh and our big Thanksgiving dinner each fall.

4. What have you learned about yourself while at HUE?
Since working with HUE, I've been told I walk exceptionally fast and that living with the English weather makes you tough.



HUE HARDING UNIVERSITY ENGLAND

A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT

When I think of my semester in England, I find it really hard to pick out one particular trip that captures how amazing the whole semester was. I could mention the elegance of Buckingham Palace, the wild majesty of our week in Iceland or even our numerous excursions to the marketplaces in London, but one day trip does seem to stand out in my mind: a trip to Canterbury and Dover.

Canterbury was a very English sort of town. There were little cafés all down the main streets with people sitting out on the sidewalk having afternoon tea. The main attraction of the town was the cathedral, and it was beautiful. The soaring walls leading up to a finely crafted ceiling seemed like a perfect place for the light filtering through the stained glass above our heads. In Kansas, where I'm from, they didn't have buildings like that. In fact, even living in London was a huge change for me. I was from a good-sized town, but it was nowhere near the bustling urban

center of London.

After seeing the cathedral and grabbing a bite to eat in a café, we got onto our bus to head to Dover. We spent most of our time at Dover within the famous Dover castle, which was also the site of tunnels used during World War II. It was an odd experience going from a tunnel filled with 1940s technology to the much older stone walls of an authentic castle. We found that sort of dualism throughout the whole of England; ancient sites were surrounded by urban centers or even had entrances to the Tube nearby. It wasn't what I was expecting when I pictured England. I thought it would mostly be green fields and crumbling castles. However, the castle at Dover was nowhere near crumbling, and we were able to see this very well when we went to the top of the structure and got a view of the English Channel with the thin dark line of France against the horizon. It didn't strike us how far France and England really were until we tried

to spot one from the coast of the other.

England, and London in particular, became a home away from home for me. The city never ceased to amaze me; it seemed there was always something new going on. There always seemed to be a park to explore, a market to visit, a festival to experience or a play to attend. Being in an English speaking country made it much easier to really live life the London way.

I love the city, and I love that I made such good friends while at HUE. I would go back to London in a heartbeat. God works his magic in that country. I made new friends, visited wonderful places, experienced church services that no service in the States could quite be like and fell in love with a city I began calling another home. HUE wasn't just a semester of crumbling castles and stuffy ballrooms; it was a semester of adventure, history and a certain degree of mystery.

By William Telgren

1. **Junior Kristen Betts** rides a donkey to the top of the cliffs in Santorini, Greece. Given the choice between riding a cable car or donkeys, her group chose the donkeys.

Photo courtesy of Paige Whitman

2. **Summer HUG students** sit on the roof of a soup kitchen in Athens, Greece. The soup kitchen, run by Global Outreach, served Muslim refugees from other countries.

Photo courtesy of Paige Whitman

3. **On Valentine's Day**, students strike silly poses at a photo booth. Students at HUG put together a function to celebrate the holiday. Photo courtesy of Schuyler Davis

4. **Junior Danny Jackson** admires a stained glass window at St. Lydia's Baptistery. The HUG spring semester group visited the baptistery on a group trip to northern Greece. Photo courtesy of Schuyler Davis

5. **Seniors Paige Whitman and Summer Gibson** and **HUG director Mike James** model hats sold by street vendors. The group was visiting the Biblical land of Pergamum in present day Bergama, Turkey.

Photo courtesy of Joanna Nelson

6. **Students gather and sing** in the Tomb of Agamemnon during a trip to the Peloponnese. "Our group loved to sing hymns in places like this where the acoustics were so well designed," junior Brittney Firquain said.

Photo by Jeff Montgomery



More than 60 students traveled with the Harding University in Greece 2014 program during the spring, summer and fall semesters. Though central parts of the overall experience remained the same, the stories each HUG group shared differed. A few highlights from individuals who attended the program in 2014 gave a glimpse of what made their own experiences unique.

For sophomore A.J. Eberly, who attended the program during the spring semester, the balance between the classes and the sites visited gave new depth to the material. Eberly was particularly amazed to find God's presence throughout the travels.

"I just remember really experiencing God's beauty in many different ways," Eberly said. "I saw God in the beauty of what I was seeing ... but also I would say I saw God in the friendships I had with the people. I mean, that's one of the best ways to experience God."

Senior Paige Whitman, who had originally planned on going abroad in the fall of 2013, was forced to postpone her trip until summer 2014 because of a sudden injury.

"It was a time that I needed," Whitman said. "God definitely used my accident to make me a stronger person."

After five months of rehab before the trip, Whitman continued physical therapy while in Greece. The group's strenuous walks proved difficult for her, but she said the struggle strengthened her physically and spiritually.

The summer group's itinerary underwent unexpected changes due to violent political conflicts. Rather than going to Egypt, they went to Turkey, and four days before their scheduled departure for Israel, a bomb threat caused directors to divert the trip to the Czech Republic instead.

"Turkey was still really cool because we got to see Ephesus and we got to see Istanbul — so many places in Turkey that are still Biblically relevant," Whitman said.

According to junior Andrew Eller, another experience bound the summer HUG group together. In the middle of their trip, five group members learned of various troubling incidents back home. As the group struggled with being far from home in a time of need, they learned to rely on each other for support.

"The way we were challenged won't even be unique to our experience, but it happened very profoundly on this one day to just make us call on each other in a really transformative way," Eller said.

Junior Sarah Hines, whose grandmother fell seriously ill during the trip, found comfort in her HUG family, especially directors Mike and Beth James.

"They helped us cope," Hines said. "They kept in contact with us during free travel and everything. They wanted to make sure we were okay."

For many students, including Eller, the best mementos from the trip were not souvenirs or happy memories but the strong relationships formed while in Greece.

"I wanted to sit at the feet of Mount Olympus and take in everything it had to give me," Eller said. "But now my favorite part of the experience was sitting at the feet of the people, who were mountains themselves, and taking in everything that they had to say."

By Daniel Casella

HUG

HARDING UNIVERSITY GREECE



Photo courtesy of Mike James

MIKE AND BETH JAMES

HUG Director Q & A

1. How long have you been the directors of Harding University in Greece?

Five years

2. What have you both crossed off your bucket list while living in Greece?

For anyone traveling to Greece, seeing the Athens Acropolis and the grandeur of ancient history before your eyes. Walking through Athens, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi and many other Biblical locations where Paul and other teachers of our faith walked. To climb Mount Sinai where Moses saw the hand of God and led the Israelites from Egypt. To see each of these every semester through the eyes of our wonderful HUG students.

3. What are your favorite HUG traditions?

We have an end-of-year final banquet where everyone dresses in togas, and then jump in the pool simultaneously. We want to remember each student. Each semester from an ocean, river or sea, we picked a rock for each student. Beth picked out the girl rocks, and I got the guy rocks. When we return to our home, we will take these 500 or so rocks and create a garden or fountain that will include each one of them.

HUF

HARDING UNIVERSITY FLORENCE

1. Junior McKenna Smith, junior Tory Mote and senior Haley Shelton sip their first cappuccino at Caff  Mario during their summer in Italy. HUF director Robbie Shackelford took the group to his favorite coffee shop on their first tour of Scandicci.

Photo courtesy of Hannah Kimbler

2. Junior Garrett Bender learns to cook gnocchi at a culinary school in Florence. Bender and the group learned how to make prosciutto-stuffed pork and chocolate ganache as well. **Photo courtesy of Toria Parrett**

3. Juniors Casey Weeks, Jordan Smith, Austin Yates, Ali Harrelson and Michelle Ramsey rent bikes to tour the city of Barcelona on independent travel. The group also traveled to Monaco and France during their independent group travel.

Photo courtesy of Austin Yates

4. Junior Larkin Hatcher and Haley Hatcher, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University, take a brisk ride through the mountains of F ssen, Germany. The sisters decided to tour the town on bikes with their independent travel group. **Photo courtesy of Hannah Kimbler**

5. Juniors Iliana Gonzalez and Kevin Williams, sophomore Ashley Taylor and junior Andrew Pyle stop to capture a moment in Rome as they visit the Circus Maximus. A student presented a lesson about the chariot-racing stadium that had later been turned into a park. **Photo courtesy of Toria Parrett**

6. Beneath the large dome of the Pantheon, junior Caleb Miller and senior Weston Woodruff look up into the opening of the dome. The spring HUF group ventured to Rome as a part of one of the program's annual trips.

Photo courtesy of Toria Parrett

In the summer, students embarked on a European adventure at Harding University in Florence. Embracing the Italian culture, these world travelers learned to appreciate the easy-going lifestyle and the intentional family time Italians hold so dear. The summer HUF group soaked in the Italian life by dining local, playing soccer with Italian friends and enjoying the Scandicci market. Some students even experienced a little romance in the love-filled culture.

Junior Madison Kelly, who studied in Florence during the spring semester, heard about Harding's overseas programs early in high school. She quickly decided Florence was the program for her. While she had long anticipated the trip, Kelly said that she began her journey with few expectations. She was free to experience everything without bias, and according to her, the semester exceeded anything she could have imagined.

"Amazing, amazing, amazing: the opportunity of a lifetime for sure," Kelly said. "People don't just get to go and travel and live in this culture and get to experience a new thing for three months at a time."

Senior pre-med student Ryan Mitchell went to HUF during the summer. Mitchell said that while he had always planned to do an overseas program, his classes restricted his time during the regular school year. Fortunately for Mitchell, HUF offered a summer semester abroad, which allowed him to travel without interfering with his studies.

According to Mitchell, the students saw numerous spectacular places in just in the first week, including the Duomo and

the Piazzale Michelangelo. The trip was particularly special for Mitchell because he proposed to senior Haley Shelton while abroad.

"One of my favorite things that happened was that I got engaged over there, and I got to spend an entire summer with my fianc e," Mitchell said. "Just getting to experience all those new things with her was awesome."

Mitchell said he learned some valuable lessons overseas. Since 40 people lived in close quarters and traveled in crowded cities, patience and organization became valuable virtues. According to Mitchell, native Europeans often did their best to help the students in spite of the language barrier.

Senior Bethany Nicholson also attended HUF during the summer. Nicholson chose the Florence program because it opened the door for her career in international public relations. She saw a semester in Florence as a productive head start toward her future profession.

"I basically got to travel all over Europe for three months with the greatest faculty members, the greatest directors [and] the greatest friends, and I made some of the best memories that I think I will have made in my entire life," Nicholson said. "I've learned more about myself and more about the world than I could have ever learned from any classroom, from any job, from any lesson that's ever been taught to me. HUF completely changed the way I look at things, the way I look at other people. It completely changed me."

By Ashley Heastie



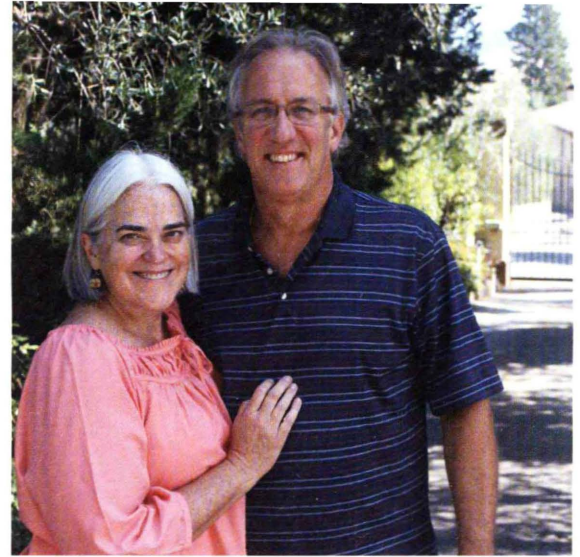


Photo courtesy of Reed Siler

ROBBIE AND MONA SHACKELFORD

HUF Director Q & A

1. How long have you been the directors of Harding University in Florence?

25 years

2. What have you both crossed off your bucket list while living in Florence?

Robbie: We never really had a bucket list, but we have had the opportunity to walk through the Vasari Corridor several times, walked around the entire balcony of the Cathedral, climbed the tower and been on the balcony of the Palazzo Vecchio, drifted down the Arno on a boat, enjoyed Gianni Schicchi opera twice, enjoyed the fireworks from a villa near Piazzale Michelangelo for the San Giovanni festivities, seen many concerts and attended wonderful weddings and other such festivities.

Mona: Seeing Michelangelo's David, learning Italian, seeing the Duomo and hearing the bells from Giotto's Tower in the early morning from my hotel room.

3. What are your favorite HUF traditions?

Robbie: Our final banquet and group trip to Rome.

Mona: We have many traditions at HUF. I love all of them. One that I like to help with is our harvest of our olives. We make it a big day and have everyone in the trees all over the grounds with music. We have great food and lots of fun.



HIZ HARDING IN ZAMBIA

In the fall, a group of students studied abroad with the Harding University in Zambia program, an experience that taught them to see Africa from the perspective of missionaries. Sophomore Morgan Miller said that much of their work involved taking care of children in an orphanage called "the Havens."

"It's an orphanage in a sense that a lot of the kids no longer have parents, not so much in a sense that they are looking to be adopted," Miller said.

According to Miller, HIZ students at the Havens aimed to give the children there a little extra love. The students assisted the "Aunties," the medical advocates for the children, by showing the children extended personal attention.

"Depending on what time of day we were there, we were allowed to help with things like school or lunch time," Miller said. "Our main purpose was just to play and love on the kids — not because they necessarily needed it. They are very, very loved."

Sophomore Kaylen Martin said her favorite day in Zambia was Oct. 31, a day full of activities from watching the sunset to eating s'mores. At the end of the day, Martin spent time at the Havens with

Chipego, the child she looked after.

"Chipego and I spent the rest of our Halloween afternoon on the Haven One veranda singing and dancing," Martin said. "Chipego loved to dance and clap while I sang to him. I'd sing 'Coonse Cindii,' a Tonga children's song about praising the Lord, and he would giggle and clap and bounce around."

Junior Drew Howerton said that every day after classes, the students experienced their choice of fieldwork in healthcare and missions. According to Howerton, it was difficult to choose one job over another.

"We could go to the clinic with Ba Janice and Elaina [or] Dr. Mock when they were with us," Howerton said. "There, we would observe firsthand various kinds of health care in action and maybe even get to help out."

According to Howerton, no certain day stood out as a favorite because his favorite things happened almost every day.

"What a blessing it is to live in such a way," Howerton said. "May we all surround ourselves daily with our favorite things and give God the glory all day long."

By Megan Smith

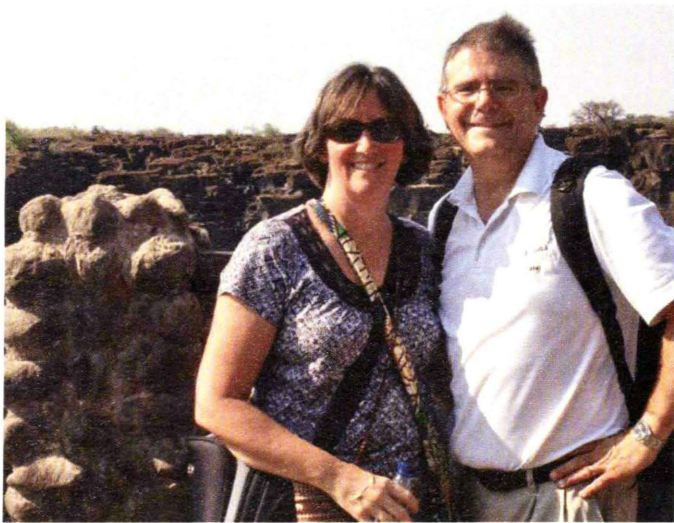


Photo courtesy of Shawn Daggett

SHAWN AND DONNA DAGGETT

HIZ Director Q & A

1. How did you come to the decision to direct the HIZ program?

We were invited to direct HIZ in 2008 for the first time. We prayed for a season about the invitation, interviewed the previous director to understand the commitment better and came to the conclusion that God could use us in the role and that both students and our family could benefit from the experience. We returned in 2010 and then in 2014.

2. What was your favorite tradition at HIZ?

On Monday evenings we had a family meeting. We sang, processed, shared stories and prayer concerns, made plans and decisions and more. Themes ranged from modern Jewish culture to Christmas in October. One evening the men honored the women and even wrote a poem that complimented each of the women by name.

3. What is one of the things that you learned about during your time at HIZ?

God is global. He is alive and well, loved, and worshipped, depended upon and faithful, moving, stirring, shaping, disciplining, answering prayer, changing lives in thousands of languages and in the most remote villages.

1. Freshman Lane Grissom and sophomore Alex Hudson ride an elephant during a trip to Livingstone, Zambia, on Sept. 13. Livingstone was the home of Victoria Falls, a 360-foot waterfall.

Photo courtesy of Alex Hudson

4. During a day at the Havens, sophomore Katie O'Brien plays with a child on the playground on Nov. 4. The Havens provided a home to children who came from struggling households during their early lives. Photo courtesy of Mary Kate Riffle

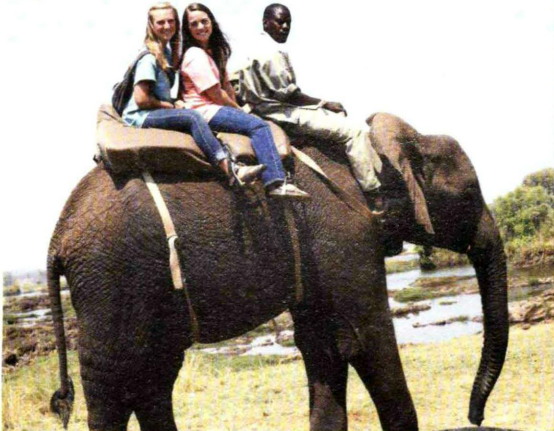
2. Sophomore Shelby Beckham makes faces with Katie, a child at the Havens, on Nov. 10. "In the few hours that we were there each day, it was beautiful to see the way the kids were progressing thanks to the love and care they received at the Havens," Beckham said. Photo courtesy of Alex Hudson

5. Freshman Lane Grissom and sophomore Alex Hudson jump off a platform at the Gorge Swing in Livingstone, Zambia, on Nov. 6. Many HIZ students crossed bungee jumping off their bucket list while overseas. Photo courtesy of Alex Hudson

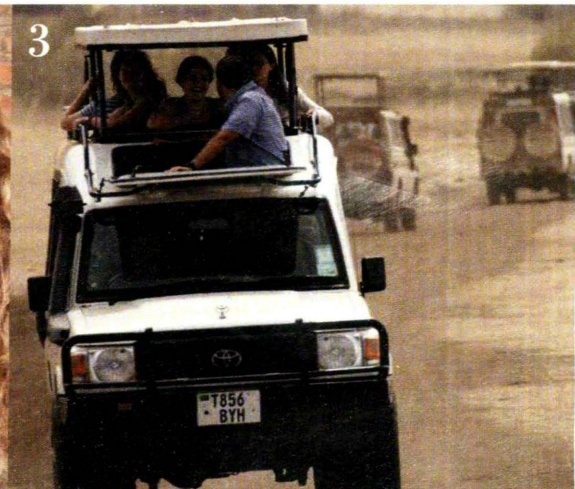
3. Junior Michael Tyree, sophomores Hannah March and Mikayla Winland, and freshman Abigail Adkins ride in an SUV during their group safari in Tanzania on Sept. 29. HIZ students went on the safari during a break from their work at the Havens in Zambia. Photo courtesy of Brittney Garringer

6. Sophomore Kaitlin Uchida laughs with Virginia and Owen, two residents of the Havens, on Nov. 10. HIZ students walked several miles every day to spend time with the children. Photo courtesy of Alex Hudson

1



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4



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6



1. Sophomores Dave Taylor, Zeke Barnes, Haven Crabtree and Jacob McCall explore the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, Australia, on Nov. 1. Many HUA students were eager to scuba dive in the world's largest coral reef system.

Photo courtesy of Abby Smith

2. Sophomore Z'Ann Hardin poses while walking along the Great Wall of China on Nov. 26. The wall was measured to be more than 13,000 miles long.

Photo courtesy of Renee Wimpey

3. Sophomores Madeline Jones and Jacob McCall ski and snowboard down a slope at the Cardrona Alpine Resort in New Zealand on Oct. 17. HUA students spent half of their trip exploring Australia and the other half exploring Asia.

Photo courtesy of Abby Smith

4. Sophomores Abby Smith, Lindsey Luter, Rochelle Kellis, Madeline Jones, Haven Crabtree and Sarah Kirkpatrick take in the sights at the Red Fort in Delhi, India, on Nov. 18. India was the last stop for HUA students during their three-month excursion. **Photo courtesy of Abby Smith**

5. In Jaipur, India, at an elephant sanctuary, HUA students pose in traditional Indian clothing on Nov. 20. The students and HUA directors rode and painted the elephants while at the sanctuary.

Photo courtesy of Renee Wimpey

6. Sophomore Sarah Kirkpatrick stands in front of the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, on Sept. 15. Over seven million people visited the Sydney Opera House in 2013.

Photo courtesy of Renee Wimpey

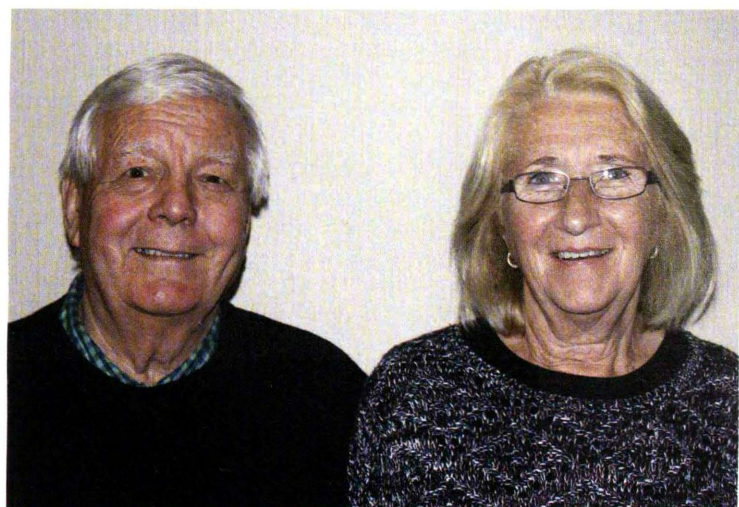
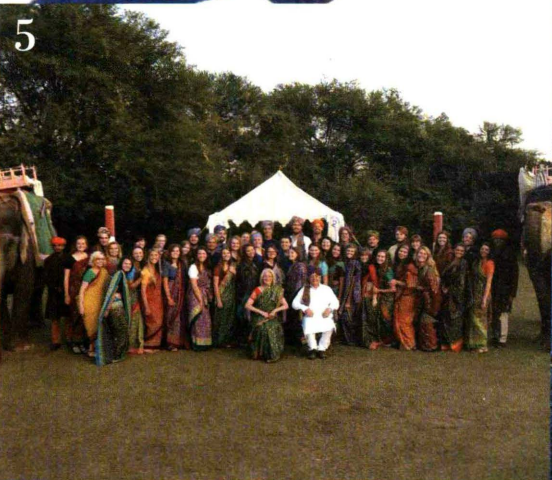
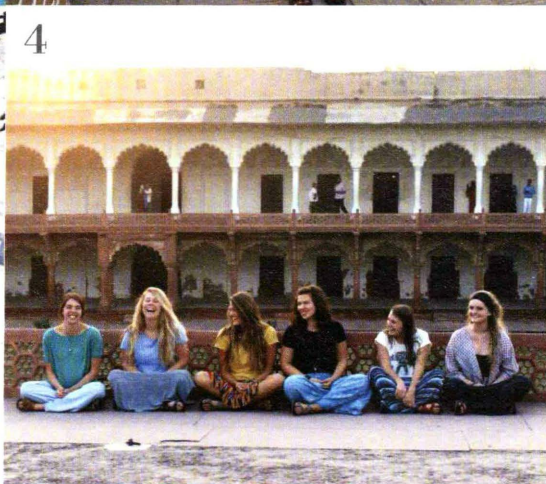
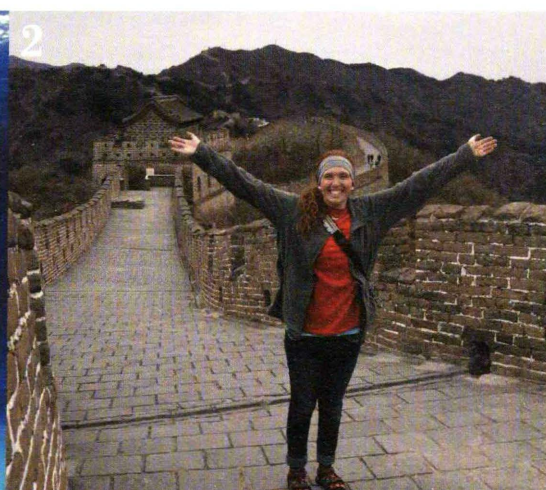
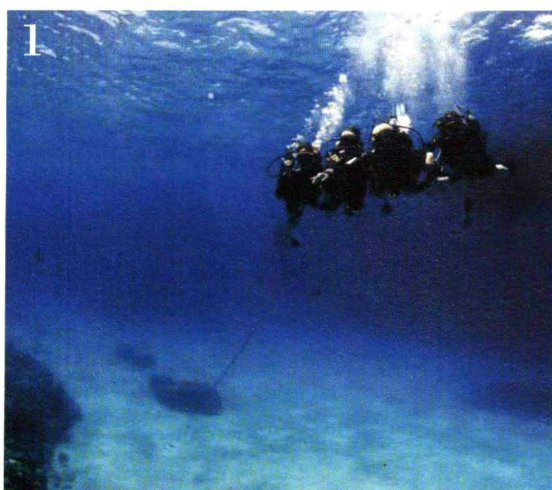


Photo courtesy of Jacob McCall

RAY AND PAM LITTLE

HUA Director Q & A

1. How did you come to the decision to direct the HUA program?

Twenty years ago, our son, Rich, was Dr. David Burks' assistant. Being an Australian, he suggested to Dr. Burks the possibility of starting an overseas program in Australia. Dr. Burks liked the idea but questioned who they could get to run the program. Rich suggested me and the rest is history.

2. What was your favorite tradition at HUA?

My favorite tradition for HUA is having a group picture taken with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House in the background.

3. What is one of the things that you have learned during your time at HUA?

The top thing I have learned about myself as the director of HUA is my negotiation skills when dealing with hotels and travel organizations.

(NO) "I decided to go on HUA because it would take me to countries that I would probably never get to go to in my life," Sophomore Abby Smith said. "How can I pass up a trip that visits the Sydney Opera House, Great Barrier Reef, New Zealand mountains, Angkor Wat, Taj Mahal, Great Wall of China and Terracotta Warriors?"

Harding University in Australia (HUA) took place every fall semester, beginning with a three-week tour of Australian sites. Outside the classroom, students spent days on a cattle ranch in the outback and snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef. The rest of the trip took students to New Zealand, Cambodia, India, Singapore and China.

"I don't even know which one is my favorite," Smith said. "Scuba diving the Great Barrier Reef was absolutely stunning. I could swim

right up to the reef and look at all the details."

Students also worked with the S.N.A.C.K. program that fed malnourished children of Cambodia in the Mekong Delta, an experience that both Smith and Patton described as life-changing. The group drove to a schoolhouse with a team of Cambodian college kids who helped out with the program. They interacted with the children, sang and played soccer with them, as well as handed out highly nutritious meals and fun packages of coloring books and colored pencils.

"Whenever we handed out sandwiches and milk for lunch, many of the children would take some and give it to the younger children before taking some for themselves," sophomore Claire Patton said. "They loved having us there and just wanted to be around us and have us hold them.

The girls wanted their nails painted and the boys wanted to wrestle with our guys."

"All of the different cultures, specifically the developing ones, have shaped me more in the way I see people and see God," Smith said. "The world is smaller and he is bigger."

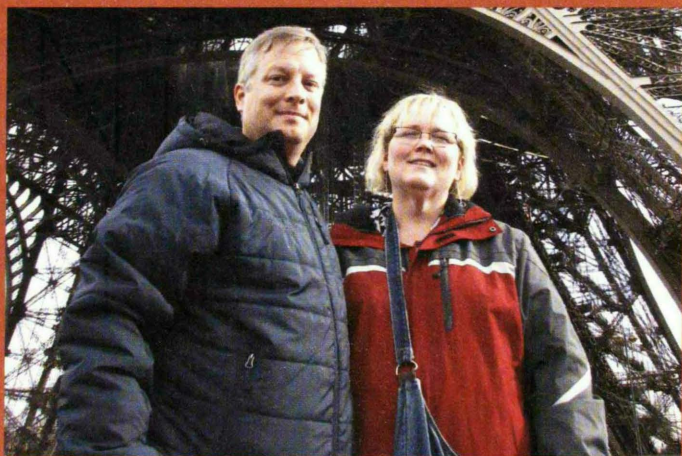
The semester left lasting impact on the students and served a clear educational and missioned purpose for many.

"I would tell someone who is interested in this trip that there is no question; they have to go," Patton said. "It is life changing."

"Because of this trip, I want to meet Harding students from other countries and learn about their idea of our culture and their experiences in America so far," Smith said. "Going on HUA impact my entire life."

By Chloe Savage

HUA HARDING
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA



SCOTT AND CINDY CARRELL

HIP Faculty Q & A

1. How did you come to the decision to travel with the HIP program?

We've always wanted to spend time in Paris getting to use our French, and HIP sounded like the best way to do that!

2. What did you both cross off your bucket list while in Paris?

Our bucket list included visiting Paris markets, going to concerts in Paris, living in an apartment in Paris. We did a lot of things outside of Paris that were on our bucket list too: walking on the Normandy beaches, climbing up Mont St. Michel, experiencing Monet's garden in Giverny, seeing the Roman ruins in Province, etc.

3. What was your favorite tradition at HIP?

HIP traditions include sharing meals with our group at Lauren's [director of Harding University in England] apartment, going on a treasure hunt all over the city, drinking lots of coffee and eating lots of baguette sandwiches.

1. Sophomore Sarah Eldridge takes a break from touring the Château de Chaumont on March 5. HIP students visited the 10th-century castle for several days during the week. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**

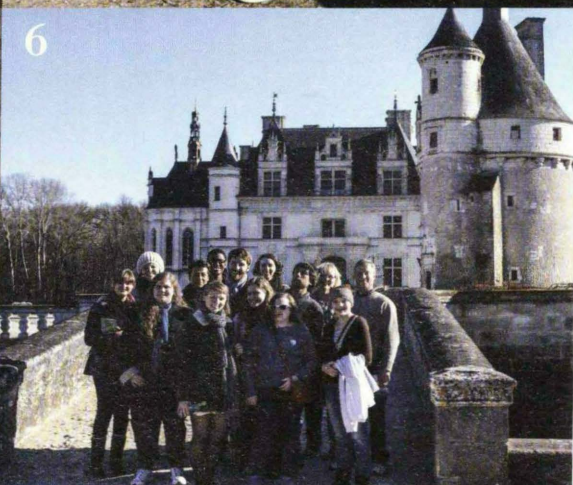
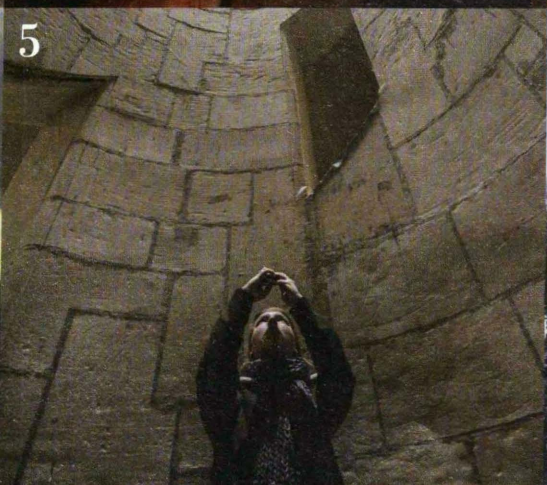
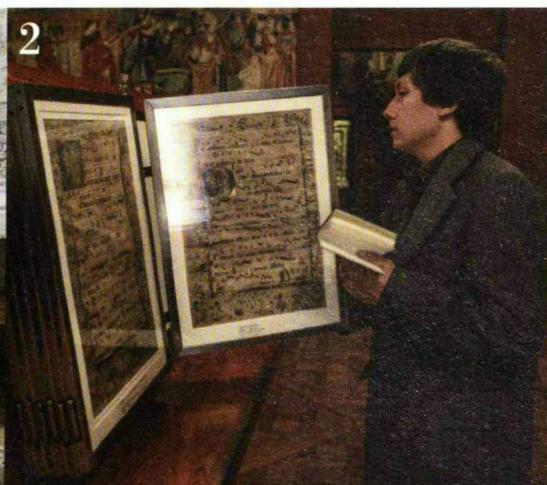
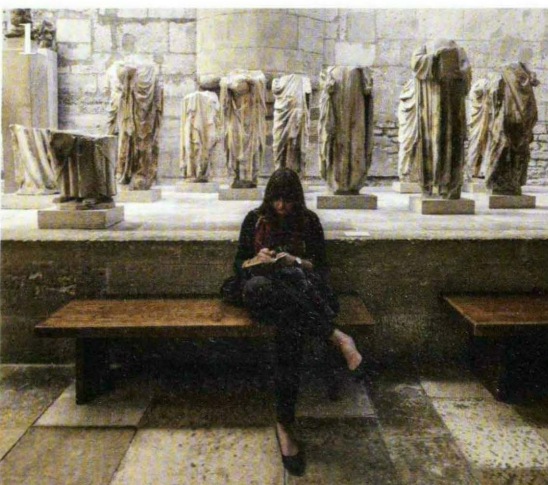
4. At the stables of the Château de Chaumont, students pet a donkey while touring the grounds. HIP students later traveled outside the borders of France for several trips at the end of their semester abroad. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**

2. Junior Jon Oden flips through documents inside the Château de Chaumont. The French Ministry of Culture classified the castle as a historical monument in 1840. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**

5. Senior Emilia Cline snaps a picture of the chapel within the Château de Chaumont on March 6. The stained glass windows within the chapel depicted the history of the Chaumont-Amboise family. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**

3. Sophomore Sarah Eldridge, senior Emilia Cline and alumna Beth Ann Brock discuss what they learned within the walls of the château. Located in Loire Valley, France, the castle became state-owned in 1938, making it open to the public. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**

6. Students of Harding University in Paris finish up their tour of the Château de Chaumont with a group photo. Lauren Knight, director of HUE and HIP, organized the trip for the students. **Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons**



HIP HARDING IN PARIS

In the spring of even-numbered years, students of various majors studied abroad at Harding in Paris to delve into French language, culture and history. From the very beginning of the 2014 trip, the group of eight students experienced the famous sites of France from Paris outward.

"We went around, and we just got to see all the culture and observe the people," sophomore Sarah Eldridge said. "We learned to ask for directions and worked on our language skills."

According to Eldridge, the group visited landmarks for more than just tourism, often experiencing church services or devotionals in historic places.

"The first Sunday we went to Notre Dame, just to see and experience a super famous church," Eldridge said. "How they sang back and forth and just seeing their culture in the church was really neat."

Constructed in 1163, Notre Dame was just one of many historic sites the students visited on their semester-long trip. Besides exploring the streets of Paris, the group also visited the historic sites of Normandy and Omaha Beach, where an American cemetery provided a reminder of home.

"The first week we walked up the first two levels of the Eiffel Tower — 669 steps," Eldridge said. "We didn't want to pay to take the elevators up, but it was so worth it. We got to see it sparkle at night."

Students reflected fondly on their small group travels to various parts of France, including a trip to the Loire Valley, home of several historic castles.

For many, though, the international cuisine proved just as unforgettable as the historical and cultural sights.

"My favorite part of the HIP semester is tied between my free travel into Spain and getting to experience all the different flavors that France had to offer in terms of cuisine," sophomore Caesar Swaby said. "For me, food was probably the most important and exciting change between the two countries."

Harding's numerous campuses across the globe taught students as much about themselves as about the world around them.

"In general, traveling makes you feel kind of how insignificant you are compared to all the other people in the world," Eldridge said. "There are so many different people with different customs, and the language blew me away, and just how diverse everyone is just makes you think about how different we are."

Like other study abroad experiences, HIP aimed to expand student worldview and produce capable, independent thinkers in Harding's community of mission.

"I definitely took away global perspective," sophomore Garrison Gerard said. "That's basically what everyone says, but it's true. I feel equipped to travel and to live on my own. I spent two weeks without any adult supervision traveling to five different countries — America is easy now."

By Chloe Savage

ESTHER DE LA CRUZ

When junior Esther De la Cruz heard the news that her mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer, going to college was the last thing on her mind. Though De la Cruz was one of the most intelligent students in her graduating class, she initially chose to forego college in order to care for her ailing mother in their home of San Salvador, El Salvador. Instead of admitting to the true reason she intended to stay home, De la Cruz told her father that she could not decide what to study yet.

"It wasn't true," De la Cruz said. "I really knew what I wanted, but I just didn't want my dad to spend all the money because my mom was sick at the time."

When De la Cruz found out about the Walton International Scholarship Program, she saw it as an opportunity to study at a university without putting her family in a financial struggle. However, she continued to feel torn between leaving home and staying to take care of her mother. When her mother eventually found out, she consoled De La Cruz and urged her not to feel guilty about accepting the scholarship.

"My mom told me, 'Esther, if you win that scholarship, God is going to take care of me,'" De la Cruz said.

De la Cruz became one of 60 recipients of the Walton Scholarship, which provided students from Central America and Mexico with full-tuition scholarships. The objective of the program was to promote democracy and free enterprise in Latin America through education.

When De la Cruz arrived on campus, she took every opportunity to get involved. She joined women's social club Zeta Rho her sophomore year and became involved with Educating for Life, which helped fundraise for children in Guatemala. She also maintained her interest in academics, joining the International Business Society and Delta Mu Delta, the business honors society.

Junior Lydia McReynolds, a fellow Zeta Rho member, enjoyed getting to know De la Cruz, who went with McReynolds to her home in Louisiana over fall break.

"Whenever she experienced my culture, we would talk about hers as well and different things along the way," McReynolds said.

Adjunct professor Juan Meza, who taught De la Cruz for both her freshman Bible classes, commented on her warm demeanor and bubbly personality.

"She spoke all the time and was very relational with others," Meza said. "She smiled and was happy all the time. She would laugh at everything."

Throughout her time at college, De la Cruz learned to value the people in her life. After her mother recovered from cancer, she not only gained a new appreciation for her family, but she also created more intentional relationships with as many people as possible. De la Cruz wanted to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Walton Scholarship Program.

"I'm not alone in this world," De la Cruz said. "I say that every person has something special that I don't have, and I want to learn from them."

By Jackie Bacon



Junior Esther De la Cruz moved from El Salvador to Searcy, Arkansas, at the start of her freshman year as a participant in the Walton International Scholarship Program. Photo by Owen Brown



FRANZ VARGAS

Junior Walton Scholar Franz Vargas came to Harding from Coatepeque, Guatemala. He had recently begun his English courses at school when a teacher informed him of the Walton International Scholarship Program, which would allow him to pursue his bachelor's degree in the United States. Vargas did not hesitate to apply. In 2013, he came to Harding after completing a rigorous screening process.

Walmart founder Sam Walton and his wife, Helen, launched the program to fund Latin American student scholarships to three faith-based Arkansas universities each year. Students from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize and Mexico were invited to apply for these scholarships to attend Harding University, John Brown University or University of the Ozarks.

"Four years ago I never thought I was going to be able to hold a conversation with people from a different country," Vargas said. "Being with people from different cultures and languages has been the best experience."

The experience, according to Vargas, blessed not only him but also the community of Walton Scholars the program created at Harding. From the first day of Impact forward, he began building a large group of friends both from Latin American countries and from the U.S. After joining the men's social club TNT, Vargas added club sports and functions to his schedule of Walton Scholar activities.

"Without Harding I would have never met them," Vargas said. "The environment that we live [in] on campus has helped me to be more bonded to them every day."

Junior Luis Chinchilla, a fellow Walton Scholar, appreciated Vargas' influence in his life as well. The two met during their first Walton Scholars meeting and went on to become good friends.

"He is one of the wisest mentors of my age I know," Chinchilla said. "God has blessed him with the power to make everyone around him smile and fill their lives with joy. He is a great support and leader."

After his time at Harding, Vargas planned to return to Guatemala. Dr. Nicky Boyd, director of international student services, helped select Vargas as a Walton Scholar and admired his drive to use his education for the betterment of his homeland.

"I was impressed with Franz' determination to return home after his graduation and help his country," Boyd said. "I am convinced he will make a difference when he goes home to Guatemala."

Altogether, Vargas felt thankful not only for the relationships he made at Harding but also for the comprehensive education he received.

"Harding is making me a professional — it is equipping me with the skills and tools that I need to succeed in my country at the time I will go back," Vargas said.

By Chloe Savage

Junior Franz Vargas became involved on campus upon his arrival from Guatemala, joining men's social club TNT and the JESUS Project.
Photo by Owen Brown

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