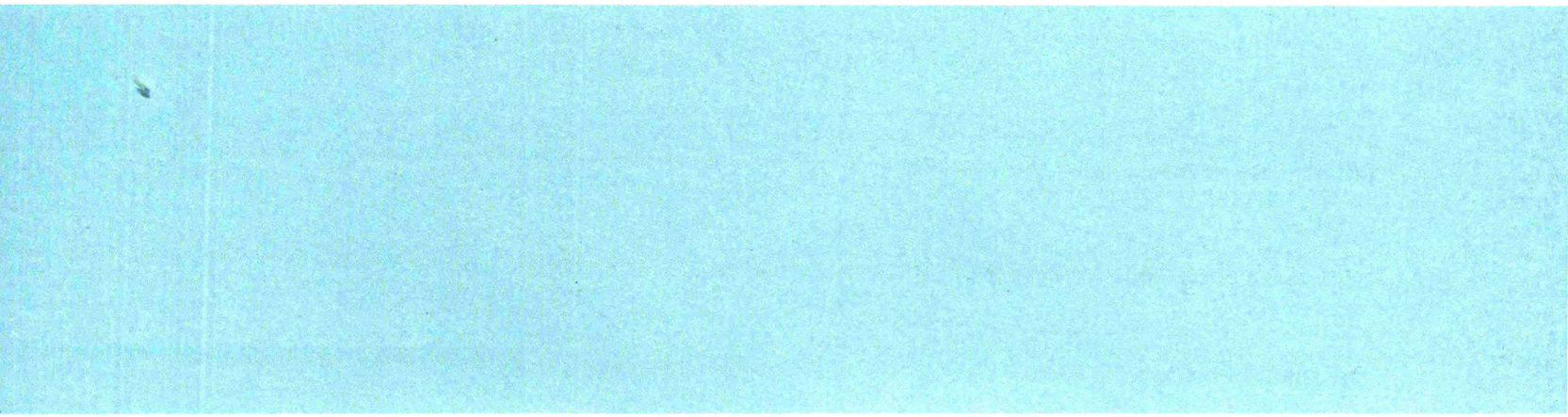


PEOPLE

From the first classes of freshman year to graduation day, students undergo continuous change. God molds us into the people that He intends us to be, and the people who surround us play a major role in the outcome. Our lives intertwine through our likes and dislikes and how we spend our time. We connect through music, art, movies and many other things. God has placed all of us here for a reason, and we strive to find our purpose. The friendships that we build with each other along the way will shape our lives forever, and our unique personalities mesh together to make Harding a temporary home that connects us all.

EDITOR CARLIE TACKER

ADVENTURE: A GOOGLE SEARCH AWAY

Having spent most of her life in Searcy, senior communications sciences and disorders major Emily Lincoln decided to spend the summer before her final year of college at an internship far-removed from the Harding bubble. She had been intrigued by Alaska all her life, so she began her search for a summer job by simply Googling Alaskan internships.

Lincoln's initial search led her to an advertisement for an internship opportunity at the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, Alaska, located beside the ski resort community of Girdwood 40 miles south of Anchorage. The 170-acre refuge was dedicated to preserving Alaskan wildlife through public education and animal rehabilitation.

Though Lincoln was ecstatic about the possibility of living in Alaska for the summer, her parents needed convincing. Fortunately, instructor of communication sciences and disorders Jan Traughber had lived and worked in Alaska for three summers in college. Traughber, who attended church with Lincoln's family, offered them insight into the living conditions in Alaska and what to expect.

"Emily is the youngest of six siblings, so I think they were scared to death to put her on an airplane and send her not only where they have not been, but a place thousands of miles away," Traughber said. "We were very honest with them about some of the challenges that she could face. I think that they felt better that they knew something about it and were able to parent her."

With Traughber's assurance, Lincoln set out to live in Alaska for the summer. The 12-week program brought students with a variety of majors together from across the United States. Caring for and feeding the animals fell to interns studying animal sciences, while students like Lincoln with majors outside the sphere of animal science handled ongoing AWCC program functions, such as working in the welcome center and gift shop.

Lincoln worked four to five days a week, but in her free time she took advantage of the array of activities that Alaska had to offer. Biking and hiking consumed her days and nights, as Alaskan summer days had nearly 20 hours of sunlight. On one outing, Lincoln got up close and personal with the wildlife when a baby bear began running alongside her while she was riding her bike on a trail.

"I made a list of things to do before I left Alaska, and two things on that list were to see a moose and bear in the wild," Lincoln said. "Both of those came true, and they both took my breath away — partially from fear, but mostly because I was just in awe of it."

In addition to Lincoln's personal explorations, AWCC coordinated day cruises for its employees to go sightseeing. On one of the trips, Lincoln went whale watching and saw 27 glaciers along the way. On another outing, she spotted puffins, sea lions, a humpback whale and a Dall's porpoise.

"Living in Alaska is really something that cannot be explained," Lincoln said. "It was so beautiful and just so different from living in the lower 48 [states]. The scenery alone was incredible."

Lincoln stayed in contact with her friends throughout the summer, and they could tell that she thoroughly enjoyed her journey to Alaska.

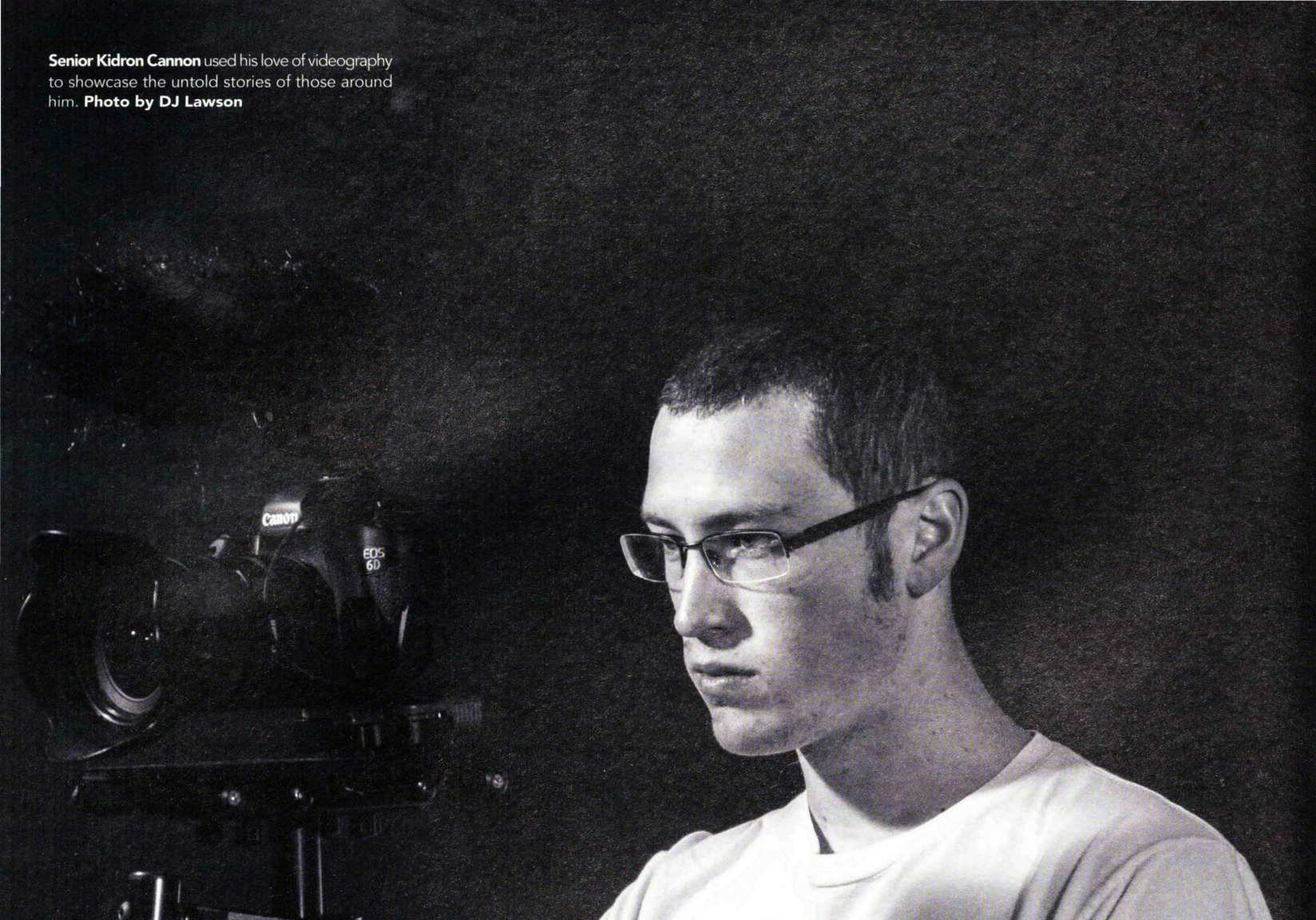
"She loved learning all new things and making new friends," said senior Kaitlyn Perring, Lincoln's friend since third grade. "I think it was a piece of the real world that she got to experience that you don't always get when you live in a small town your whole life."

The internship proved to be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure for Lincoln and showed her that sometimes dreams were only a Google search away.

By Jackie Bacon

EMILY LINCOLN

Leaving her small-town roots, senior Emily Lincoln traveled to Alaska to work at the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, Alaska. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**



Senior Kidron Cannon used his love of videography to showcase the untold stories of those around him. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

KIDRON CANNON

A NATURAL BEHIND THE CAMERA

While many students went to college in search of a career path, senior electronic media production major Kidron Cannon knew what he wanted to do from day one. For Cannon, college acted as a steppingstone, helping to guide him in the right direction and perfect his natural talent of video storytelling. From his freshman year forward, Cannon impressed students and teachers alike with his videos, particularly with his first submission to the Harding 5-Minute Film Festival, an annual showing of students' short films.

"He put this video in as a freshman into the festival of him doing this amazing parkour stuff all over campus, and I was just in shock," Grant Dillion, adjunct professor and sponsor of the 5-Minute Film Festival, said. "Normally students will learn that kind of skill at college, but he was coming to college already far beyond most students, so I knew this was somebody special."

During his teenage years Cannon said he began "messing with videography," but it was not until the spring of 2013 that he became heavily involved in the art. He proceeded to work on several projects around campus, including announcement videos for chapel, Say Thanks Day promotional videos for the Office of Advancement and the campus-wide ALS Ice Bucket Challenge video.

Outside of school, Cannon enjoyed shooting videos for himself and began to work as a freelancer. Some of his work earned him recognition and awards through various film festivals, including first place for an extreme unicycling video in "Local Hero Project," a Chattanooga Film Festival. Cannon said he was most proud of his third-place finish in the Broadcast Education Association competition, a national contest for experimental films.

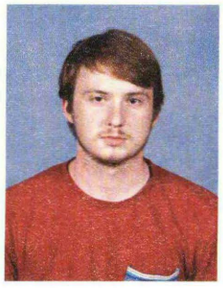
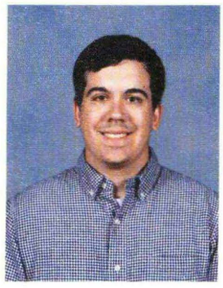
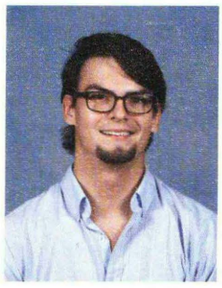
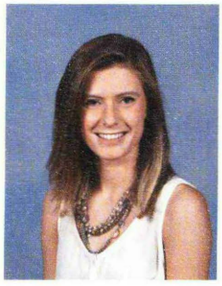
Cannon's work varied in style; he worked on documentaries, wedding videos and his favorite film subject: extreme sports. According to Cannon, Dillion served as an influential mentor, helping develop his skills and introducing him to new field equipment. Cannon also said that the filmmaking style of Devin Graham, a Christian filmmaker also known on YouTube as Devin Super Tramp, inspired him to buy a GlideCam, a stabilizing device for shooting footage.

"It seems that he's very skilled at capturing active sports and activities, which is hard to do because everything is happening so quickly," senior Rick Grace, an electronic media production major, said. "He does it in a very creative way."

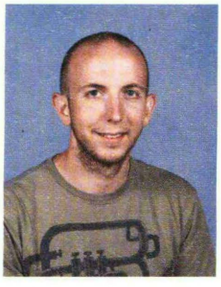
Cannon published most of his work on his YouTube channel, KidCannonTV. He hoped to work for a professional media company after graduation, expressing a particular interest in Red Bull Media House, a company focusing on sports, culture and lifestyle.

"I love extreme sports. The only time I ever really get excited is when I'm doing something dangerous," Cannon said. "The things that I enjoy doing the most and watching the most are what I enjoy filming the most."

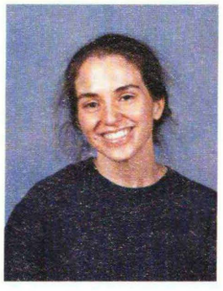
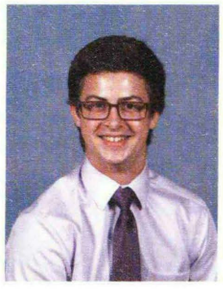
By Nakisha Milton

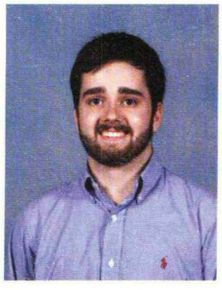





Samuel Acuff
Cody Adair
Blake Allen
Lily Armstrong
Natasha Astari

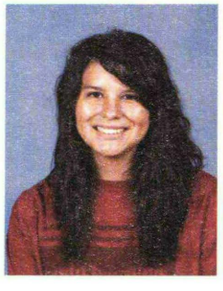
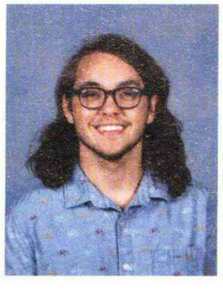


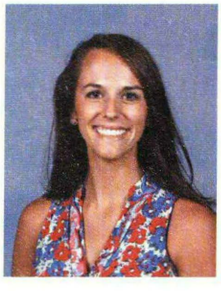
Madeline Awtrey
Stephany Ayestas Henriquez
Priscila Baca Alvarez
Timothy Bailey
Erienne Baker

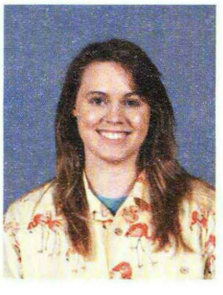
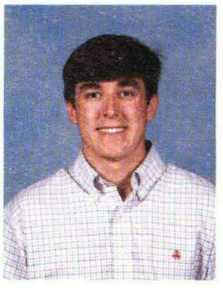


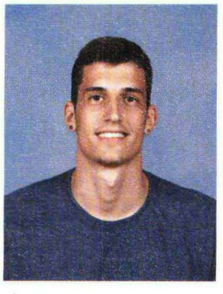
Heather Baker
John Baker
Leah Baker
Katelyn Barnett
Benjamin Barnhill



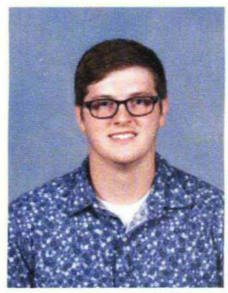
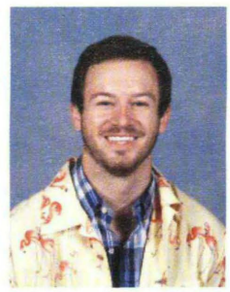
Micah Bartz
Stephen Beck
Danielle Berryman
Sarah Bigham
Jenna Bingham

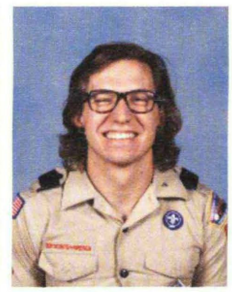





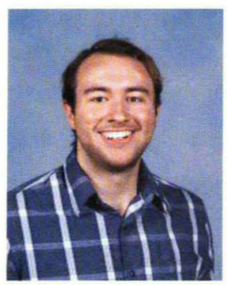
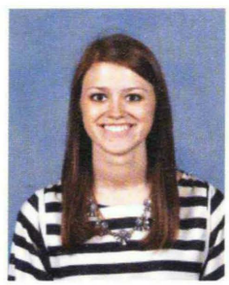
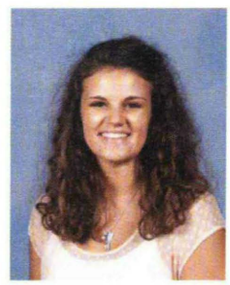
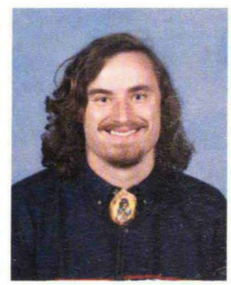
Moriah Blankenship
Baylor Blickenstaff
Hannah Blue
John Bone
Mak Boskailo

Chelsea Bradley
Patrick Brimberry
Ryan Brown
Abby Browning
Joshua Buford

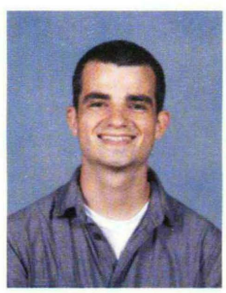



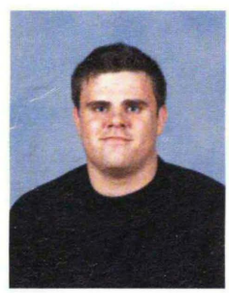


Jonathan Burnett
Katherine Burroughs
Janae Callicoat
Michael Canterbury
Kaleigh Capper

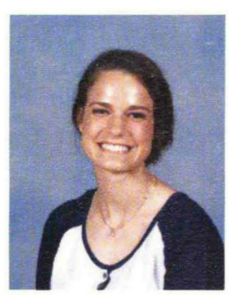
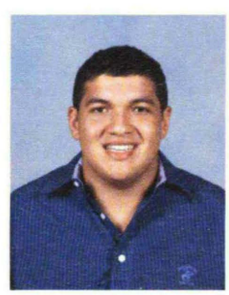





Gregory Chambers
Erin Choate
Heath Church
Chelsie Cloer
Morgan Coble

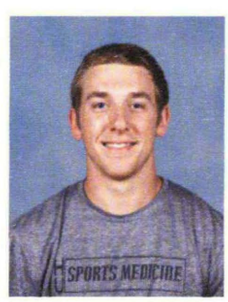


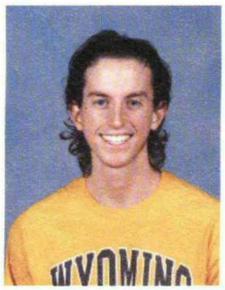
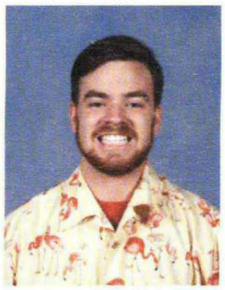


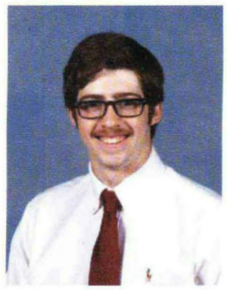
Shelby Coble
Kelsey Colley
Rachel Collinge
Chelsea Collins
Jimmy Constantino Diaz

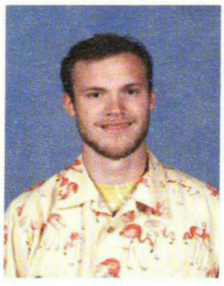
Julia Copeland
Lara Couch
Lindsay Crowder
Hannah Culbertson
Tyler Curtis

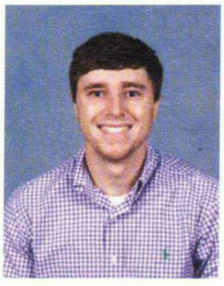


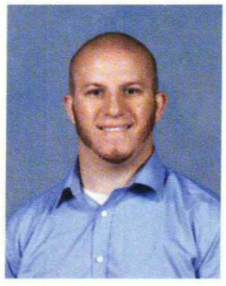





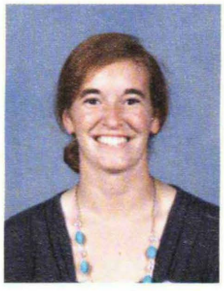
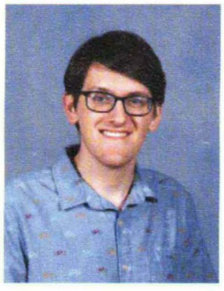
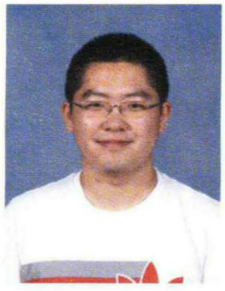
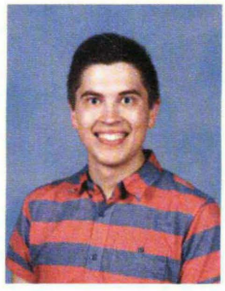
Shelby Daniel
Brandon Daughety
Jared Davenport
Courtney Davis
Geoffrey Davis



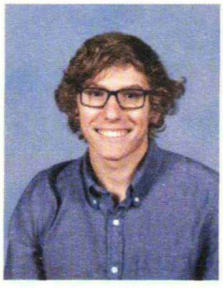
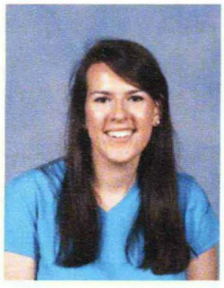




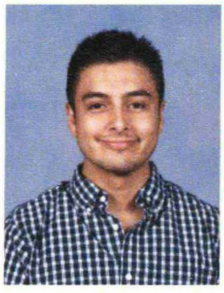
John Dawidow
Andrea DeCamp
Preston DeLong
Karleigh Denney
Brandon Dial

Sarah Diaz
Rachael Domeyer
Justin Dority
Haoxuan Dou
Thane Durey

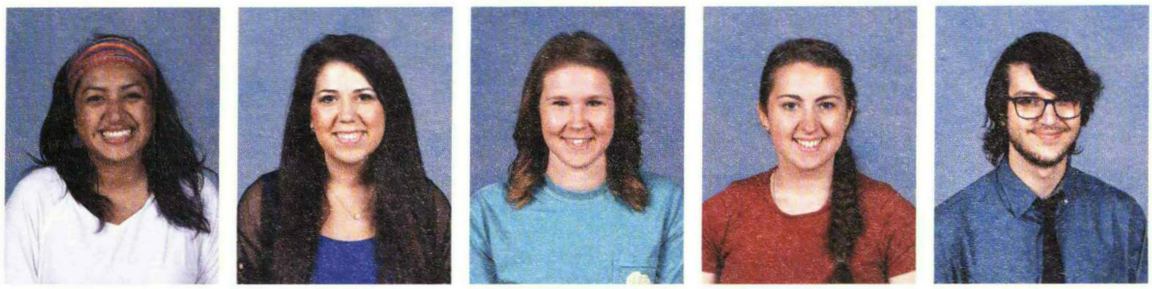
Emily Eads
Lydia Eads
Samuel Elander
Katherine Embry
Mackenzie English



Taryn Eubank
Sarah Falck
Caitlin Farrar
Patricio Felix
Kalee Fell

Shelbi Fowler
Wade Freer
Josette Friswold
Alexis Fuller
Jason Fultz

Rebeca Funes
Olivia Futrell
Brittany Gainer
Brittany Garvine
Jay Gentry



Emily Gibbs
Kacy Gibson
Amanda Gierisch
Margaret Giesemann
Taylor Gleaves

JESSICA DAVIS

LIVING OUT A CHILDHOOD DREAM

Senior Jessica Davis had always dreamed of working at Walt Disney World, but she never expected it to happen. Spurred by her dream, she attended an open character audition with her sisters while on vacation during Christmas break of 2012.

"We thought that would be awesome because they were having one while we were there," Davis said. "So obviously we thought we would just mark it off the bucket list."

She said that two weeks after beginning the spring semester of her junior year, she received a phone call to interview. Following the interview, Disney offered her a full-time position.

"I accepted the job after chapel," Davis said. "By 4 p.m. that day I had a list of nine people with connections of people I could stay with in Florida. I ended up using one of them, and that was my connection in finding a church. God literally provided the whole time."

Jessica's sister, sophomore Amy Davis, admired her example of faith through her experience at Disney.

"I feel like God just opened those doors for her," Amy said. "She had to move to a new place where she didn't know anyone and get an apartment on her own. That was just really cool, seeing her trust in God through all that."

Through her job, Jessica made three special "friends:" Ariel, Merida and Anna.

"I started off hanging out with a mermaid, who is a lot of fun," Jessica said. "She was the first friend I made, so she was really special through the whole experience. About a month later I met another friend named Merida, and a lot of little boys think she's cool because she does archery."

Later, before the film "Frozen" was released in theaters, Jessica became friends with Anna and Elsa, both of whom proved to be favorites at Disney.

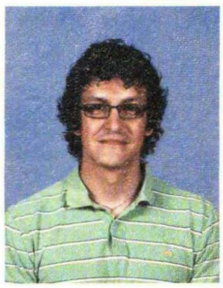
Junior Kristina Kiser worked as a PhotoPass photographer at Disney through the Disney College Program. She said the program enhanced her college experience by allowing her to take classes provided by Disney. However, she found her work with Make-A-Wish children to be the most rewarding.

"Getting to talk with them for even just a few minutes and hearing their stories really adds a very tender and special privilege to my job," Kiser said.

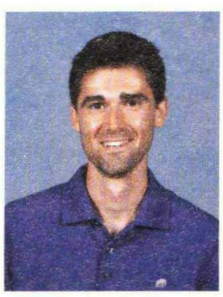
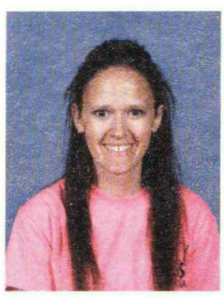
Jessica also said her favorite part of working at Disney was meeting the Make-A-Wish children.

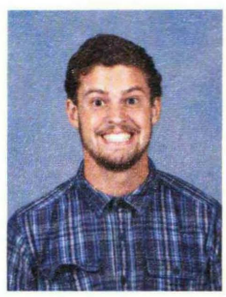
"I really liked working with the Make-A-Wish kids who came through, because that was when I felt like I was really making a difference," Jessica said. "To be able to use that and help little kids who are going through things little kids should definitely not have to deal with — just to see on their faces that whatever is happening at home doesn't matter, because they are standing face-to-face with their favorite character."

By Elizabeth Harper

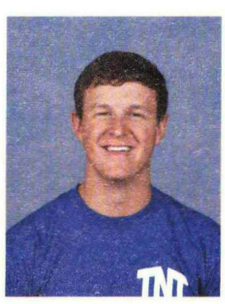
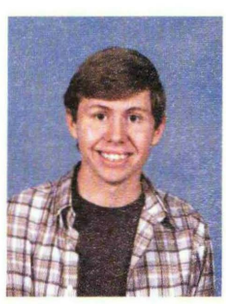


Jessica Goellner
Alexandra Goff
Set Gomez
Brenda Gonzalez Araya
Elizabeth Graefen



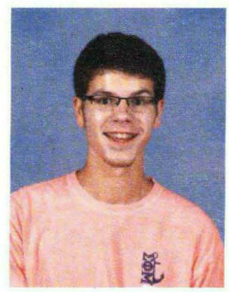
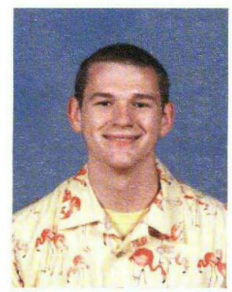
Joseph Green
Sabrina Greninger
Stephanie Grzenia
Philip Habegger
Bailey Hall

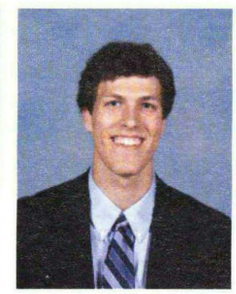



Benjamin Hansen
Joshua Hardin
Elizabeth Harper
Julie Harper
Michaela Harris

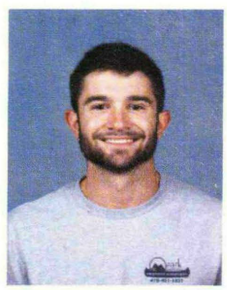
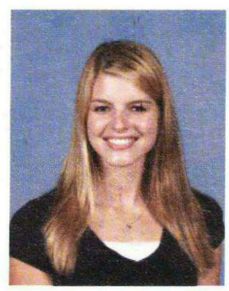
Senior Jessica Davis made Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, her second home when she was offered a full-time position as a character performer. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

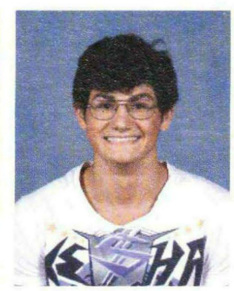
Molly Harris
Corey Harrison
Jacob Hatfield
Laura Hatley
Jonathan Hayden

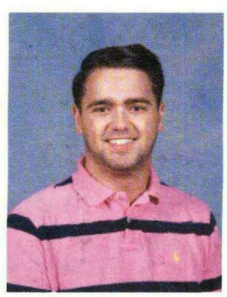
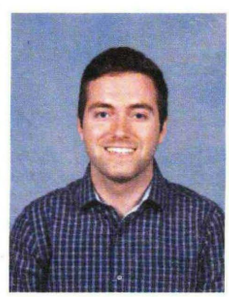
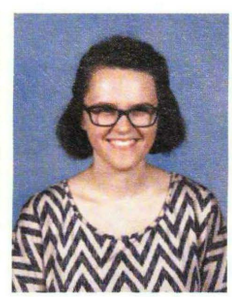


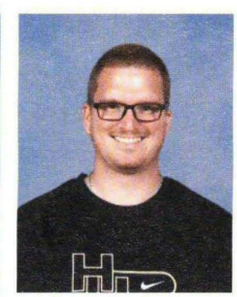
William Heffley
Erica Heim
Maia Hernandez
Jacob Herridge
Natalie Heyen

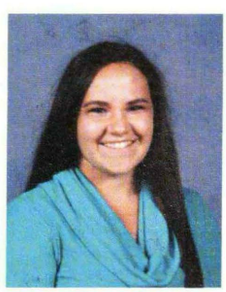
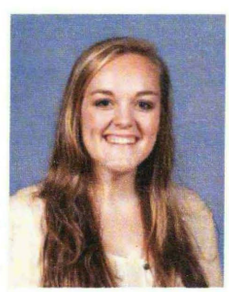
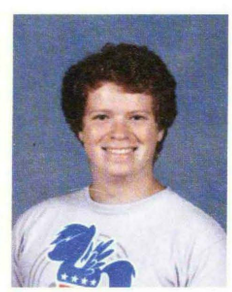
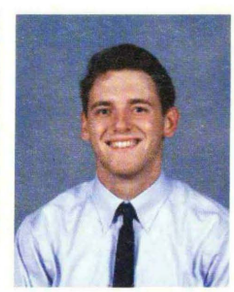


William Hicks
Matthew Hill
Melissa Hite
Aubrey Hitt
Matthew Hodges

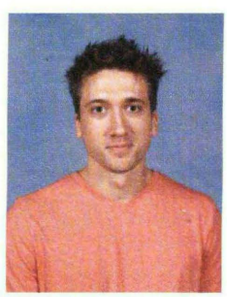




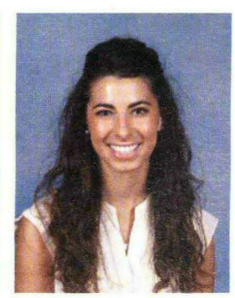
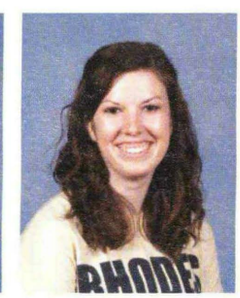


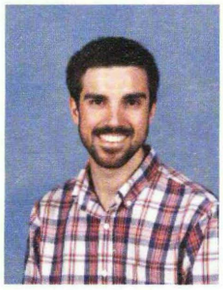
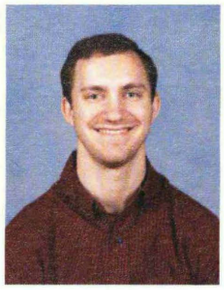
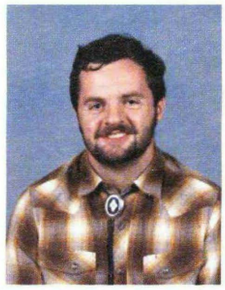
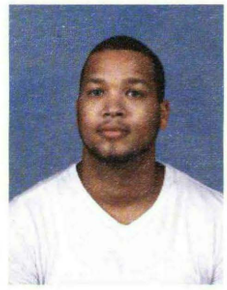
Malissa Hoehn
Briana Holland
Joshua Hopper
Logan Horne
Alexis Hosticka

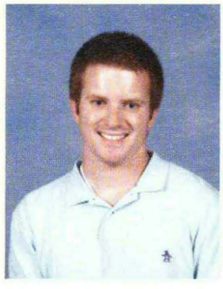
Daniel Houtrouw
MacKenzi Hoyle
Sarah Hula
Kelsie Hull
Ashley Imes

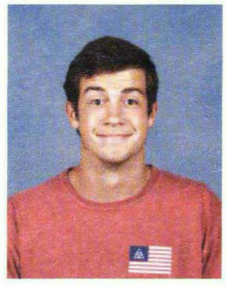


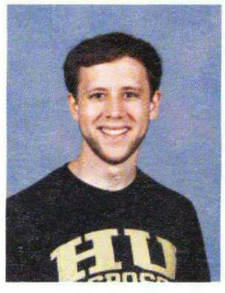
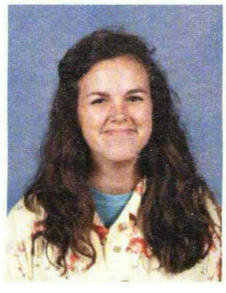
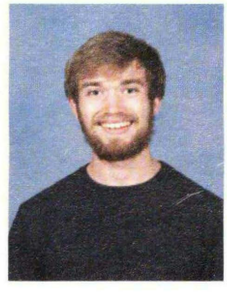
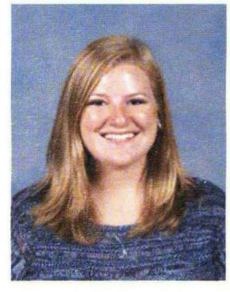





Adam Jackson
Christopher Jackson
Daniel Jackson
Alexander Jamerison
Briana Jenczyk

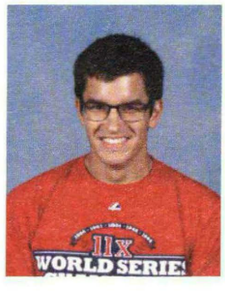


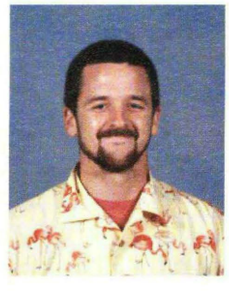
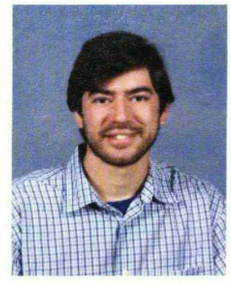


Grant Johnson
Mallory Johnson
Steven Johnson
Holly Jones
Kory Jones

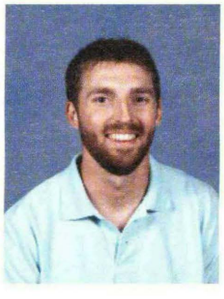
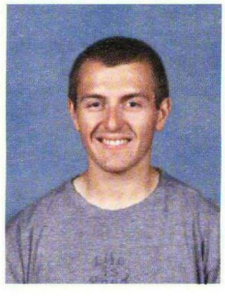





Tyler Jones
Kelsey Jowell
William Justus
Brooke Kay
Hailey Keele



Logan Keim
Emma Keith
Michael Kessler
David King
Laura King

Shane Kinnear
Gunnar Klemmer
Kathryn Lake
Nicole Langlois
Allison Lee

CONNOR MERRY & WILL RICHTER

TAG - TEAM INVESTORS

The stock market was no easy game, and seniors Connor Merry and Will Richter put much at stake every time they played. Richter, a finance major, said he first started playing the stock market on his own before his junior year. He had been looking for a way to get involved in stock trading, but it took reaching out to Nathan Green, a sponsor for the men's social club Knights, to really get started.

"It was something I always thought was interesting," Richter said. "I never really had the money for [it] or the knowledge about it."

Richter learned some stock market basics from Green, but his own interest carried him into a long-term hobby. Richter said that after he began, he talked Merry, a long-time friend, into playing the stock market with him.

"I have known Connor forever," Richter said. "I think we both kind of show the same interest, so when he saw I was getting into it ... I really started to get him interested."

Merry, a math major with an economics minor, said playing the stock market became incredibly enjoyable for him. While he started out as a novice, Merry felt more confident in his trading ability over time. He and Richter looked for every opportunity to learn more.

"We both [send] text messages back and forth every time we either learn a new term, read a book or watch a video," Merry said. "We kind of tell the other one what we have learned, and then we usually [discuss] it every few nights."

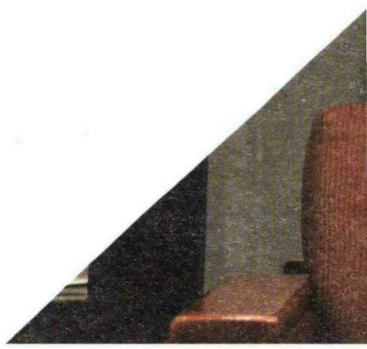
Merry and Richter invested in various American and international companies. They said they chose companies that had an established reputation, including technology-related companies such as Candy's Technology in China, or domestic companies such as Yahoo.

Senior Jacob Turner, an accounting major and friend of Merry and Richter, said he also enjoyed researching and learning about the stock market. Yet while he occasionally offered advice, Turner never invested his own money. He said Merry and Richter were risk-takers.

"Connor and Will are always thinking outside the box," said Turner. "That is the thing that has made them go after this, they are ... adventurous, advantageous people, and they kind of like to go against the flow of things."

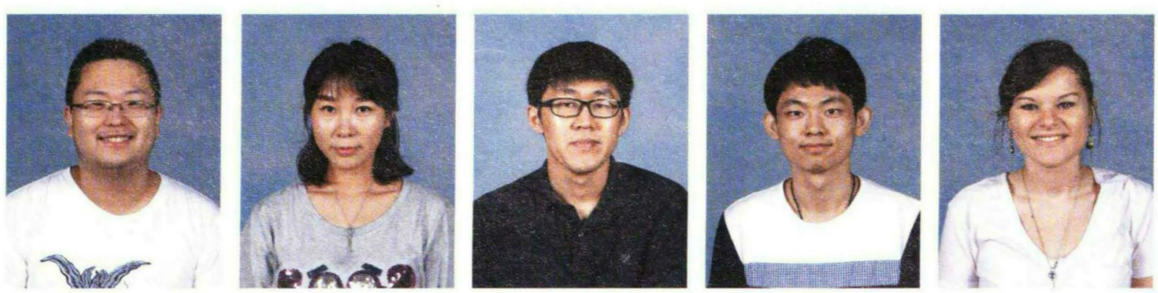
Merry and Richter planned on continuing to trade on the stock market, and they recommended it to others. They also recommended caution, however, because the stock market could be dangerous without the proper knowledge for managing the risks.

By Tania Salgado

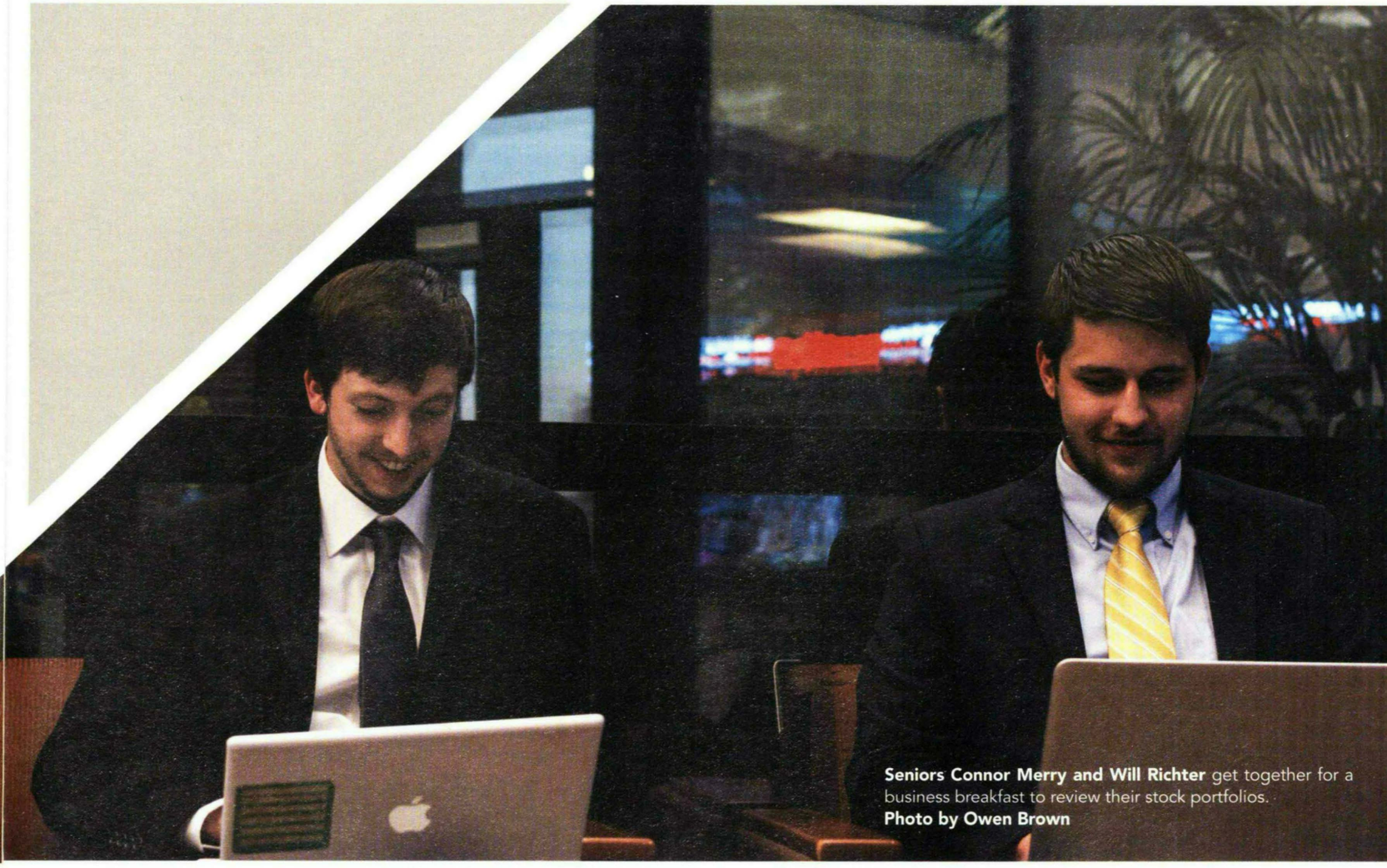


Blake Lewandoski
Vanessa Lewis
Kelsey Lillard
Jaquan Lindsey
Jean Linton

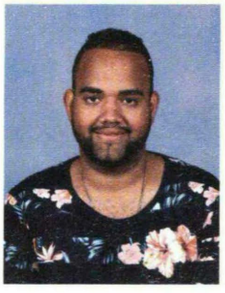
Benteng Liu
Kejun Liu
Shoucheng Liu
Tingyu Liu
Janine Locke



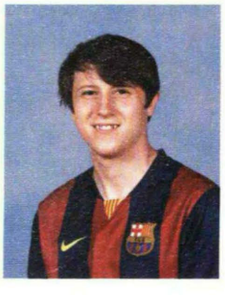
Hayden Lowe
Kathy Lujan Rosales
Allison Lynn
Kristianna Lynxwiler
Allie Marlin

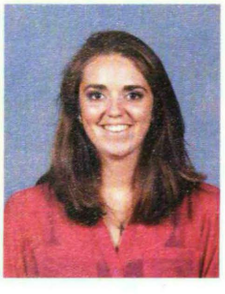


Seniors Connor Merry and Will Richter get together for a business breakfast to review their stock portfolios.
Photo by Owen Brown

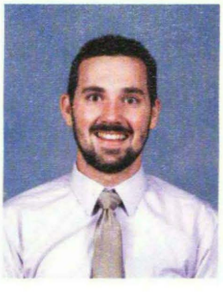
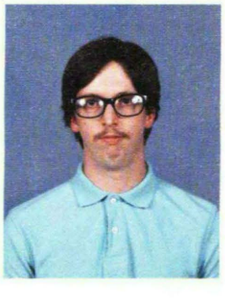


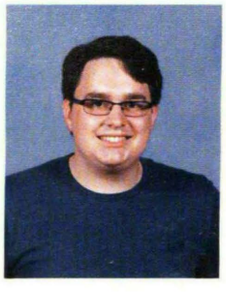
Brittany Marquez
Sarah Marshall
Patricia Martinez Araujo
Cristhian Martinez Vittini
Andrea Matamoros Rivera





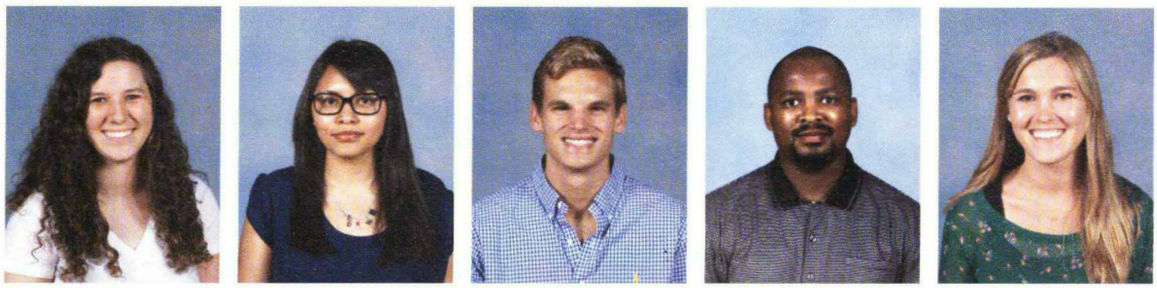
Chloe Maxwell
Audrey McBay
Brian McGlenn
Kelsie McGuire
Laura McKinley



Molly McKinney
Kaleb McLarty
Connor Merry
Cara Messmer
Nathaniel Michael

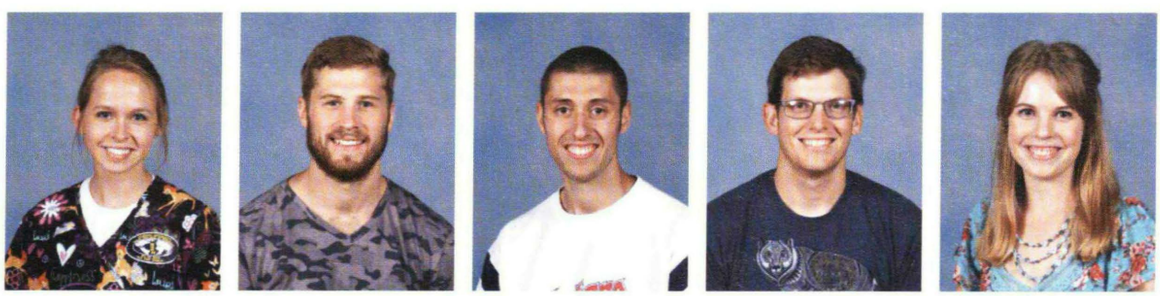
Nicole Michael
Maria Midence Perez
Zachary Mitchell
Machona Monyamane
Maci Moore



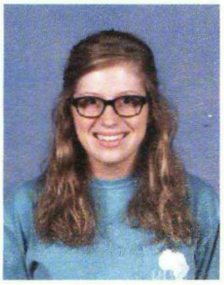
Shelby Moore
Savannah Morris
Morgan Mullin
Rachel Murray
Rebecca Neely

Joanna Nelson
Jacob Nesbit
Tin Nguyen
Bethany Nicholson
Krista Nolte

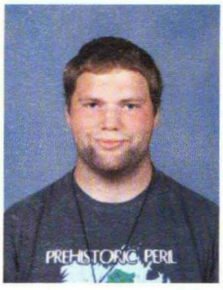
Kallie Nossaman
Kyle Nossaman
John Novotny
Tyler Nutt
Mary O'Briant



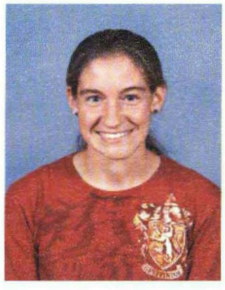
Shelby O'Bryan
Jonathan O'Neal
Doris Oliva Fuentes
Olutomi Osibowale
Randi Owens



Lisi Padilla Gonzalez
Monica Palmore
Katherine Parker
Emily Parsons
Katherine Pastran

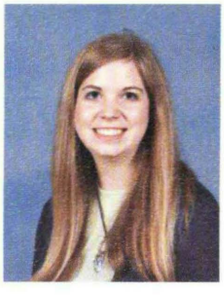
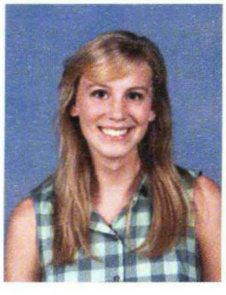


Joseph Paul
Madeleine Perry
Rachel Perry
Colbie Phillips
Kelsey Pierce

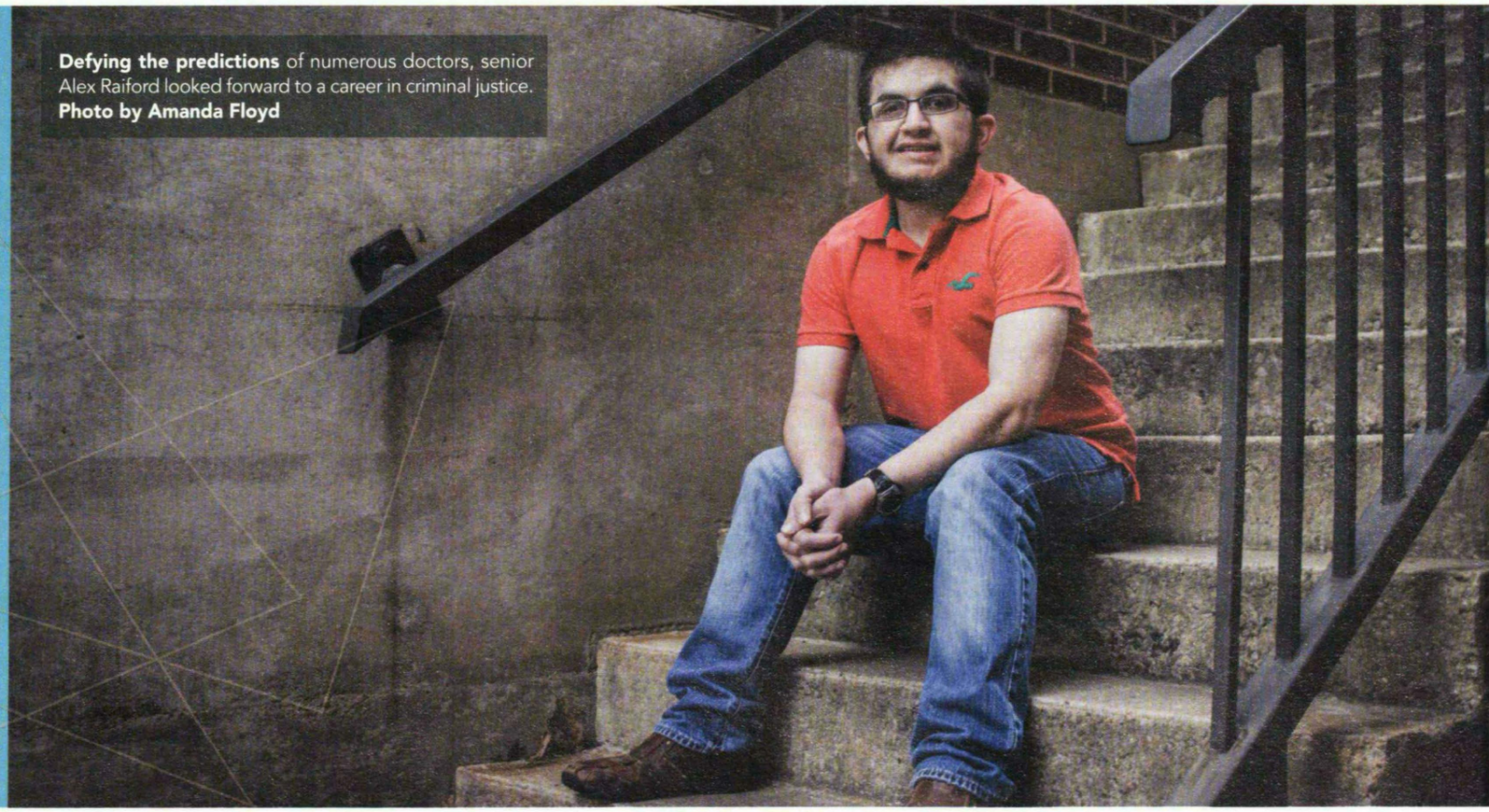


Michael Plunk
Amber Priest
Isacar Racine
Mark Raiford
Nellie Raihala

Haley Raines
Meghan Ramsey
Lauren Rankey
Sydney Ray
Chelsea Reid

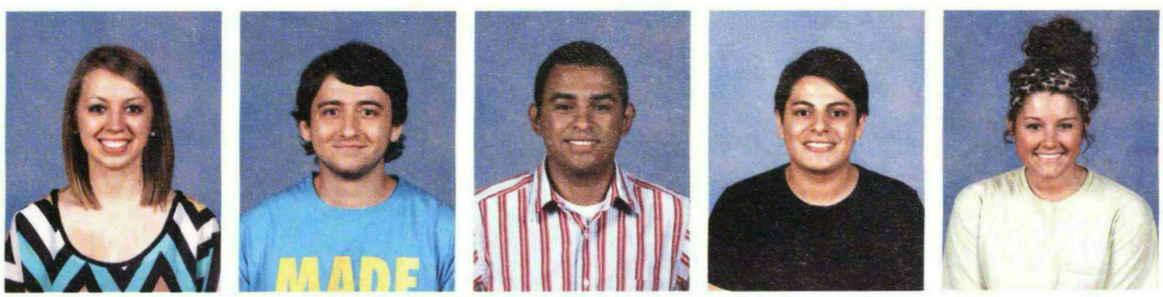



Jessica Revelle
Tamara Rhodes
Savannah Richardson
Tamara Richardson
Shelbie Robeck

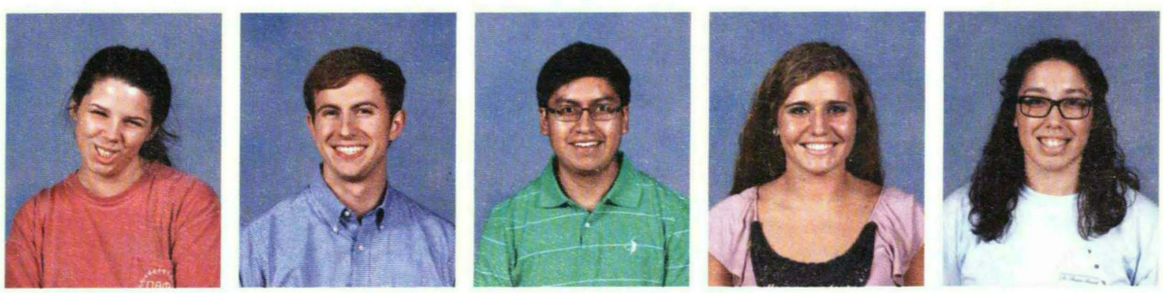


Defying the predictions of numerous doctors, senior Alex Raiford looked forward to a career in criminal justice. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

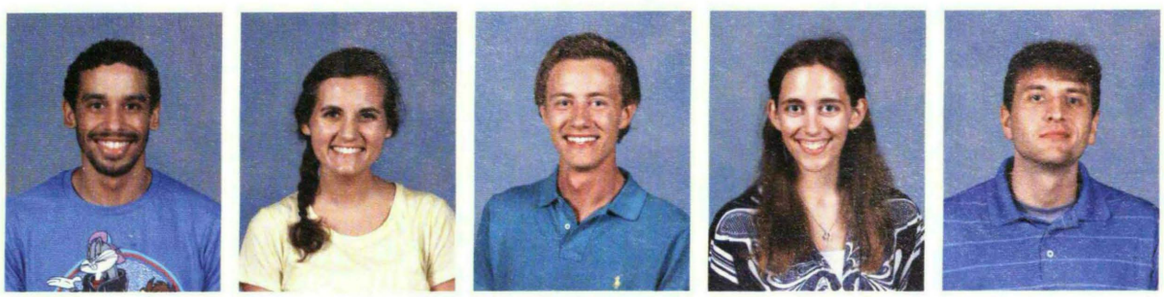
Hannah Robison
Zee Rock
Arnaldo Rojas Jiron
Carlos Romero Alvarado
Gabrielle Rowden



Hanna Rozell
Tyler Samuel
Amadeus Sanchez Martinez
Arielle Saunders
Olivia Savage



Trey Savage
Kristin Scanlon
Grant Schol
Samantha Schroy
Phillip Seyler



ALEX RAIFORD

OVERCOMING A LIFETIME OF OBSTACLES

As a criminal justice major in his final semester of undergraduate studies, senior Alex Raiford had many questions about the future on his mind, many of which were questions of employment and professional pursuits. Compared to Raiford's past, however, planning for the future seemed like a luxury. When Raiford was 2 years old, doctors diagnosed him with a dangerous form of brain cancer, giving him an estimated six months to live. During the same visit, the family learned that Raiford's right eye was completely blind, and his left eye was severely impaired.

While Raiford's early cancer went into remission within the next year, he was diagnosed again at age 4. The new prognosis was more optimistic; according to Raiford, he was given approximately eight years, but it seemed unlikely that he would live to be a teenager. Against all odds, Raiford's cancer went into remission for a second time. As he approached college graduation, Raiford was in his 16th year of remission, though the lingering health issues of his early childhood never disappeared.

"I have 82 tumors on my spine and neck, two or three on my ribs, one on my femur," Raiford said. "I'm blessed to be alive."

Raiford said he faced daily challenges in the classroom and elsewhere, still suffering from severe visual impairment and chronic pain.

"I can't drive, so that's a big hindrance," Raiford said. "[I] can't see anything on the boards — even if I'm on the front row — to take notes."

Raiford rose to meet his challenges, and he learned to rely upon his peers and teachers daily. Borrowing notes and presentations, Raiford worked to keep up in his classes. According to Dr. B.J. Houston, chair of the Criminal Justice Department, Raiford's enthusiasm and hard work established him as an active member of the department.

"He has a definite love of the law," Houston said. "I can't tell you that I've had any student who's more positive than Alex is. I think it's his perseverance and his positive attitude."

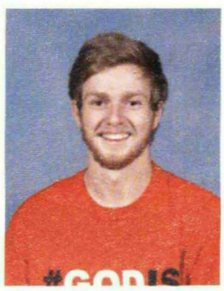
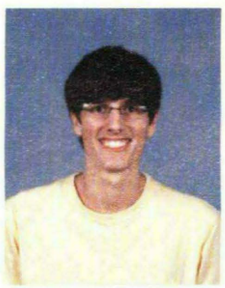
Raiford's friends and fellow students also witnessed his attitude in the face of difficult circumstances. Senior Silas Heffley was impressed with how quickly Raiford became familiar with those around him.

"Alex is one of those people who never met a stranger," Heffley said. "He is just a joy to be around."

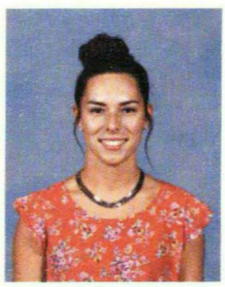
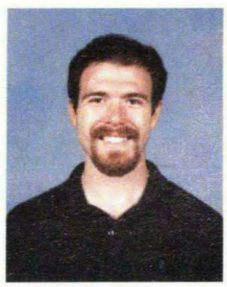
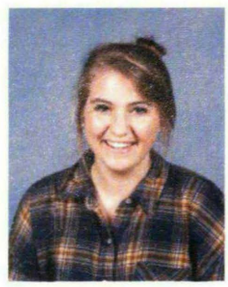
According to Raiford, his struggles were not barriers to achievement but parts of a valuable story that God used to influence the community around him. Through his contact with dozens of doctors and fellow patients, Raiford sought to exemplify the love of Christ and the ways in which it overcame suffering.

"I know that no matter what happens, God is in control," Raiford said. "If one person sees Jesus through me — through my medical conditions — it's a success."

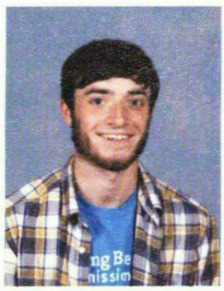
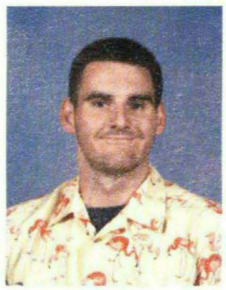
By JP Baker

Chelsey Shaffer
Jackson Shamblin
Bradley Shelton
Haley Shelton
Amber Sitton

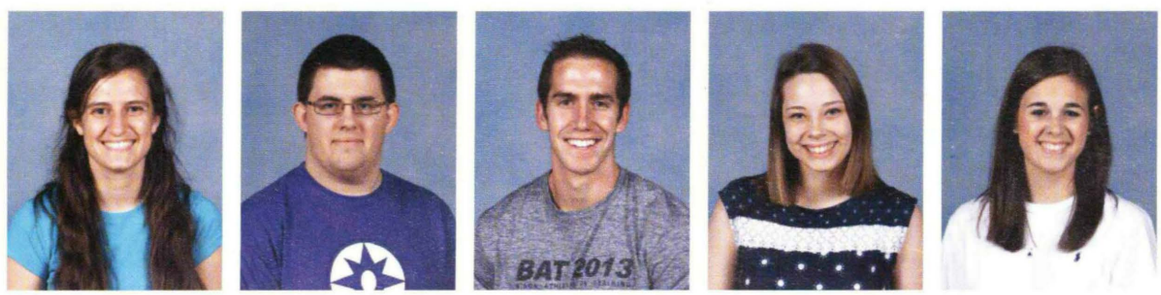
Savannah Slape
Maegen Sloan
Rachel Smedley
Charles Smith
Megan Smith

Natalie Smith
Nicholas Smith
Randall Smith
Terah Smith
Tyler Sommers

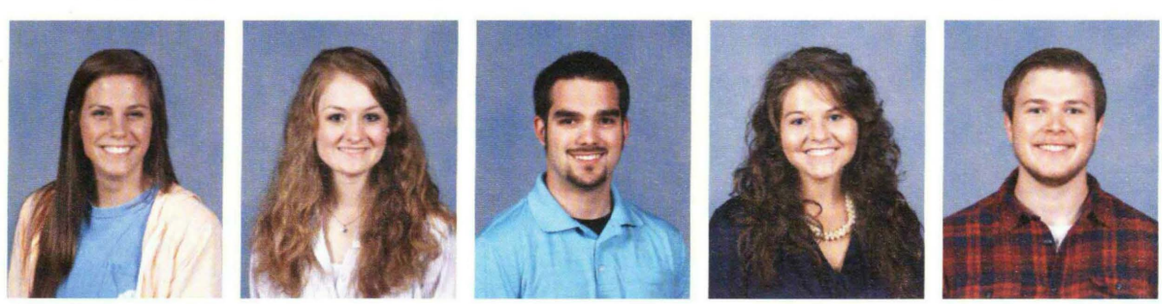
Morgan Sorrell
Joshua Spears
Carolyn Speegle
James Stamps
Hope Stanger

Kinsey Starks
Zachary Stephenson
Jacob Stevens
Elizabeth Stewart
Katherine Stewart

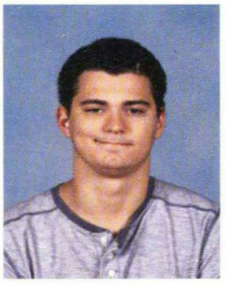


Ryan Stirrup
Emily Strate
Samuel Stringfellow
Charles Stroud
Angela Sullivan

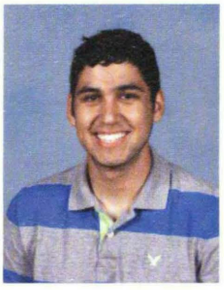
Holly Sullivan
Catherine Summers
Alex Tebo
Maggie Thomas
Brennan Thomason



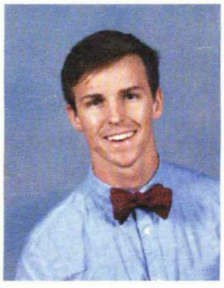
Tamara Thomason
Alex Traughber
Carly Trulock
Danielle Tucker
Jacob Turner

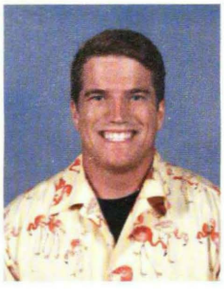


Marindia Turner
Elizabeth Valerie
Emily Valerio
Hannah van den Meiracker
Mason Van Valkenburgh

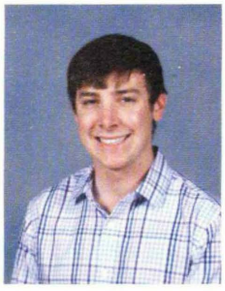
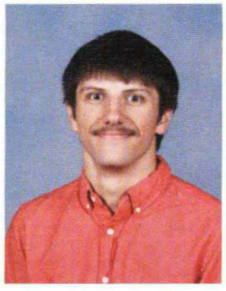


Edith Vasquez
Juan Vasquez
Cody Veteto
Lauren Vetters
Morgan Wagner

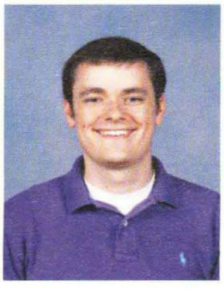


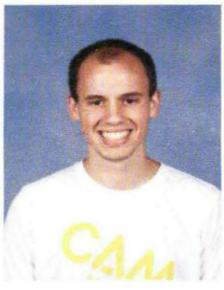


Rachel Wagner
Patrick Waites
Harrison Waldron
Hayley Waldron
Joseph Walker

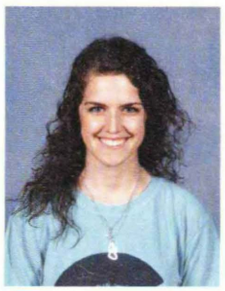
Justin Walker
Kayla Walker
DeAnna Wallace
Michael Wallace
Colby Wallis

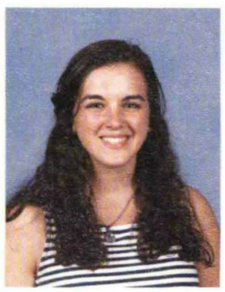




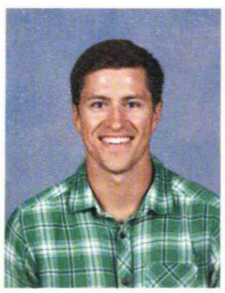
Sara Wallis
Brent Ward
Julia Ward
Selena Warren
Seth Watkins

Ansley Watson
Caytlyn Watson
Katherine Weatherly
Lauren Webb
Sara Webb

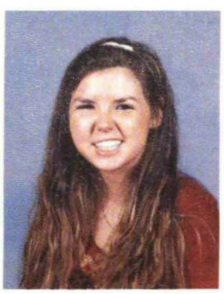
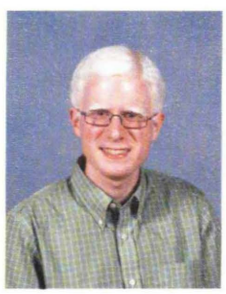
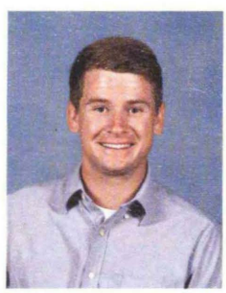




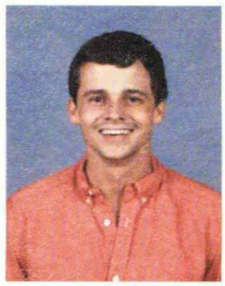
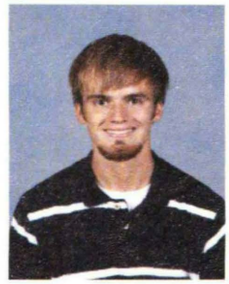
Woody Weeks
Mary Welch
Meryl Wetton
Cherise White
Candace Whiteley



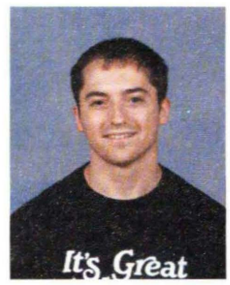
Linda Whitlock
Claire Whitman
Eric Whittington
Zachary Wickes
Ashley Williams

Senior Jake Herridge put his engineering major to good use by creating boom boxes out of suitcases for people who wanted music on the go. **Photo by Owen Brown**

Victoria Willis
Marianna Woodruff
Micah Woods
Jeffrey Wright
Shiying Xu



Sarah Yates
Kyung Yoon
Leslie York
Zhaorui Zhang
Daniel Zimpfer

Tessa Zuniga
Diana Zuniga Caceres

HEAVY METAL

JAKE HERRIDGE

At the beginning of his sophomore year, senior Jake Herridge stumbled across creative inspiration. Finding an overpriced portable stereo in a shop in Florida, he realized that he could make his own for less than half of the cost. After returning to campus, Herridge shared the idea with his roommate, senior Logan Horne, who quickly jumped on board. From there the idea began to take shape.

It took several tries for Herridge to perfect the art of making portable stereos. His studies in engineering played a key role in the process.

"I've always liked electricity," Herridge said. "I've always been artsy."

Herridge's first boom box consisted of an old suitcase, three speakers, an amplifier and a portable lithium ion battery. Herridge did not describe the building process in technical terms, however.

"These boom boxes are pieces of art," Herridge said. "You take music and you take retro luggage, and you can put it together ... and the result is just magnificent."

While Herridge created his "boom cases" — as he called them — to sell to others, he still developed a personal connection with each individual creation.

"My favorite part is, once they're finished, plugging them in and choosing the first song to christen the boom case," Herridge said. "Every boom case has its own personality."

In the beginning, Herridge and Horne used anything they could get their hands on to build the boom boxes. They ordered the sound equipment online, hunted for vintage suitcases at thrift stores and flea markets and even used Horne's pocketknife to assemble the first boom box. According to Horne, they eventually gained access to the science building's jigsaw, saving the trouble of cutting through suitcases manually.

"Two suitcases completely dulled my knife," Horne said. "But it was totally worth it."

After perfecting their design, the team took its product to market by setting up a booth at the Harding Bazaar during Spring Sing weekend, giving half the proceeds to Searcy Children's Home. They also held a raffle to give away a boom box for free, blasting music through all five suitcases to attract buyers.

"Out of all of the booths, we were obviously the loudest," Horne said. "People would walk by and you could tell people thought it was cool. They had never seen it before."

Senior Blake Allen was particularly interested in the boom boxes. When Allen wanted a boom box for his wedding, Herridge was happy to teach him to make his own. Allen quickly began his own enterprise, adding his own design touches and selling his boomboxes through his Etsy shop.

"I like figuring stuff out — building stuff with my hands," Allen said. "If there is something like that, I kind of gravitate towards it."

Herridge planned to work with both Horne and Allen to sell the boom boxes at the bazaar a second time in 2015.

By Carlie Tacker

TRAVELING WITH A PURPOSE

When junior Caroline Reed was 16 years old, she traveled to more than 20 countries in six months. She was not on a reality television game show, she did not win the vacation lottery, and she was not trying to "find herself." She went with her family, just because.

Reed's parents, who both loved to travel, were inspired to take the trip as a result of a reflective conversation. Lori Reed, Caroline's mother, said they realized how short life was, how little they had traveled as a family and how quickly their children were growing up.

"We value something other than being on the treadmill of everyday life," Lori said. "We just wanted to get off of the treadmill and value each other."

For such a large-scale trip to happen, several things needed to fall into place. According to Caroline, the details with her father's job worked out exactly as needed. Her mother's boss encouraged the trip, and the private school the children attended was willing to work with them. On Jan. 9, 2010, the Reed family left the U.S. for the trip of a lifetime.

"One thing about my family is that we aren't very good at planning ahead," Caroline said. "So we pretty much went with only our plane tickets, knowledge of where we were going to go and our first night's hostel booked in New Zealand. That's just how we roll."

Caroline said that although her family was relatively close before the trip, they bonded on a deeper level during those six months.

"We got very close very quickly," Caroline said. "We were together 24/7, so we had to learn how to work together. I couldn't just run off to my room and be mad about something or cry, because there was no 'my room.' We were all in the same room, and we just had to learn how to handle our anger — handle being upset and deal with each other."

They visited countries like Greece, Cambodia, Thailand and Turkey. Caroline said she has always had a love for history and that being able to experience the history of each country first-hand was something she would never forget.

"Traveling is so eye-opening, and I think it's one of the best learning experiences," Caroline said. "There's no better way to learn about the world than to travel. You can sit in a classroom all day, but traveling is hands-on. You get to be there and understand the culture because you've lived in it."

They also visited India, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Israel. Lori said the intention of the trip was to expose the family to places and things they had never experienced.

"It wasn't a long vacation — it was living life in different places and letting that influence us," Lori said. "A lot of the places we chose came from thinking about our family values. We thought about what we wanted our kids to see and why we wanted them to see it. We intentionally chose things and places that would make us uncomfortable."

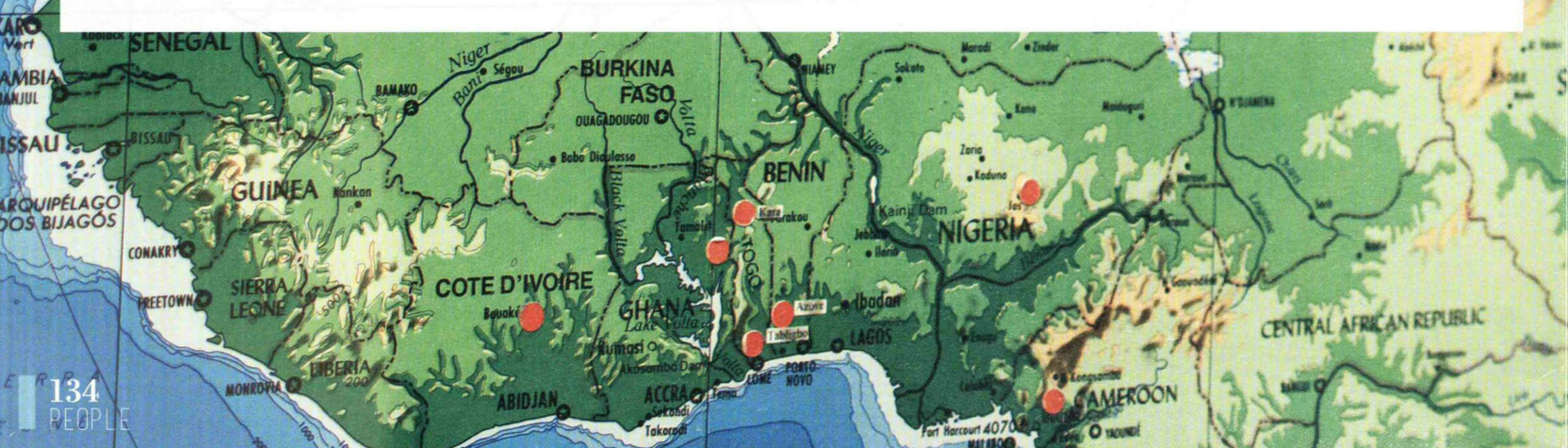
Junior Toria Parrett, one of Caroline's friends, witnessed the growth in Caroline after her return.

"That whole trip was a life-changing experience for her, and you can tell that when she speaks," Parrett said. "Travel is something that develops her. It changes anyone, but it's such a passion of hers, and it's something she loves so much that it brings out the best in her. People always ask, 'Where do you get your energy from?' and I think travel is where Caroline gets hers."

The Reed family took a risk and did something radical, but Caroline said she would do it again in a heartbeat.

"It's crazy," Caroline said. "I think about it now, and I think, 'We were totally insane.' But it was so worth it. If anybody wanted to do it, I would definitely encourage them to. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

By Rachel Brackins

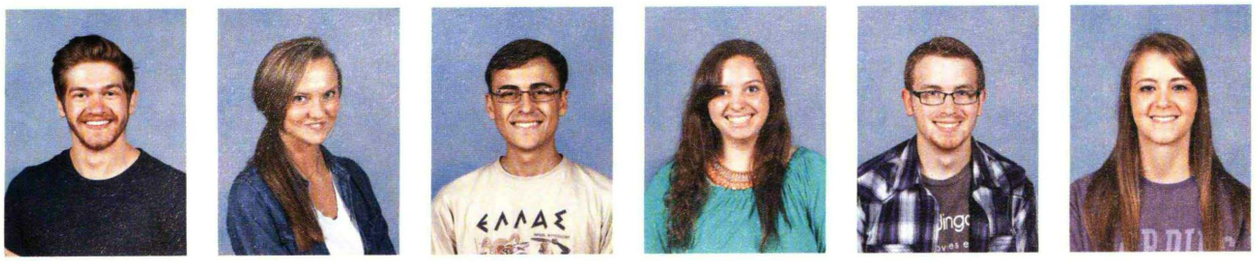


Dropping everything to see the world on a six-month journey, junior Caroline Reed traveled to 20 different countries with her family, staying with missionaries along the way. **Photo by Owen Brown**

CAROLINE REED

Katrina Aardema
Zach Abney
Kayla Alexander
Mary Grace Allen
Braden Allman
Quinton Anderson

Jonathan Andrew
Chelsea Antczak
John Arnold
Rachel Autrey
Philip Baird
Courtney Barnett



Emily Barnett
Sarah Baxter
Garrett Bender
Devin Benson
Kristen Betts
Olivia Bissell

Austin Blake
Seneca Blount
Cheyann Bolin
Katie Brewer
Anna Britton
David Brooker

Emily Brown
Owen Brown
Alissa Buckner
Dee Carver
Daniel Casella
William Cassell

Geraldine Cismeros
Betsy Clark
Kathleen Clement
Kimberly Clements
Hannah Cloyes
Hannah Cochran

Junior Rachel Gosser's mass group texts and cheerful personality made her a constant source of encouragement to those around her.
Photo by Amanda Floyd

RACHEL GOSSER

THE ULTIMATE ENCOURAGER

Taking advantage of a common form of communication, junior Rachel Gosser shared her positive attitude with hundreds of people via text message.

"Ever since I was in eighth grade I've collected quotes, and I never knew what to do with them," Gosser said. "It was an embarrassingly large amount of quotes. I felt I should start sending them to people … start doing something with them besides hoarding them for myself."

Gosser said she started small, sending weekly quotes to a select few people to remind them that she cared. The responses were so overwhelmingly positive that she decided to expand, sending the quotes to every contact listed in her phone. Her contacts list grew, and eventually she was sending a weekly encouraging text to over 700 people.

"People always ask why I don't just make a Facebook group," Gosser said. "I send individual text messages because I get responses from people, and if they want to talk to me about something, it's very individualized. I wanted it to be more personal because I wanted people to know that there is someone out there who cares."

Sophomore Jimmy Pounders said Gosser succeeded in making her encouragement personal.

"She really does care," Pounders said. "I know that's a vague thing to say, because a lot of people care about a lot of different things, but she really does care about you. Whenever she asks how you are doing, it's not a shallow question. She really does want to hear what you have to say. She will really empathize with how you're feeling."

Pounders described the genuine love Gosser had for everyone she met as "powerful and encouraging" and said it helped him understand the importance of relationships.

"Rachel has taught me to be honest with myself and honest with others," Pounders said. "I can't rely just on my own perceptions of the world or my own efforts to better myself. I have to lean on others and more importantly lean on God."

According to senior Emily Weldon, Gosser's encouraging text messages fit perfectly with her way of life.

"It sounds so cheesy, but she loves intentionally and cherishes every moment that she gets with the people that are in her life," Weldon said. "That's just how she lives every day. The fact that she sends those texts really fits her personality, and if anyone was going to take time out of their day to do that, it would be her."

Weldon said Gosser was a constant source of encouragement and positivity.

"She's always in a good mood, and it's not one of those annoying good moods," Weldon said. "She really just loves life and loves the relationships that God has put in her life and she really cherishes them. That's why she's so intentional about them. She's not trying to make herself look good by being friends with all of these people or doing all of these good and nice things. She's the most genuine person you could ever meet."

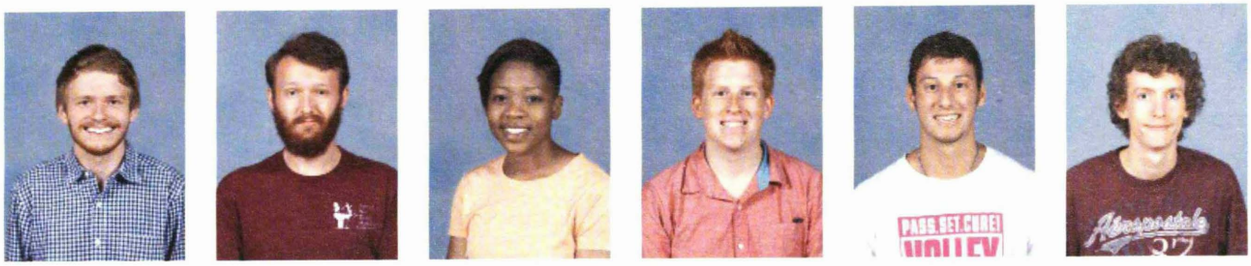
Gosser said people helped her see beauty, and her weekly texts became a way for her to give that beauty back. She shared her positive outlook on life, but she also made sure people understood that it did not come without effort.

"I did not have an easy life growing up," Gosser said. "If people want to have that joy and whimsy that I strive to have every day, they can. It just takes work. I went through a lot of tough stuff to get to where I am today. For people who want to get to that point, they can. They just need to continually search for joy."

By Rachel Brackins

Emily Coleman
Emily Collins
Alessandro Console
Phoebe Cunningham
Raelyn Dailey
Kimberly Daly

Titus Dauck
Schuylar Davis
Dominique Deveaux
Thomas Dias
Bradley Dodick
Joshua Donaway

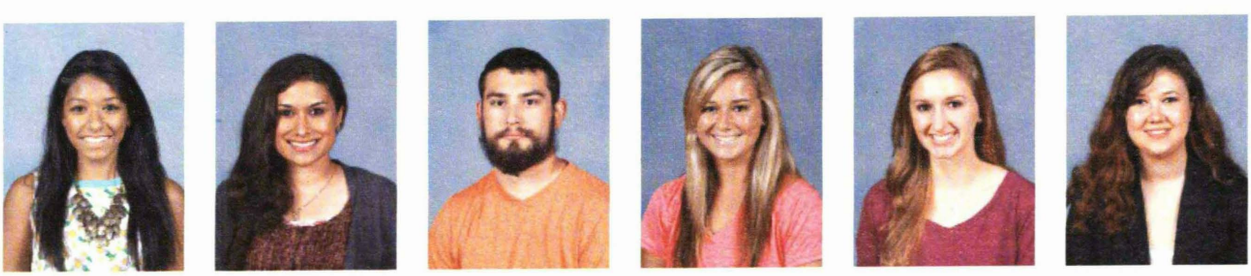


Zachary Downum
Mitchell Duncan
Molly Duncan
Emily Eason
Katlin Edom
Kayla Ellis

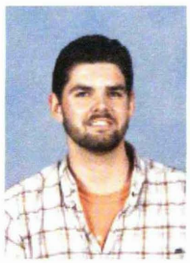
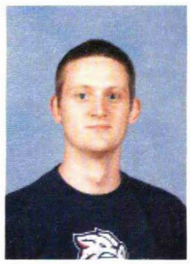
Austin English
Nathan Enix
Matt Erwin
Callie Essex
Daniel Evans
Logan Evans

McKenzie Evans
Elizabeth Fausett
Erin Fidone
Katie Finch
Sarah Fincher
Brittney Firquain

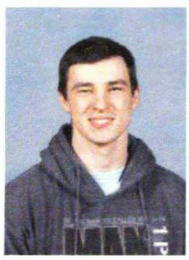
Flor Flores
Jessica Fontenot
Charles Foster
Taylor Friend
Julianna Fritz
Hannah Gann

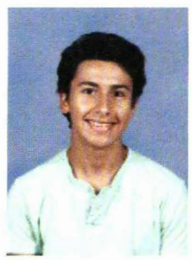


Chelsea Gastineau
Sara Anne Gill
Mary Glazener
Debbie Godinez - Flores
Bethany Gorman
Rachel Gosser

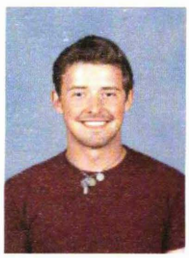
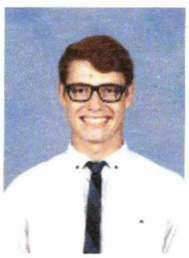



Jessica Gray
Emily Hale
Brent Hall
Corbett Hall
Jacob Hall
Elizabeth Hartman

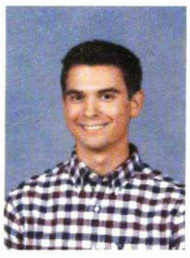


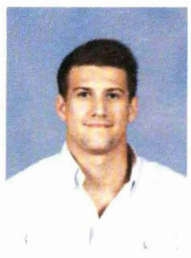


Julie Harvey
Erin Hasler
Katherine Hendrix
Daniel Henkel
Sierra Hernandez
Edgar Hernandez Gomez

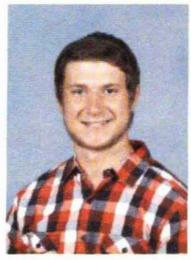
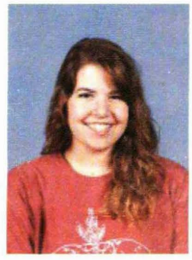



Jesse Hixson
John Hoehn
Audrey Holland
Jonna Hopper
Amber Howe
Ashley Howell

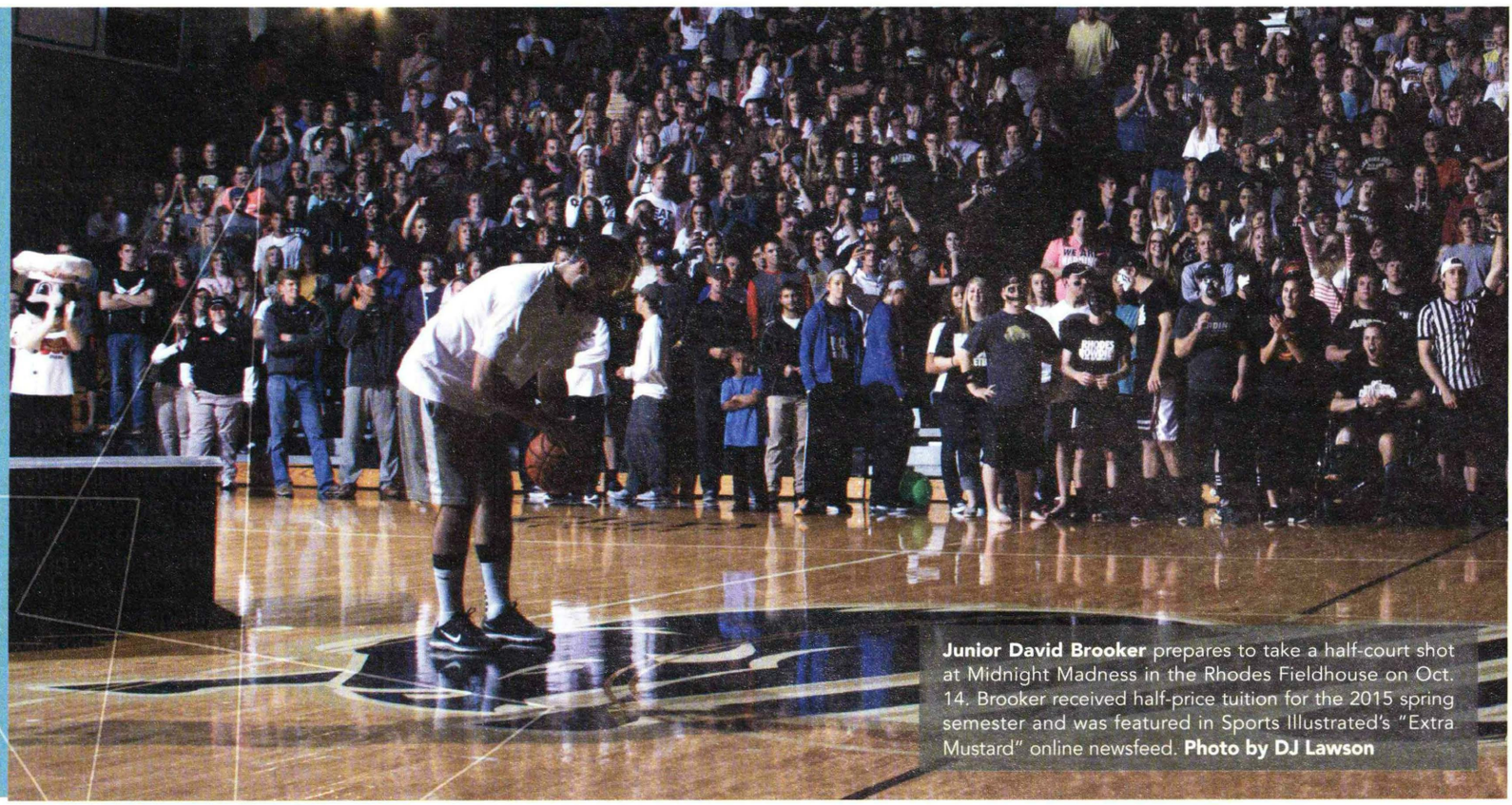




Grant Hupp
Meredith Hyde
Stephanie Inabnet
Carson Isenberg
Savanna Jackson
Tandy Jackson

Mercedes Jamerison
Lyndsey Jaynes
Christiana Jenczyk
April Jones
Spencer Jones
Alyssa Kee

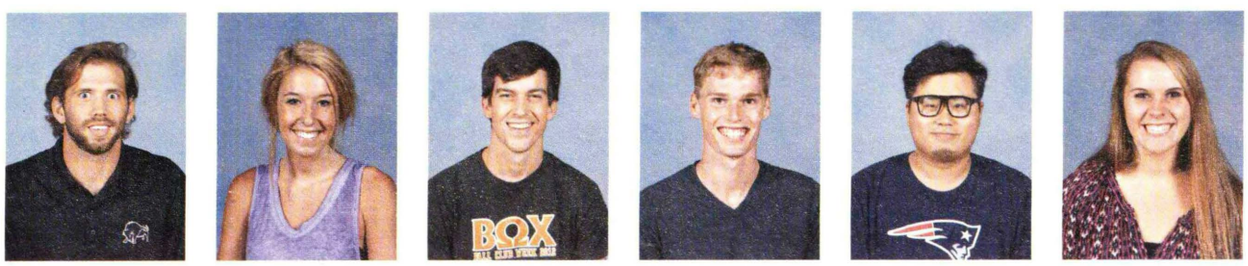


Junior David Brooker prepares to take a half-court shot at Midnight Madness in the Rhodes Fieldhouse on Oct. 14. Brooker received half-price tuition for the 2015 spring semester and was featured in Sports Illustrated's "Extra Mustard" online newsfeed. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

Jillian Kissell
Allison Kleppe
Jerin Kreinbring
Cameron LaFerney
Jonathon Lance
Leahndrea Landrum

Austin Lanier
DJ Lawson
Cindy Ledesma
Brenden Lemrick
Kristen Lester
Travis Linvell

Tucker Lloyd
Mauri Logan
Daniel Lowe
Kendall Lowe
Xiang Luo
Kinsey Marshall



DAVID BROOKER

ONE SHOT TO WIN IT ALL

On Oct. 14, junior David Brooker made a half-court shot for half-price tuition at Midnight Madness in the Rhodes Fieldhouse. Brooker said that the high school girl originally chosen for the half-court shot decided not to take it, so he volunteered to take the ticket and shoot instead.

"I went down there just trying to get into the whole night of Midnight Madness and pump up the crowd," Brooker said. "I wasn't really thinking about making the half-court shot but just having a good time down there. I felt pretty confident ... but I got really nervous when I was looking at the goal. That's when I was like, 'This is real.'"

Head coach Jeff Morgan said it was the first time anyone had made the half-court shot since the tradition began 20 years ago.

"We're always hoping someone makes it, and we've been hoping for years," Morgan said. "It's just one of those things that was due. It was time."

Morgan was standing with some of the men's basketball team when Brooker took the shot. According to Morgan, many of the players knew Brooker, and they were eager to rush onto the court to celebrate.

"All of a sudden, here comes the crowd carrying him off on their shoulders," Morgan said. "It was almost as if all of that had been built up for 20 years, and then there was 20 years worth of celebration taking place on that spot. It was almost as if he had made a shot to win the national championship."

Brooker's half-court shot made headlines in newspapers and on news stations in about 25 different states. The story was even featured on Sports Illustrated's "Extra Mustard" online newsfeed.

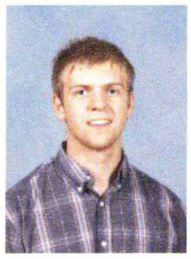
"It started with the Daily Citizen, and then it went to local news stations in Arkansas," Brooker said. "Then I got an email from someone who works with the public relations office who said there are like 30 clips of me going around the country in like 20 different states, and I was really shocked about that."

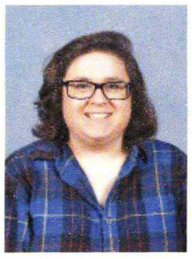
Being featured on news networks as far away as California was exciting, but Brooker focused more on the immediate value of half-price tuition. He said he planned to save the extra money for the future, particularly for his wedding in January. Brooker's fiancée, junior Madison Teague, said she was not at Midnight Madness when he made the shot.

"I had fallen asleep by the time he made it, and so when he tried to call, I ignored it," Teague said. "He called a second time, and I could barely hear him over all the screaming. I knew he told me, but I didn't realize how big of a deal it was until the next morning when I watched all the videos on social media."

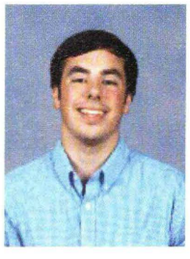
While Teague was disappointed to have missed the experience, she appreciated what it meant for Brooker's future and her own. According to her, it could not have come at a better time, and it could not have happened to a better person.

By Elizabeth Harper

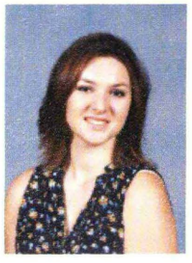
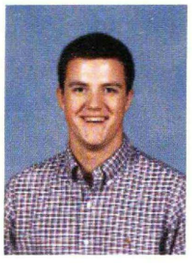


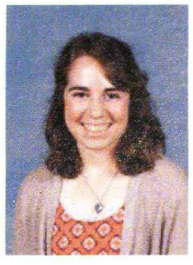


Colby McBride
Jeremy McCracken
Payton McGee
Elizabeth McIlroy
Peyton McVey
Maria Medrano



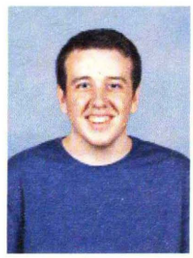
Rosemary Michael
Patrick Miller
Rachel Miller
Madison Mobley
Jenna Montgomery
Cana Moore

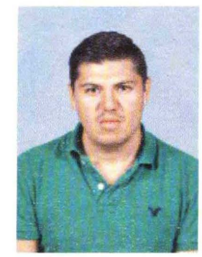





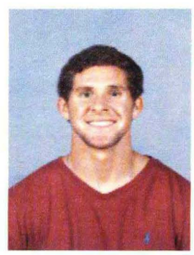
Layton Moore
Kelsey Morkassel
Madie Murphy
Andrew Newman
Hayden Nooner
Elizabeth O'Briant

Shane O'Keefe
Brieonna Onyeama
Maurisa Orona
Aristides Ortiz
Megan Otten
Juan Paredes Vera

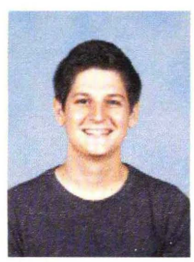




Parker Parish
Sarah Parker
Toria Parrett
Garrett Perry
Hannah Perry
Taylor Pettie

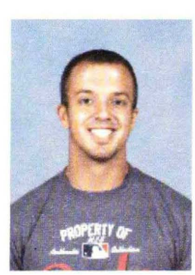


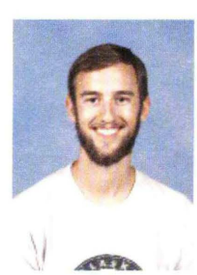
Sophia Pickle
Dan Pile
Hannah Ponder
Bailey Pounders
Caroline Pruitt
Jeannetta Pyron

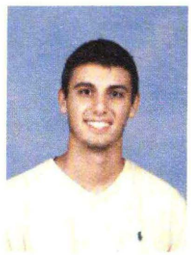
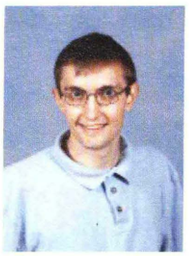
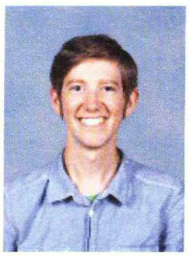
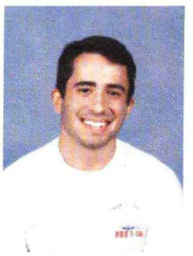
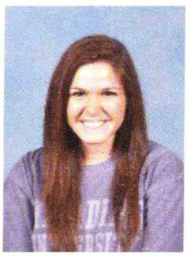
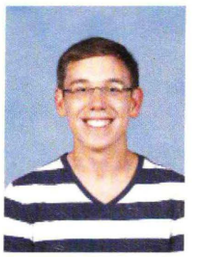


Victoria Reinhardt
Leah Rice
Paige Ried
Jillian Romero
Emily Ross
JoAnn Rutherford

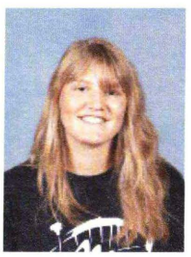
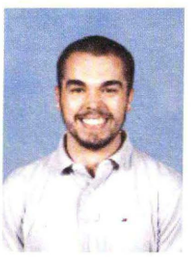
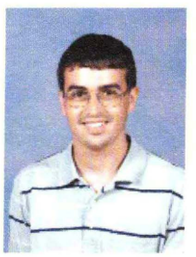
Meredith Sanders
Rebekah Sanders
Chloe Savage
Denver Schuler
Dan Schweikhard
Hanna Scoggins

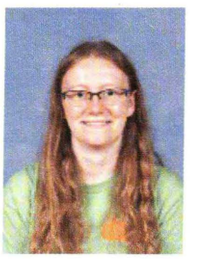




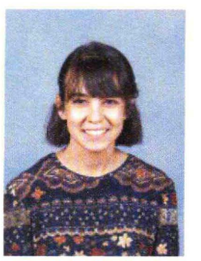







David Scorzelli
Matthew Shafer
Daniel Shaffer
Landry Shipman
Christyn Simmons
Ethan Smith

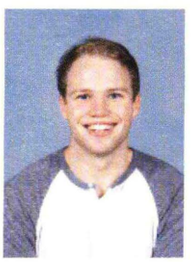




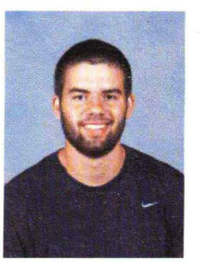


Taylor Smith
Riley Sneed
Tyler Steele
Abigail Stevens
Alexa Stover
Emily Strandvold

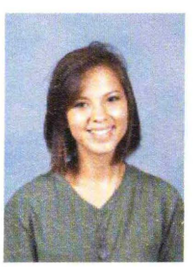
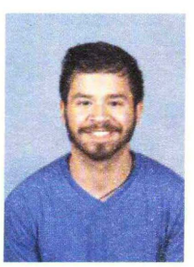


Abbie Stumne
Mary-Kate Sturgeon
Harlee Stutesman
Kelsey Taylor
Carissa Teehee
Joanna Thomas



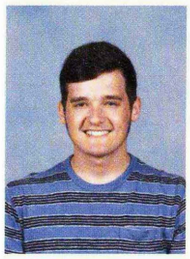


Tyler Thomas
Morgan Thomason
Rachael Thompson
Rose Thoroughman
Clinton Thrasher
Lauryn Tobias

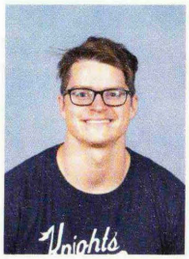



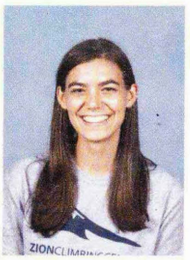
Abby Tran
Alex Valdes
Kristhel Vargas
Haley Vinson
Emily Vogt
Katey Voss

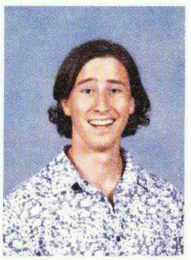
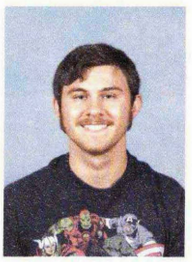
Ben Waites
Anna Waldrum
Whitney Walker
Montana Wallace
Catherine Wamack
Emily Warlick



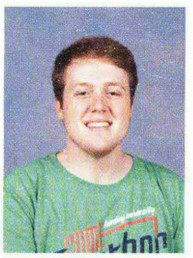
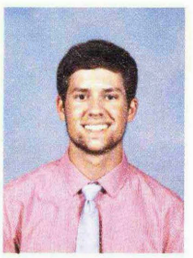
Carson Warren
Kaitlin Warren
Andrea Warzecha
Hailey Weare
Casey Weeks
Hunter Weeks



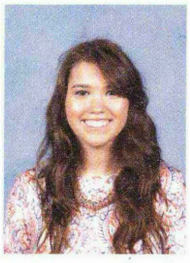


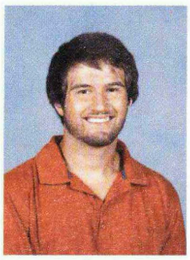



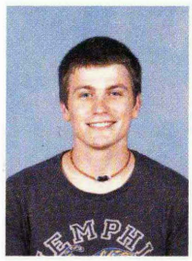
Aaron West
Austin White

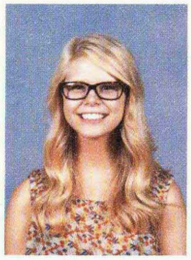
Junior Easton Cook divided his time between two equally important aspects of his life: his work as a student and his work as a youth minister. Photo by DJ Lawson

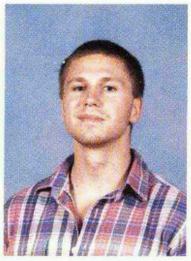




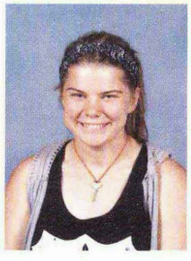


Katelin White
Devan Wilkerson
James Williams
Kevin Williams
Tate Williams
Thomas Williams





Sara Wilmsen
Anna Winchester
Carrie Wingfield
Emma Word
Austin Yates
Dawson Yates



Katelynn Young
Xuemeng Zhang

EASTON COOK

FULL-TIME MINISTER, FULL-TIME STUDENT

While a full-time student, junior Bible and preaching major Easton Cook paid his way through college with a position as a full-time youth minister over 150 miles from Harding.

Growing up in Ozark, Missouri, Cook attended Southside Church of Christ. Six years later, after an internship at the Bernie Church of Christ in Bernie, Missouri, he was hired to be their full-time youth minister.

"He did an outstanding job when he came in," the church's head minister Stan Dauck said. "Easton came in and taught the class to the teenagers, and our teens came out of the class and said, 'You've got to hire this guy — he is really good.' We met and interviewed with him, and he had the maturity and the ability that we were looking for."

The church had about 180 members, and Dauck said that the youth group included as many as 35 teenagers at any given time. One member of that youth group, freshman Andrew Mason, later came to Harding and became Cook's roommate.

"One thing that I really admire about Easton is that, as a youth minister, he obviously tells us a lot and tells us a lot to do, but now that we're roommates I get a new perspective of him," Mason said. "He hasn't changed — he's still the person that he was as my youth minister, and he takes his own advice."

During Cook's time with the youth group at Bernie, at least six teens were baptized, convincing him that his hard work made a difference. However, balancing his obligations was not always easy, and the high points of the job were countered by some more difficult times.

"I would say that balancing is a lot like juggling," Cook said. "Once my ministry is up in the air, my school seems to be in my hand, but as soon as I realize my ministry is coming down quick, I've got to throw the other one up."

Mason attested to Cook's work ethic, saying that he faced many sleepless nights. Despite the lack of rest, Cook only wished his two jobs were closer in distance.

"I want both," Cook said. "I'm still doing well in school, and I will continue to keep my grades up, but I can't just abandon the youth group altogether."

Cook organized events, taught classes, preached at his congregation and even signed up to speak in chapel. Though he loved his work with the Bernie youth group, Cook did not plan to be a youth minister forever, but he hoped to become a public speaking figure at church events. Dauck and Mason agreed that Cook had a natural gift for speaking and that his future included endless possibilities.

By Nakisha Milton

COOKING AND CREATING

Though sophomore Sterling Merritt grew up with a love for cooking, he had little professional experience. However, his simple hobby began growing into a business after he and senior Morgan Crenshaw made a friend's birthday cake. Neither had ever taken a class, but Merritt made up for the lack of experience by asking friends in the culinary field for tips.

"It just started off when we were doing small things for ourselves — cooking dinner for ourselves, experimenting with different things — and then we went into dessert," Merritt said.

According to Crenshaw, the enterprise grew from cooking for themselves and for friends to catering for paying customers. Merritt said he and Crenshaw decided to label their new catering business "Mazuuba" — Tongan for "sunrise." However, due to a typing error, the team ended up with 1,000 business cards which read "Mazuumba." They decided to keep the misspelled name.

The name gave the business special meaning for Merritt, a native of Kalomo, Zambia. He knew a restaurant owner in Zambia who kept children there off the streets by teaching them culinary skills and giving them jobs in his restaurant.

"If someone is into crime violence, instead of using his knife to kill people or stab people, he can use his knife to cook and create," Merritt said. "There are just a lot of good things that you can do with cooking."

The most complicated order the team filled was a cake for senior Tasha Mercury's surprise birthday party. Mercury said her friends at the party thought the cake had been professionally made.

"It was very beautiful," Mercury said. "As a matter of fact, I just recently threw away the top tier. I kept it for a whole year as if it was a wedding anniversary cake."

Merritt said that though he and Crenshaw occasionally clashed because of creative differences, they learned to compromise for the sake of their customers.

"We're both perfectionists in our own ways," Merritt said. "We get frustrated, and then we drop the knives, and then we pout and go to our own corners for a few seconds. And then we're like, 'Okay, we promised this person we'd get this cake done,' so we go back and do the cake again."

Crenshaw said maintaining the catering business alongside school was stressful, but she and Merritt worked well together.

"Cooking is something where you work so hard on it, and you pretty much see the immediate result," Crenshaw said. "You see after you're done that it's right there and [think], 'Wow, I did all of that.'"

Connecting with a friend through catering, Merritt learned not only culinary skills and business sense but also the value of teamwork and compromise.

By Daniel Casella

Although he began cooking as a pastime, sophomore Sterling Merritt quickly made a business out of the hobby.
Photo by Amanda Floyd

STERLING MERRITT

Sophomore Bryce Mitchell regularly trained and competed in MMA fighting while also teaching MMA classes to local students. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

BRYCE MITCHELL

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ARTIST

Sophomore Bryce Mitchell discovered his love for mixed martial arts by chance when he joined a gym that offered MMA training. From that day forward, he passionately pursued a career as a professional MMA fighter.

MMA, a form of wrestling and boxing, incorporated fighting styles such as karate, kickboxing and judo. In some cases, fighters prepared themselves using Greco-Roman techniques and other traditional skills. Mitchell trained in all of these disciplines every day that he was able. His love for the sport was driven by pure artistry.

"It's not just athleticism," Mitchell said. "It's really art; it's really poetry; it's really sculpture. It's really that type of thing where everybody has their own technique. I really consider myself a type of artist."

Mitchell's roommate and friend, senior Kidron Cannon, followed his training and career from the beginning of their friendship. Cannon met Mitchell in Brackett Library, where he noticed Mitchell's "cauliflower ears," which many wrestlers and fighters obtain by taking multiple hits to the ears. Cannon asked Mitchell if he fought, and the two quickly became friends. Cannon even used his multimedia talents to shoot a short documentary about Mitchell's passion.

"The thing he's best at is getting people to the ground and keeping them there," Cannon said. "All of his wins have either been submissions or [technical knockouts], and he holds three title belts. After Harding, everyone is going to wish they had known that kid."

Mitchell planned to leave Harding in November 2014 to pursue fighting in the Ultimate Fighting Championship, the largest MMA promotion company in the world. Cannon and Mitchell spent many months producing promotional videos for Mitchell's fights, which he hoped would win him sponsors to support his professional career.

"The dream is: get to the UFC and make a living," Mitchell said. "I'm gonna do me whether people like it or not. I like fighting; I like hitting people; I like slamming them. I like the art of fighting."

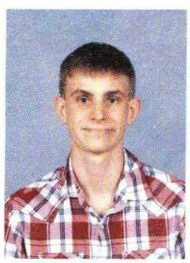
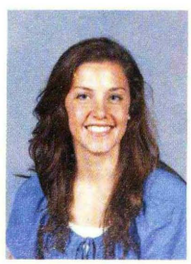
According to senior Jessica Romero, a fellow MMA fighter, Mitchell had the best attitude of anyone at the gym. She appreciated his encouragement and the motivation he provided for all the fighters to do their best.

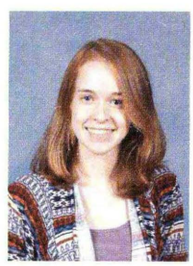
"I have no doubt Bryce will make it to the UFC," Romero said. "They'd be lucky to have him fighting for them."

Mitchell's dream of being a UFC fighter may have seemed far-fetched for a young man from a small town in central Arkansas, but his diligence and determination in training taught him many valuable lessons. When it came to striving toward a career in mixed martial arts, his skills in discipline, competition and leadership prepared him for great success.

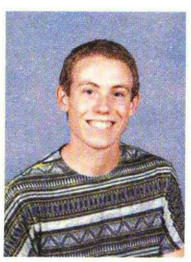
By Chloe Savage

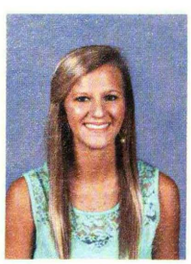
Alyssa Abraham
Heidi Abston
Amber Adams
Candace Adams
Megan Albers
Nathan Anderson

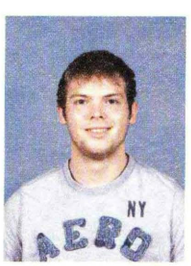
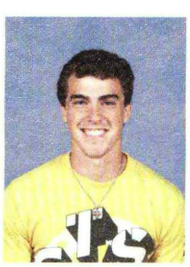
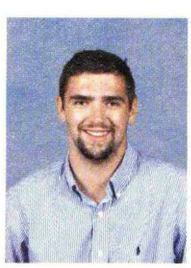


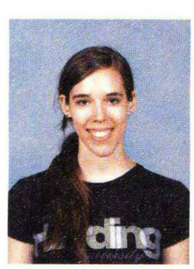
Haley Anzalone
Clara Armstrong
John Ashley
AnnaMae Aufrance
Faith Bailey
Kinsey Baker



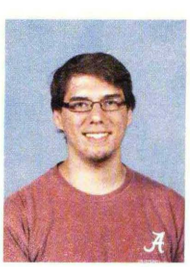


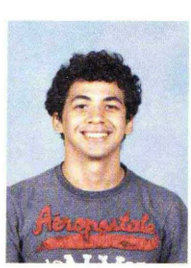
Jared Balcom
Janny Bardales
Anna Barnes
Delaney Beck
Tiffany Beck
Marianie Bedolla Jimenez

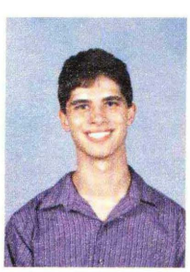


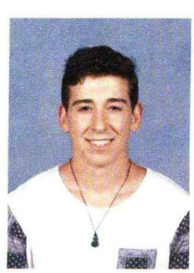
Kaitlin Belitz
Jackson Benson
Joshua Berry
Aaron Bissell
Ashley Blackstock
Jena Blair





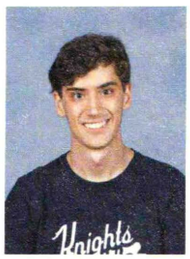
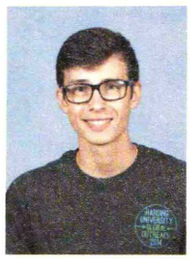
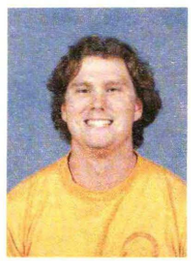
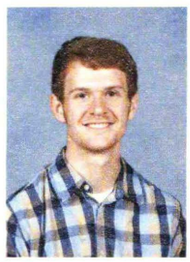
Kasey Boatwright
Kristen Bobo
Levi Bogus
Fanny Bonilla
Diego Bouche
Emily Brandon



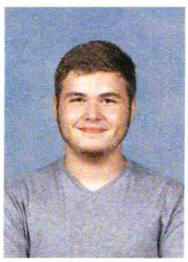
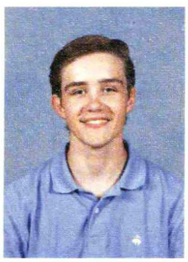
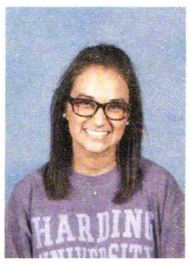


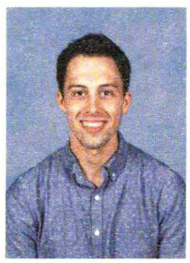
Rebekah Brock
Emma Brown
Grant Buehrer
Courtney Burns
Eric Bushue
Molly Cagle

Mary Griffith
Austin Gurchiek
Hunter Hackworth
Max Haley
Harley Halliburton
Kimberly Hanners

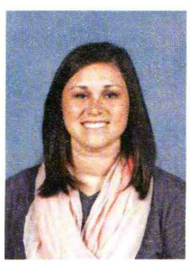
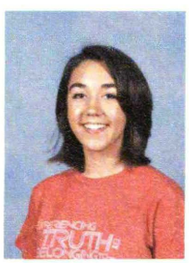





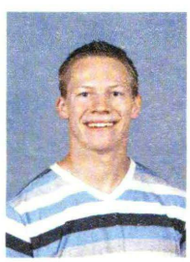
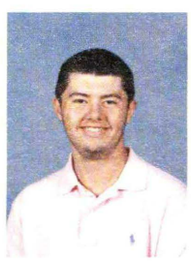
Brody Harding
Nathan Harkey
Lyndsey Harrell
Avery Harriman
William Harris
Zavier Hartung



Morgan Harville
Bailey Hawkins
Lois Hegarty
Margaret Henkel
Dallas Herrmann
Austin Hicks

VILDE NORDSETH

FINDING A FAITH

Sophomore Vilde Nordseth came from Norway to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as an exchange student during her junior year of high school. Having previously traveled to the U.S. on various vacations and trips, she had always wanted to be an exchange student. She said she could remember counting down the days until her return to the states on July 1, 2011, the start of her exchange program.

"I was so excited to be an exchange student for a whole year," Nordseth said. "It was living the dream for me."

Nordseth's host family lived in Smyrna, Tennessee, and she quickly discovered that they were Christians. Nordseth said that while she was not a Christian, she wanted to respect her host family by attending their church service at Smyrna Church of Christ.

"I came into the church, and everyone was so loving," Nordseth said. "I just realized that it was so different than anything I have experienced before. It was like coming to Harding for the first time. There was so much love and it just made me ask, 'Why?'"

Initially resistant to the idea of God, Nordseth began to talk with her host family about faith.

"After a while, I decided to stop and listen," Nordseth said. "I was just so impressed by what they knew."

After six months in the U.S., Nordseth decided to be baptized in January 2012. Though she was scared to return to Norway and talk about her faith with her parents, friends and classmates, Nordseth said she overcame her fear by sharing her testimony in a small church setting before going home.

"I got this fire to want to tell it to everyone," Nordseth said. "I knew I had to prepare and get ready to talk to my friends about this and tell them about Christ."

Junior Katelyn Shelton said that when she first met Nordseth, she could see in her eyes that she was eager to spread the word of God.

"It is so clear how God is using her to spread his word through her open heart and zeal for Christ," Shelton said. "She said that God kept her busy while she was in Norway waiting to come back to America for college."

According to Nordseth, however, her time in Norway proved difficult.

"Every day felt like I was heading up the battlefield," Nordseth said. "I would come home worn down and to my non-Christian family, and it was just tough, but God gave me so much strength and made me grow so much in that year. He gave me great opportunities to share about Jesus even in the midst of that struggle."

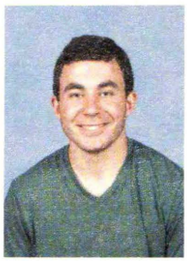
The struggles Nordseth experienced at home led her to seek a safe place for her spiritual and educational development. She decided to attend school at Harding, where she flourished in the Christian environment.

Amy Baker, instructor of communication sciences and disorders, said Nordseth was always asking questions and expressed excitement and interest in class discussions. She valued her input as a student and as a Christian example.

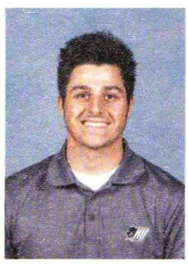
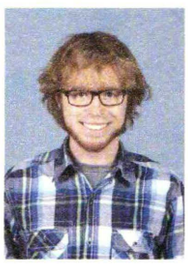
"She was very real, positive and encouraging to all those around her, " Baker said. "She had this light that [shone] through her, and it was unmistakable."

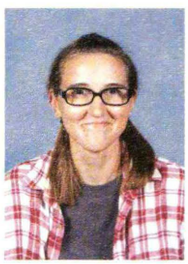
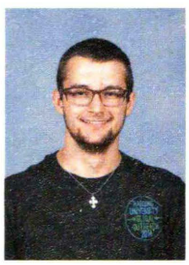
Nordseth said she did not want to lose sight of her true goals: not only to have the ultimate college experience but also to achieve the ultimate spiritual growth.

By Taylor Gleaves

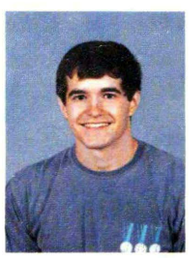


Hannah Hitchcox
Brent Hofbauer
Lauren Hooper
Stephanie Hoover
Cassidy Hopper
Alisha Hovater

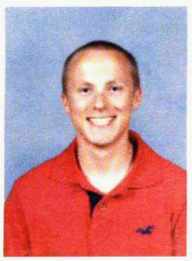
Barrett Howard
Garrett Howard
Katherine Howell
Rachael Islek
Hunter Jackson
Alexis Jewell

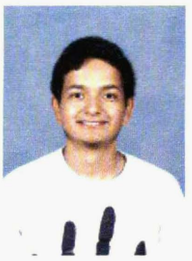
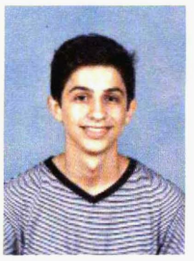
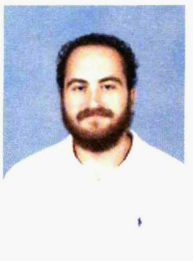


Macey Johnson
Selena Johnson
Hope Joiner
Janet Jones
Mary Lee Jorgensen
Philip Judd

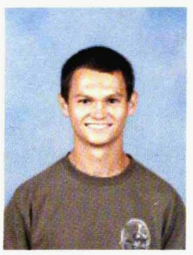
Sophomore Vilde Nordseth came to Harding to be surrounded by fellow Christians after overcoming obstacles in her faith at home in Norway. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

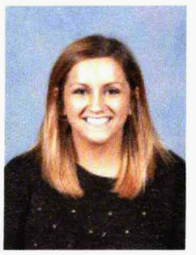
Ethan Carrell
Bridget Casey
Sherley Castellar Mosquera
Julio Castro Campollo
Moises Castro Viquez
John Chaddick



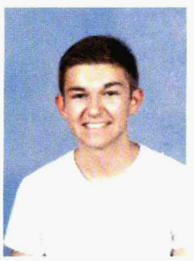
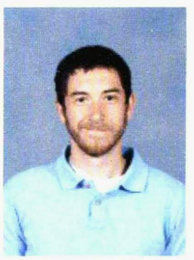




Zachary Chaffin
Russell Chase
Allie Chester
Leigh Chickering
Emily Christ
Jennifer Christian

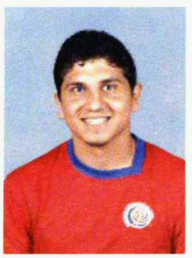


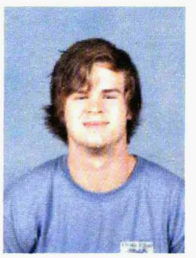
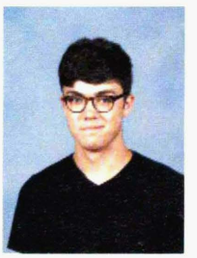
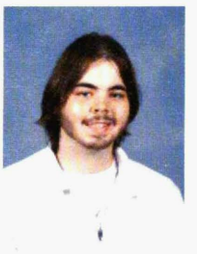


Jacob Clayton
Mason Clemens
Benjamin Cline
Kara Coble
Joaquin Collins
Allison Cook

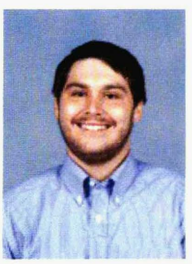



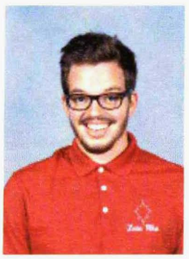
Juan Cordero Valverde
Shelby Cothran
Kayla Cotter
Cody Cottrell
Tyler Cox
Keith Cozad



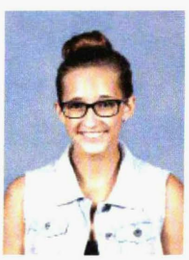




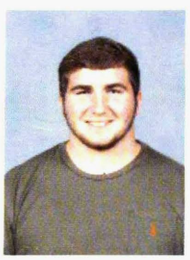
Lucas Curtis
Elizabeth Dalling
Luke Dalton
Morgan Davidson
Courtney Davis
Holli Davis



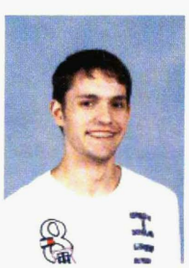
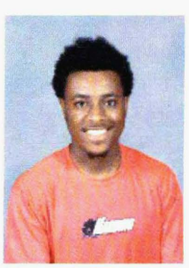


Lauren Davis
Sydney DeLoach
Nathan Dickerson
Susan Easterling
Sarah Eldridge
Leslie Elias

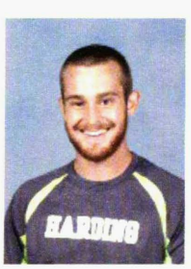


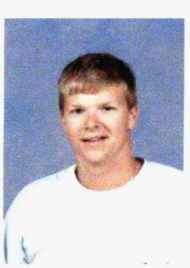


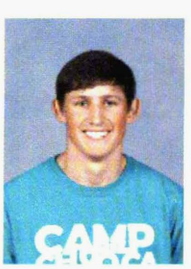
Luke Ellis
Bethany Engel
Alexa Escobar Pastor
Colin Escue
Kaitlin Eubanks
Alecia Farmer

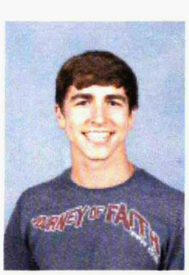
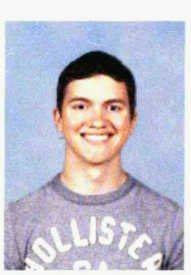
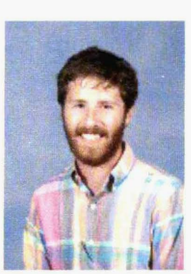
Elissa Farrar
Miranda Farthing
Brett Favano
Aundrey Flewellen
Amanda Floyd
Natalie Foutch





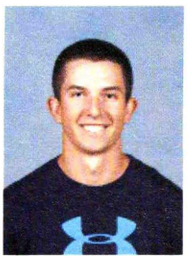
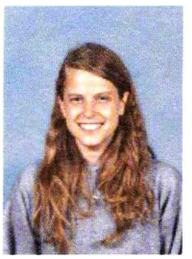


Karli Fowler
Clark Fraser
Mitchell Freer
Kara Fries
Jacob Futrell
Dorothee Garcia

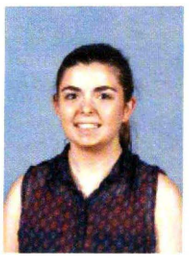




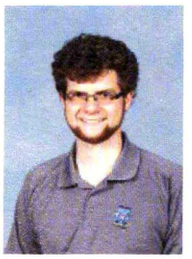
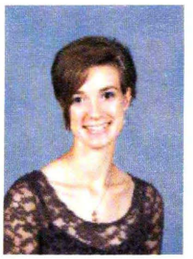
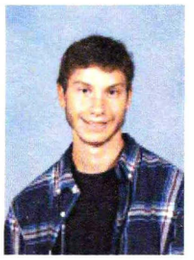
James Gatewood
Joseph Gatliff
Garrison Gerard
Francesco Giordano
Jonathan Godsey
Edie Graves

Sarah Kauble
Anna-Grace Kirkman
Mary-Margaret Kirkman
Garrett Koehn
Chloe Kovitz
Brianna LaFerney

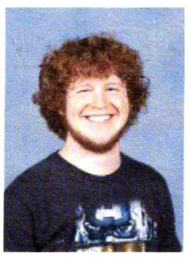
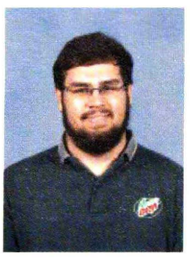
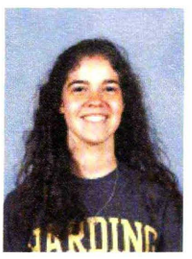
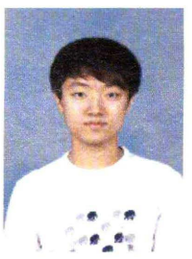



Montez Langley
Sarah Lape
Mayra Larin Aguilar
Jared Larsen
Kaylie Lassiter
Cameron LeDuc

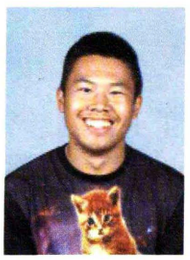


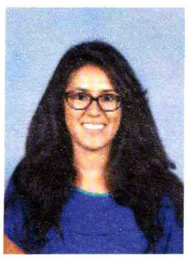
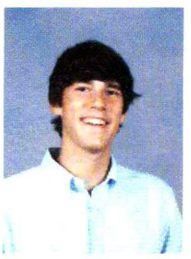




Jessica Leiva
Austin Lemaster
Harrison Lindsey
Kaila Lindsey
Xingchen Liu
Manuel Lutin Sandoval

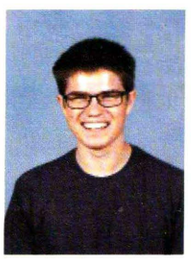





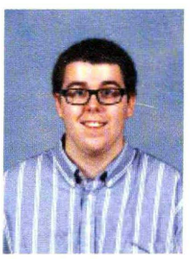
Thompson Ly
Madeline Machen
Stephanie Maldonado
Avery Mallett
Samantha Mankey
Casey Marshall

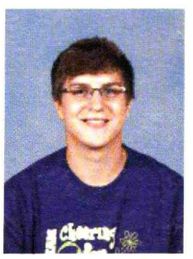
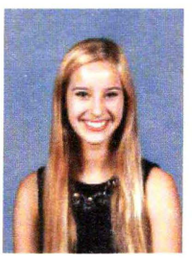


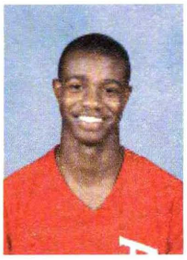
Connor Martz
Caleb Mason
Stryder Matthews
Renee Maynard
Paul McBride
Hannah McCalip



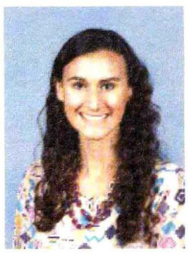


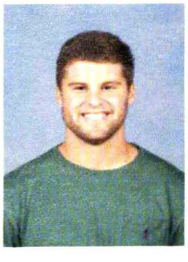
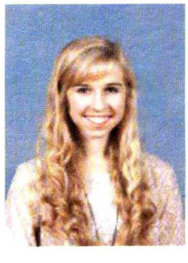
Rachel McCready
Kirk McDaniel
Madison McGuire
Emma McKean
Brenna McKee
Meagan McKee



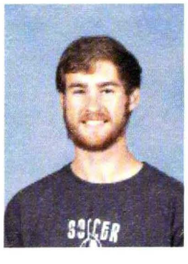
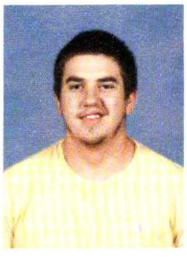
McKenna McLaughlin
Travelle McManus
Caitlyn McMinn
Courtney Meason
Eden Michael
Samantha Miller



Hannah Moore
Nicole Morris
Barrie Mounger
Correy Moyer
Sylvie Mueller
Emily Mylhousen

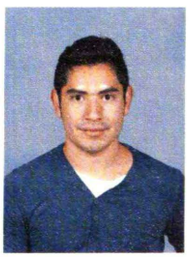
Gabrielle Nagel
Casey Neill
Caroline Nelson
Vilde Nordseth
Davis Nossaman
Becky O'Briant

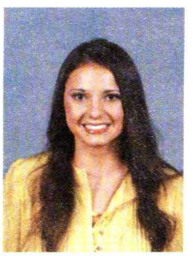
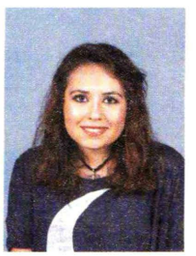



Rebecca O'Halloran
Jared Ogburn
Parker Ogburn
Nicki Onyeama
Heather Pardue
Chelese Patterson

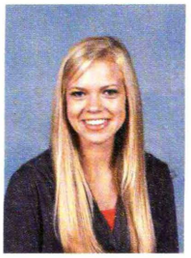
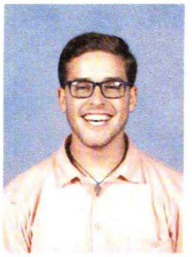
Sophomore Caroline Nelson took her love for acting to the next level by landing a role as an extra in the hit TV show "Nashville." **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

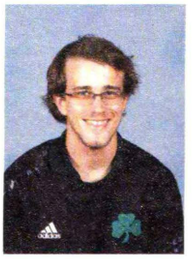
Alyssa Paul
Daniel Perez Vicencio
Claire Perry
Anna Petree
Morgan Phipps
Angela Pira Alconero



Madison Pittman
Lawson Pitts
Alayna Pope
Laura Portwood
James Pounders
Ashley Pyle



EYES SET ON THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

CAROLINE NELSON

Sophomore Caroline Nelson majored in marketing with a minor in theatre, but her passion for acting was anything but minor. Beginning her freshman year of high school, she participated in school plays and dance recitals, but the summer before her first year of college, she was looking for bigger and better opportunities.

"I've always known that I wanted to perform," Nelson said. "But I never knew how to go about it."

Soon, a talent agency gave Nelson her opportunity: she worked as an extra in "The Song," a film released in September 2014. Nelson said that the experience showed her what it would take to invest in an acting career.

"It taught me that you have to be super patient when it comes to stuff like that," Nelson said.

This opportunity introduced Nelson to new possibilities that tested her patience as well. Through Facebook groups, she found other jobs as an extra, both for the television show "Nashville" and for the Country Music Awards introductory videos. According to Nelson, some concert scenes would last for up to 12 hours of filming, and she was still not guaranteed to be visible in the footage. On one particular job, Nelson said she was on set for over three hours, and the producers only used her car while she waited.

According to Nelson's sister, Megan Nelson, all of Caroline's patience paid off once she saw herself on TV in a CMA video.

"She had the biggest smile on her face when she found herself in the crowd," Megan said. "That just confirms how much acting [and] performing makes her content."

Senior Kayli Kendall, claiming to be one of Caroline's biggest fans, said that Caroline could turn her career as an extra into so much more.

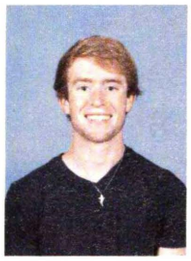
"The time and devotion and the emotion that she pours into everything she does is truly admirable," Kendall said. "She truly desires to learn and seeks out constructive criticism and takes it to heart."

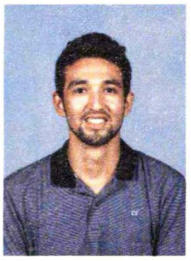
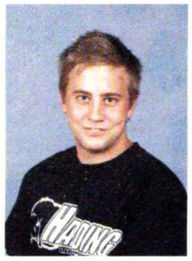
Kendall worked with Caroline on a number of university theatre productions. Caroline's performances included "Pirates?!?," "Radium Girls," and "Shrek The Musical," all of which contributed to her goal of a career in performing. For the meantime, however, Caroline studied marketing, hoping to oversee the business department of a theater or film studio.

"Hopefully one day I can give up the business side and just pursue performance," Caroline said.

By Ashley Heastie

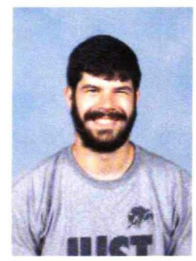
Lillian Rambo
Courtney Reagan
Caleb Reed
Emma Reese
Hannah Reimert
Mallory Reynolds

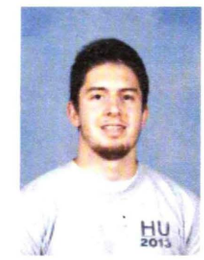


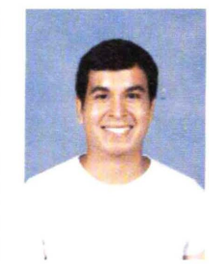
Matthew Rice
Ellen Rider
Anna Ritchie
Patricia Rivera
Fabio Rivera Contreras
Jonah Roberts

Caroline Robertson
Robert Rodgers
Sarah Roe
David Rogers
Jamie Rooks
Katherin Rosales





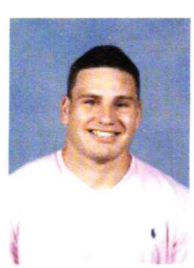
Wil Rose
Kaylie Ross
Kimberly Rowand
John Rucker
Jorge Ruiz Flores
Tania Salgado Romero



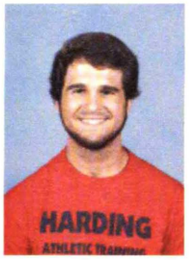
Alexa Santamaria
Katie Satterfield
Lindsey Savall
Madelyn Schardein
Jordan Scott
Abigail Seagle

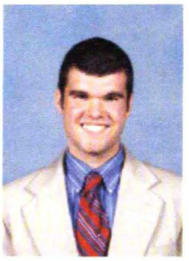
Courtney Senn
Lauren Shaver
Victoria Shumate
Tiffany Sides
Brittany Simers
Lindsey Simpson

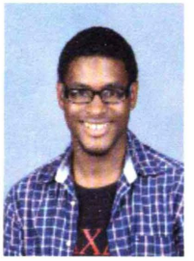
Daylan Skidmore
Brady Smith
Emily Smith
Sara Smith
Zachary Snedker
Garrett Soffray

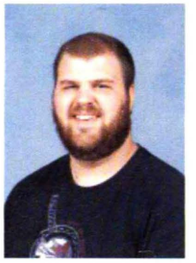


Kelly Spangler
Caitlyn Spears
Donna Staiger
Hannah Stanger
Madison Stein
Grant Stewart



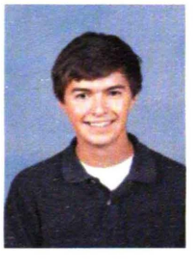




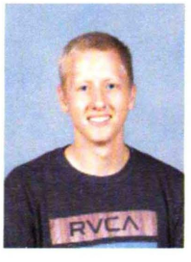


Cody Stubblefield
Noah Styles
Melita Sutherland
Caesar Swaby
Rachel Swann
Cole Swearengen

Alea Sweeting
Kailey Swenson
Andrea Tabora Torres
Ashley Taylor
David Taylor
Taylor Tharp

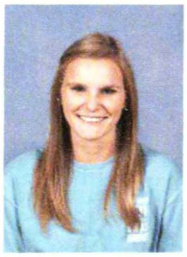


Taylor Thomas
Elizabeth Thompson
Heather Thornburg
Madison Thornton
Samuel Traughber
Macy Treat

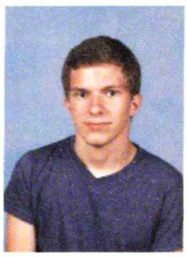
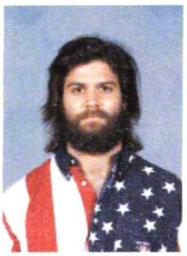


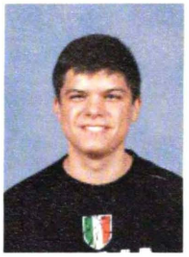
Alkmini Tsirmpa
Miles Tucker
Erica Valerio
Katee Jo Vantine
Alexis Vitiello
Emily Waldram

Kendall Walters
Jillian Ware
Donisha Webb
Cindy Webster
Katrina Weir
Ariana Weissenmayer

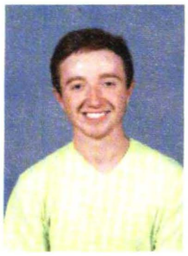


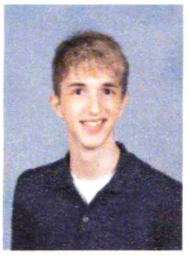
Seth Welborn
Garrett White
Julie White
Sierra White
Clayton Whitfield
Alexandra Whittington

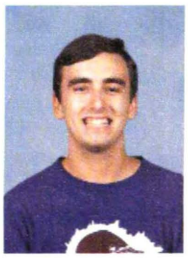


Maekala Williams
Ryan Williams
Zach Wilson
Elizabeth Witte
Kylie Wood
Quenton Wood





Dane Wurster
Trent Yurcho



PAYTON WILLIAMS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HISTORY

More than 2,500 years ago, according to legend, a war raged between Athenians and Persians in the Greek village of Marathon. Though incredibly outnumbered, the citizen-soldiers of Athens prevailed, and a single man, Pheidippides, ran the 24 miles home to Athens to share the news of victory. This 24-mile stretch became not only the namesake of the modern marathon but also the highlight of sophomore Payton Williams' semester in Greece.

Williams said she had no intention of running a marathon when she arrived at Harding University in Greece; she had planned on running a 10K. However, when her original race filled up too fast, Williams made the daunting choice to run the marathon instead.

"I thought, 'Oh, what's 20 more miles?'" Williams said. "'I can do it!'"

Though Williams had immense determination, she was not fully prepared for a marathon. Professor of business Dr. Rich Brown, visiting faculty member for the semester, served as her personal trainer. Brown had extensive long-distance racing experience, having participated in more than 20 marathons, a 50-mile race and a 100-mile ultra-marathon. He and his wife Laura helped Williams every step of the way.

"Laura was the one that was encouraging them," Brown said. "My role was more to be the experienced marathon runner who impressed upon them the seriousness and the difficulty of it and gave them advice."

Williams went through vigorous training, trying to fit a year's worth of preparation into just two months. She and sophomore Daniel Nelms, who also chose to run the marathon, spurred each other on during their morning runs.

"We always stayed positive," Nelms said. "It was just another experience in our books — another challenge."

In the last few weeks before the marathon, their training shifted gears. Once Williams and Nelms were physically prepared to complete the race, Brown began coaching them in strategy.

"There are things that can stop you in a marathon, like getting chafed or getting a blister," Brown said. "When you're already tired and hurting, and all of the sudden you've got this really painful spot on your foot, that can be the last straw that makes you stop. One key to finishing is eliminating reasons not to."

When the day of the marathon came, Williams and Nelms' preparation paid off. However, the victory did not come without a fight.

"I was super positive up until mile 20, and that's when I hit 'the wall,'" Williams said. "That wall is a real thing. I had to talk myself through it, the entire last six miles."

Williams and Nelms finished the marathon in about five-and-a-half hours, within three minutes of each other. Their reunion at the finish line meant the completion of their semester-long journey — a journey that was its own reward.

"The feeling when you cross the finish line and you get your medal and when you're done running — that was worth all the blisters, that was worth all the stomach aches, that was worth all the heat that we ran in," Williams said.

At the end of the day, Williams took home more than just a medal. After enduring such a long struggle, pushing through the pain and ignoring temptations to give up, she had learned the extent of her own endurance and the value of pushing that endurance to its limit.

By Austin Nightengale

In search of adventure, sophomore Payton Williams decided in the spur of the moment to run the historical Athens Marathon while studying abroad in Greece.
Photo by Owen Brown

omen's Basketball
HARDI
3
THE ROCK
FALAN MILLER

CONTINUING A LEGACY

Freshman Falan Miller joined the Lady Bisons basketball team already a part of their legacy. Her mother, 1993 alumna Marla Miller, played basketball for Harding from 1989 to 1993, meaning Falan's connection to the Lady Bisons began before she was born. When Falan became old enough to play basketball, Marla quickly found ways to share her passion for the sport with her daughter.

"My mom has been a great encouragement," Falan said. "She coached me in elementary and has driven me all around the states to play in several basketball tournaments over the past six years. She supports me wholeheartedly."

Falan began playing basketball when she was in the third grade, and Marla took charge of coaching teams for her daughter until Falan's seventh grade year. Marla said she did everything she could to make sure Falan felt supported every step of the way.

"I encouraged her by coaching, providing opportunities for her to get better such as being involved with [the Amateur Athletic Union] and attending camps during the summer, and just by being at literally everything," Marla said. "We spent days after school, Sunday afternoons or Saturday mornings at the gym working on shooting or just playing around."

Following her mother's example, Falan grew as a player and person. This set the groundwork for her choice to play at Marla's alma mater. Falan said that her teammates also influenced her final decision.

"It's really hard to find a group of girls that really care about you and how you succeed, not just on the floor but off the floor as well," Falan said. "They are all really good girls and keep God first. That's just something you can't find on every college basketball team."

Women's head basketball coach Tim Kirby saw Falan in action as she played on the same team her mother did 22 years earlier. According to Kirby, Falan reflected her mother's success well.

"Falan is a talented player and even better person," Kirby said. "She is a great teammate that comes to work every day with a great look on her face. She is good at a lot of things, so she has a chance to play multiple positions."

Off the court, Falan's character spoke louder than her playing ability.

"Falan's biggest strength is her passion for people," Marla said. "She was the kid that sat by the person sitting alone at lunch or took someone to the bathroom to help them fix their hair on a bad hair day. She doesn't just feel sorry for people — she figures out a way for people to feel good about themselves, and that is what I am most proud of."

As the heir to a rich legacy, Falan found a purpose at Harding not only through basketball but also through her ability to encourage and help others.

By Andrea DeCamp

After many years of being coached by her mother, a member of the women's basketball team from 1989 to 1993, freshman Falan Miller began her own legacy with the Lady Bisons in the fall. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

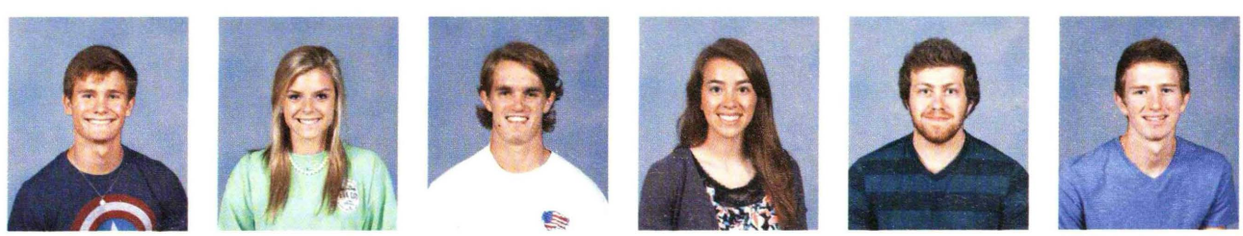
Chase Adair
Jennifer Adair
Taylor Adam
Edgar Adame
Tabitha Adams
Kirsten Adcock

Samantha Allen
Sam Aly
Elizabeth Anderson
Heather Anderson
Jacob Ardrey
Baylee Armstrong

Natalie Arnold
Kalli Ashford
Mikayla Baker
Keely Baldridge
Rebecca Batchelor
Dailey Beasley

Seth Bellamy
Hannah Benson
Lance Benson
Natalie Bergeron
Cameron Bienz
Mariah Bishel

Alek Black
Belle Blickenstaff
Kohl Blickenstaff
Erin Bliss
Steven Boettcher
Jeremy Bok



Connor Botes
Braden Bowman
Conrad Boyd
Caleb Brackney
Bethany Brown
Rachel Bryant

Freshman Sarah Creeley's life was changed forever by the children she encountered during her year in Haiti. **Photo courtesy of Sarah Creeley**

SARAH CREELEY

A HUMBLE SERVANT

Freshman Sarah Creeley, a native of St. Charles, Missouri, spent nine months working with girls in a community in Haiti before returning to the U.S. for her first year at Harding. Creeley said she had originally planned to attend Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. However, after spending a week in Haiti for spring break in 2013, she felt God calling her to the nine-month internship first. Creeley said she was compelled to serve when a Haitian girl helped clean her up from a hard day's work but was hesitant to let Creeley return the favor.

"I think right then, in that moment, it just really opened my eyes that this is what we're here for," Creeley said. "We're here to serve these people that don't believe that they should be served."

Before going to Haiti, Creeley had to make some sacrifices. She had been offered a golf scholarship from Murray State, and taking a gap year meant rejecting that offer.

"When I found out she had the opportunity, it was kind of like an awe moment for me, just to know that she had all of this stuff lined up for her, and she was actually thinking about putting it aside to go help other people," freshman Lauren LeMaster, a friend of Creeley's from high school, said.

While in Haiti, Creeley spent most of her time with the 21 girls at the orphanage, but she also found ways to connect to the larger community. She started a jewelry-making program on Saturdays to provide a source of income for local girls. According to Creeley, this gave her a chance to share the Bible with them as well.

"It started out for them as just jewelry-making but turned into, week after week, more curiosity about the Bible and about being a Christian and about the Lord," Creeley said.

Before returning, Creeley trained some of the older girls to take charge of the program. Creeley said it was neat to see the program develop while she was there, and she was excited about its future.

LeMaster said she could tell that it was hard for Creeley to re-enter American culture. Freshman Tiffany Metts, another friend of Creeley's from high school, said that while Creeley's character had not changed, her passion for service had grown.

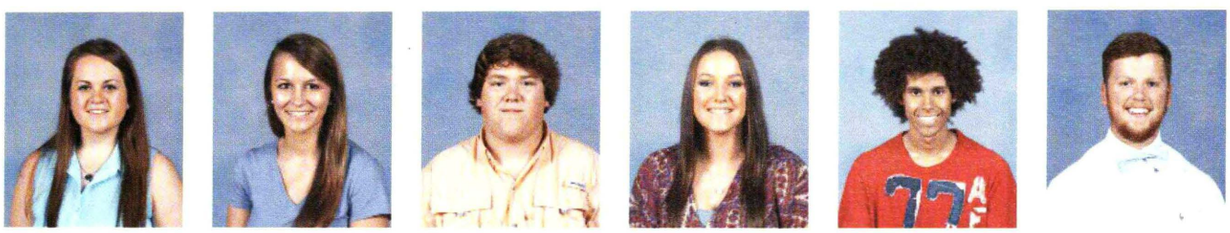
"When she came back, it was just her heart for Haiti that was so big," Metts said. "It showed in everything she did: her love for others and treating people with compassion."

After returning, Creeley enrolled at Harding because of its missions-oriented academic environment.

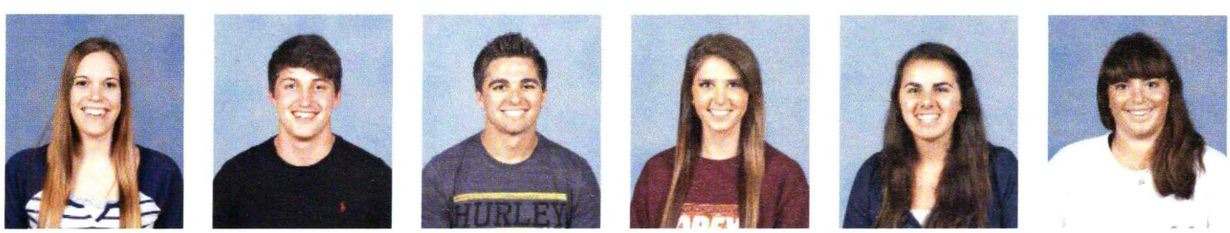
By Daniel Casella

Ashley Buckner
Brian Buckner
Kyle Buckner
Nick Buford
Carter Burks
Nathan Burner

Kamryn Busby
Rebecca Buterbaugh
Braden Byrd
Christen Byrd
Daniel Campbell
Corbin Capps



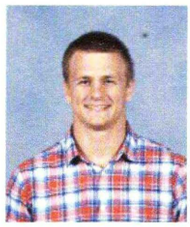
Mackenzie Carroll
Caleb Carter
Ashton Cate
Casi Caton
Moriah Ceraso
Anna Chaddick

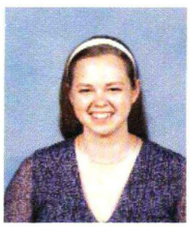


John Chen
Emma Chilton
Yohamy Cisneros Pastran
Jack Clark
Jonathan Clark
Amanda Clyde

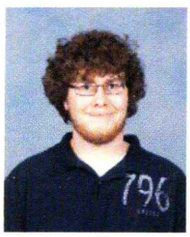
Ellie Coffey
Marley Cole
Kristen Colley
Abigail Cooper
Jana Copeland
Hayley Costello

McKenna Crabtree
Scott Cravens
Josie Crosby
Damaris Cruz
Mary Kate Daugherty
Tanner Davis

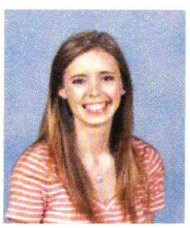


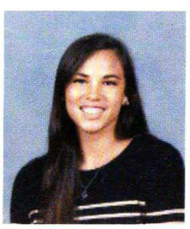
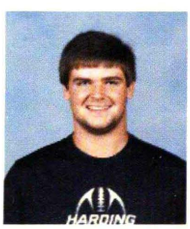


Trey Davis
Suzanne Dawsey
Kerry Day
Melody DenBraber
Dawna Denman
Katharine Dennison

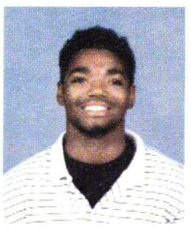


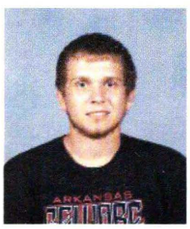
Becca Denton
Savanna Di Stefano
Sarah Dodd
Savannah Donnell
Katy Doss
Jonathan Drachnik



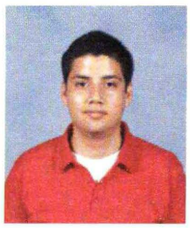



Morgan Dreher
Brianna Driskill
Keslee Dunavin
Alyssa Durant
Ethan Eads
Sierra Easdon

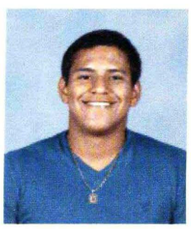
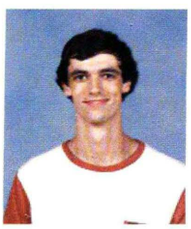




Abigail Edge
Jewels Edmerson
Madison Edwards
Abigail Ehlert
Karis Elliott
Chase Ellis



Jose Esquiuel Gonzalez
Kelsey Eubanks
Elle Evans
Marisa Ewing
Crista Fallas Berrocal
Emily Faulkner

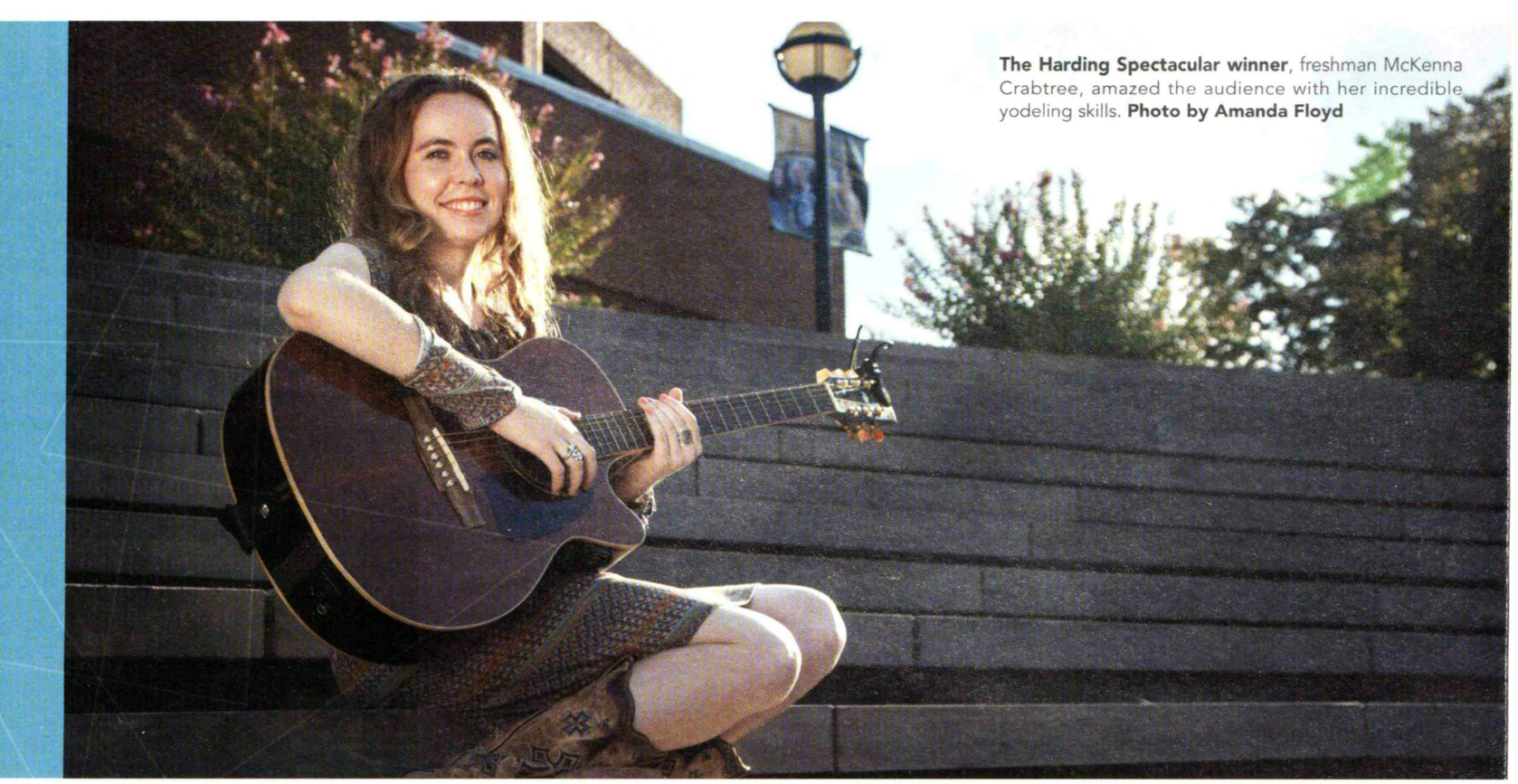



Hannah Fay
Kassandra Fetz
Kristen Flesner
Erin Fletcher
Andres Flores Morales
Pierce Fonville

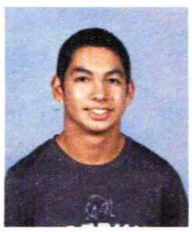
Bailey Forkner
Hayley Fortson
Rheanna Frampton
Brianna Freeburn
Daniel Freesmeyer
Laynee French

Adriana Fuentes Archila
Kazuhiro Fujisawa
Hayden Gadberry
Mary Gaines
Jordan Galloway
Connor Gann

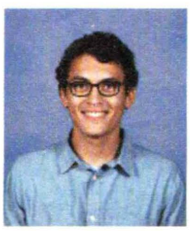
Thelma Garcia Martinez
Kaitlyn Gardner
Preston Gary
Zachary Gastineau
Easton Gayle
Rachel Gibson



The Harding Spectacular winner, freshman McKenna Crabtree, amazed the audience with her incredible yodeling skills. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**



Eva Giddens
Monica Giles
Michela Giordano
Patrick Goff
Kaitlyn Goin
Adam Gomez



Mark Gonzalez
Mary Goode
Shelby Gowen
Fallon Grady
Sarah Grape
Dana Grassi

Hannah Greer
Jasmine Griffin
John Griffin
Harold Hall
Jesse Hall
Kristen Hall

MCKENNA CRABTREE

PERFECTING AN UNUSUAL TALENT

Freshman McKenna Crabtree came to Harding with a fresh look in her eye, a healthy anxiousness and a very unique talent. Taking the stage in front of hundreds of her new classmates on Aug. 15, she gave a performance of "He Taught Me How To Yodel" during Impact. Later that evening, the crowd chose Crabtree as the winner of the Harding Spectacular.

"That was the biggest crowd I had ever performed in front of. I always get nervous in front of teenagers 'cause they tend to be a little more judgmental than others," Crabtree said. "But after my first yodel, I got such a huge response from the crowd that I wasn't worried — I got settled in."

When she first heard about the Harding Spectacular, Crabtree debated whether or not to perform.

"I asked my parents right away," Crabtree said. "At home I am known as the yodeling girl, and I thought, 'Do I want to be known as that or start differently?'"

From a very young age, Crabtree began to perfect her yodeling talent.

"When I was 8 years old, I wanted to perform in my school talent show," Crabtree said. "I didn't do anything very interesting, so that summer, [my family] went to New Mexico and saw Cindy Hobbs yodeling. I bought her CD and listened to it over and over again until I got it."

No stranger to the spotlight, Crabtree continued to practice her gift through venues in her hometown, Clifton, Texas.

"I've done local events," Crabtree said. "I've done the Patsy Montana Yodeling Contest — I got second. I've done a couple plays locally, too."

Crabtree's roommate, freshman Haley Shearer, said she first heard the yodel during a 2012 session of Honors Symposium. She later realized how well the talent fit Crabtree's bubbly personality.

"She is so funny and outgoing that it's only appropriate for her to have such a unique talent," Shearer said.

That personality came through in the performance that won the hearts of the Spectacular crowd, including senior Kyle Johnson.

"Her yodeling soared through my heart like an eagle," Johnson said.

A communications sciences and disorders major, Crabtree had a heart to help those in need. She recognized her gift of yodeling and her ability to use it as a medium of influence and hoped to pursue it on campus.

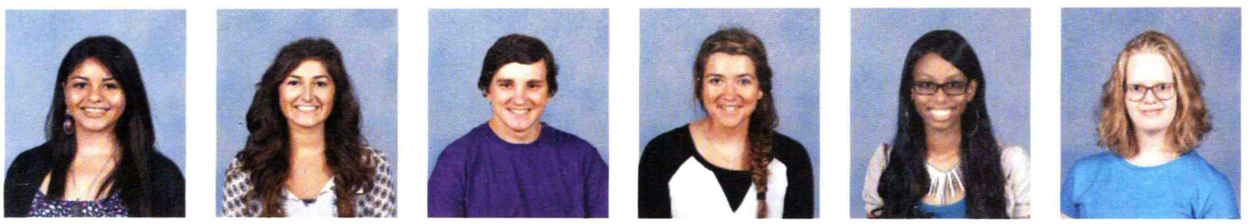
By Zach Hailey

Silas Hall
Shelby Haltom
Shelby Hamilton
Grant Hammons
Caleb Hamrick
Brooklyn Handy

Mikalah Hanes
Wesley Hargon
William Harmon
Caitlin Harris
Amy Hatfield
Hailey Haynes

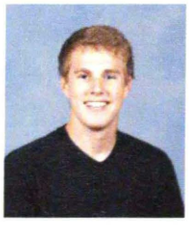
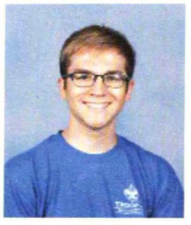
Carter Hays
Emily Heinen
Luke Helms
Glover Helpenstill
Leret Hemphill
Celeste Hernandez

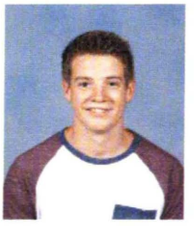
Maria Hernandez Aleman
Adria Herridge
Caleb Herring
Ellie Hipp
Ce'jae Hodge
Audrey Hodges



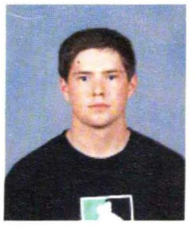
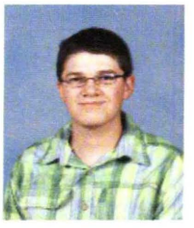
Benjamin Holder
Garrett Holmes
Dena Honeycutt
Taylor Hoobler
Victoria Hood
Amelia Hoover

Cassie Houck
James Howard
Victoria Hurt
Dylon Jackson
James Jackson
Marlon Jackson

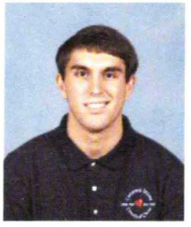
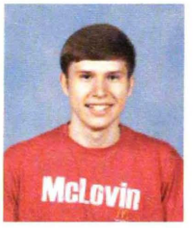



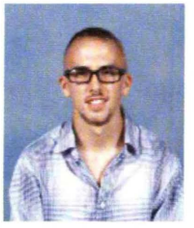


William Jackson
Alan Jacobs
Holly Jennings
Benjamin Jiles
Janelle Johnson
Jessica Johnson

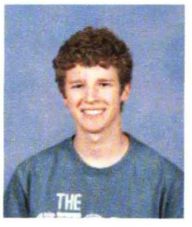



Katie Johnson
Kirsten Johnson
Liza Johnson
Luke Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Chelsie Jones

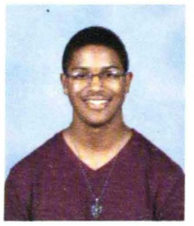


Lyndi Jones
Nicholas Jones
Zachary Jones
Sara Keith
Connor Kelly
Melody Kendall

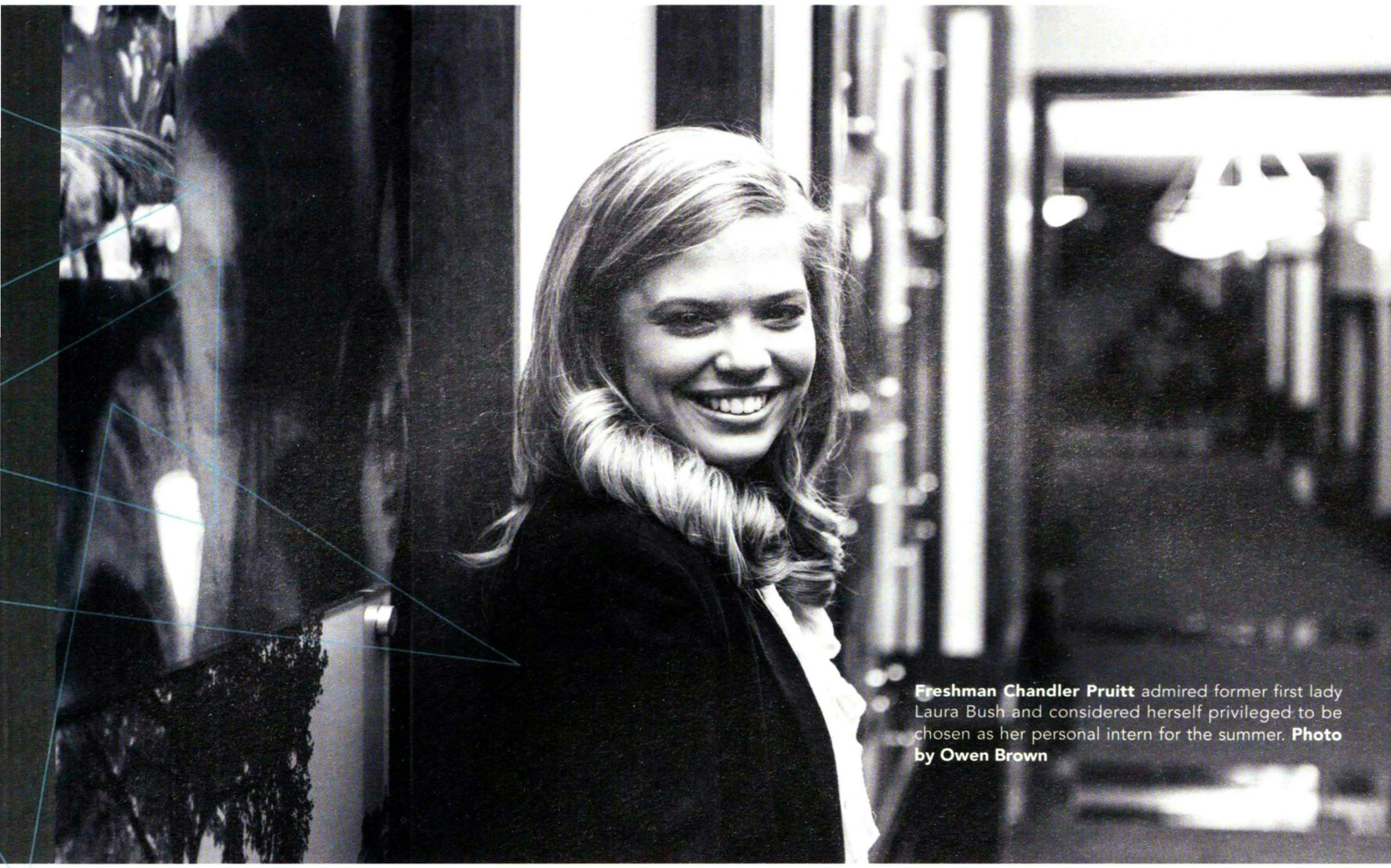


Ashley Kenemore
Matthew King
Melissa King
Stephanie King
Brittany Kirk
Alexandra Knutsen

Rebecca Koopman
Jordan Krebs
Nicole Lacina
Jackson Lake
Mackenzie Lancaster
Kathleen Lance



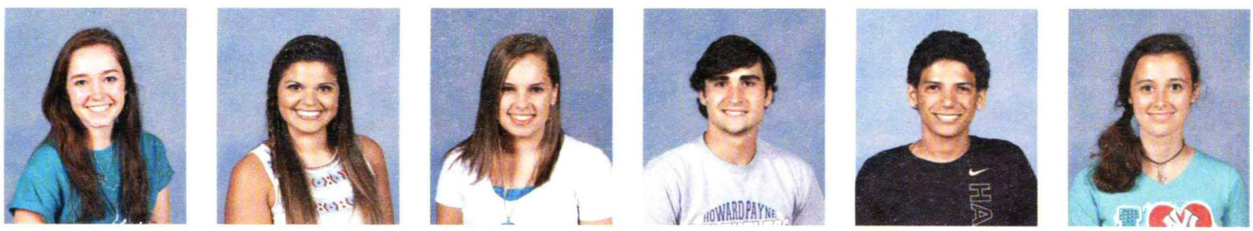
Amber Latsha
Sarah LeFauve
Andres Leday
Lindy Leggett
Kelsey Lester
Katherine Lincoln



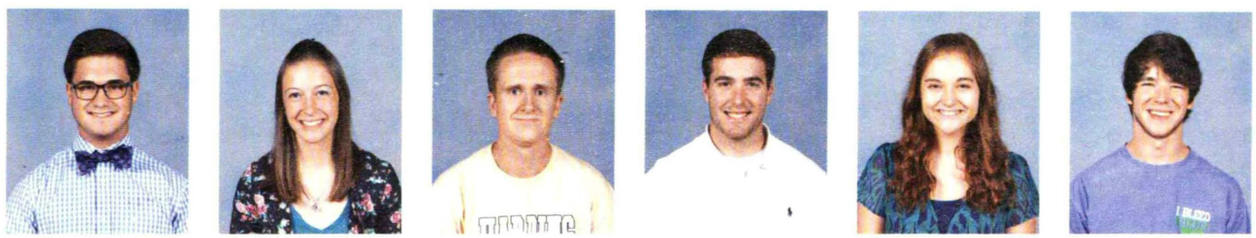
Freshman Chandler Pruitt admired former first lady Laura Bush and considered herself privileged to be chosen as her personal intern for the summer. **Photo by Owen Brown**

Kristen Litchford
Betsy Long
Alexandra Longley
Taryn Loyd
Jake Mackey
Grant Malone

Sydney Mann
Olivia Marino
Brittany Martin
Quinn Martin
Alejandro Martinez Ubeda
Melody Martino



Andrew Mason
Raianne Mason
Lance McCaughan
Ty McClain
Anna McDaniel
Ethan McGaughy



CHANDLER PRUITT

A POLITICAL LEADER IN THE MAKING

Students regularly worked internships all over the world during the summer, but one student's internship experience stood out even before she set foot on campus. Freshman Chandler Pruitt spent the summer working as former first lady Laura Bush's personal intern.

After going through an extensive interview process, the Bushes offered Pruitt the internship position, which fit perfectly with her interests.

"I am a very political person, and I had loved the Bushes since President Bush ran," Pruitt said. "So, of course I was like, 'Yes, I would love to work for you.'"

For security reasons, Pruitt could not reveal too many details about her work, but she said that she worked at the George Bush Presidential Library as the only personal intern for Laura Bush.

"Generally speaking, I did the kind of stuff that you would normally do in an office — taking care of filing and paperwork, correspondence is big — things like that," Pruitt said.

While she could say little about the specific tasks she completed during the internship, Pruitt could not say enough about the valuable lessons she learned not only from the Bushes but also from the impressive political backgrounds of her fellow staff members.

"Dallas is very lucky to have the Bushes, and I feel blessed to have been able to be in their presence and learn from them," Pruitt said. "Even the staff that works for President and Mrs. Bush are fabulous people — so intelligent. I learned so much from them and their political backgrounds."

Pruitt also learned many life skills from her work environment. In working with the Bushes, she saw a strong example of overcoming adversity.

"From watching the Bushes, one of the most incredible things I learned was resiliency," Pruitt said. "I think that I've really captured a greater respect for President Obama, for President Kennedy, for President Reagan — all of the presidents — for what they had to go through and endure in their presidency and then post-presidency."

The lessons Pruitt learned and the experience she gained during the internship did not stop benefiting her when the summer ended; they carried over into her daily interactions and aspirations. Assistant vice president for enrollment management Glenn Dillard, who helped select Pruitt as a Trustee Scholar, believed she brought her new skills to Harding with her.

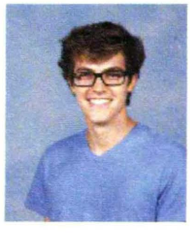
"Chandler may well be the most confident — and certainly not in an arrogant way — student on the Harding University campus," Dillard said. "She never meets a stranger, presents a very positive first impression and works hard to get things done."

Assistant vice president for advancement Steve Lake was a longtime friend of the Pruitt family. According to Lake, Pruitt's internship added value to an already-impressive resume, demonstrating on paper the dedication that was apparent to everyone who met her.

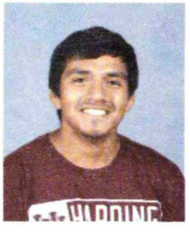
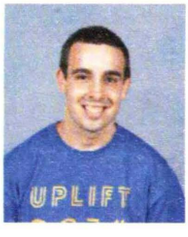
"She's politically wise, she's driven, she's bright, she's been involved politically within student leadership organizations within the state of Texas, and she is a doer at a young age," Lake said.

Pruitt said she felt very blessed by the opportunity and looked forward to seeing where her connections would take her.

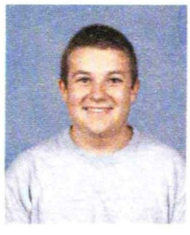
By Dane Roper

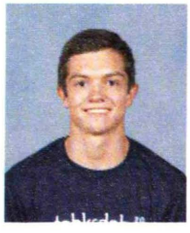


Ashley McGee
Zachary McKee
Jesse Mechler
Sarai Medrano
Jacob Meeks
Alicia Mejia Maradiaga

Brandon Melo
Alexander Meredith
Caycee Miller
Elizabeth Miller
Emalee Miller
Falan Miller





Makenna Miller
Micayla Mobley
Walter Moody
Brooke Moon
Benjamin Moore
Bethany Moore

Taylor Mounts
Peyton Munch
Evelyn Munoz
Samual Nelms
Chandler Nelson
Carter Ness

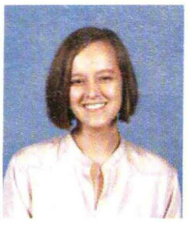
Kasey Newton
Caleb Nicholas
Kirsten Nielsen
Joel Norris
Annelise Nutt
Iliana Ochoa Lopez

Jonnathan Ortiz
Abigail Owens
Beau Owens
Curtis Palmore
Lorine Panzano
Josie Parker

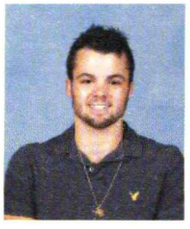
Quentin Parker
Alydia Partlow
Paul Pearson
Rosa Perez Vallejos
Nathan Perkins
Katelyn Perrett

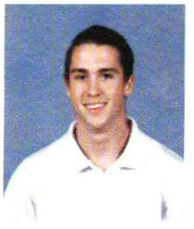
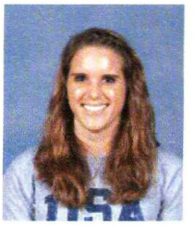
Jameson Perry
Jonathan Perry
Juliann Peters
Mack Peters
Sarah Petersen
Danielle Pfalser

Thao Pham
Zachary Pierce
Caleb Pieterse
Jordan Poe
Hannah Powell
Sarah Powell

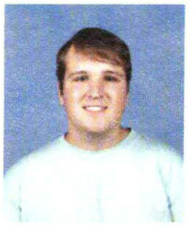
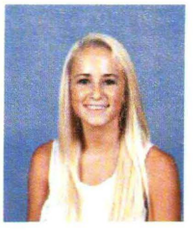
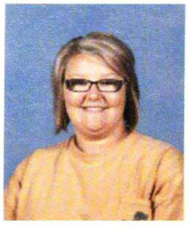
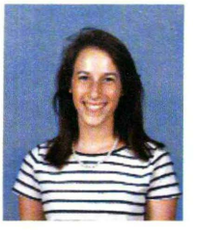


Bridgette Price
Michael Priddy
Kennedy Priest
Jordan Pritchett
Emily Provencher
Morgan Pruitt

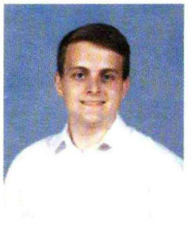
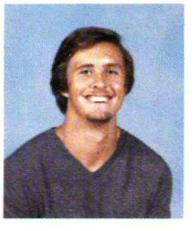
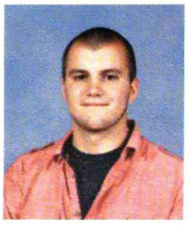
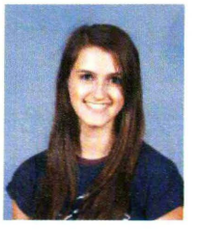


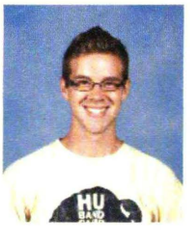
Michaela Puglisi
Matthew Pultz
Connor Purvis
Patrick Ragan
Natalie Ragatz
Kaleigh Ramey

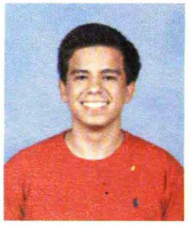
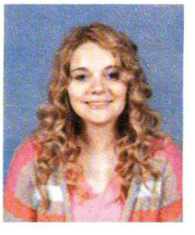





Kristi Ramsey
Jenna Randolph
Sawyer Raulerson
Morgan Ray
Haley Rees
Julia Reinboldt

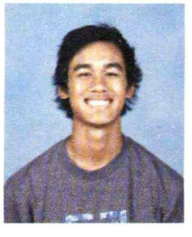
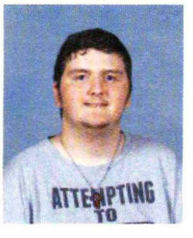
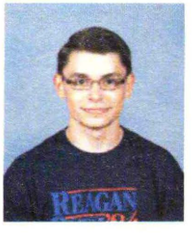





Suzanna Richter
Meeghan Riemer
Hudson Ritter
Derek Roberts
Evan Roberts
Shelby Roberts



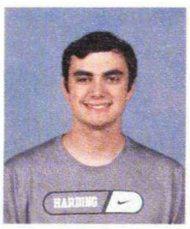



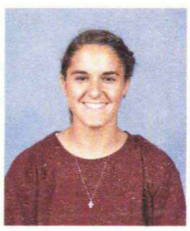
Andrew Robison
Shelby Rodgers
David Rodriguez
Chloe Rogers
Kayla Rogers
Megan Romano

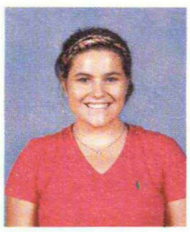
Timothy Roncal
Jimmy Roseberry
Cameron Ross
Bethany Rotti
Luc Rowe
Tara Roy

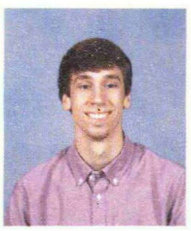
Kinli Rushing
Caleb Russell
Hannah Russell
Alexis Sampson
Nathaly Sanchez Jimenez
Kaitland Sandlin



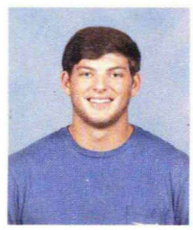


Thanaydi Sandoval
Natalie Santangelo
Brittane Schaake
Dustin Schandevel
Erin Schuler
Kayla Schweikhard

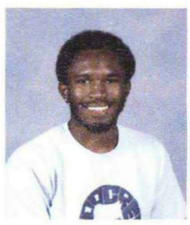




After a car accident sent her on a long road to recovery, freshman Megan Golliver studied art therapy to help others recover in the future. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**



Whitney Scott
April Seaman
Jeneanne Seldura
Megan Seward
Haley Shearer
Brayden Shelby



Spencer Shell
Benjamin Shumate
Josue Silvestre Noj
Jorden Sims
Micaela Sloan
Angeline Smith

MEGAN GOLLIVER

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Freshman child life major Megan Golliver was on her way home for Thanksgiving break when a car accident changed her life. According to Golliver, who was in the passenger seat, her car struck a stopped car at about 73 miles per hour, launching her air bag and laptop into her face.

"[The doctors] said if it had hit an inch lower I would've been decapitated, and if it had hit an inch higher it would've crushed my skull," Golliver said. "There were a million ways I probably could've died in that accident, and it's only by God's grace I'm still here."

Assistant professor of art Amy Cox was on campus when she received a call alerting her that Golliver had been in an accident and was being taken to the White County Hospital. Cox said she went straight to the hospital, where she communicated with doctors, made decisions on Golliver's behalf and kept Golliver's parents updated. "I don't see what I did as anything big or heroic — I feel responsible for any of my students," Cox said. "Caring for my students goes hand in hand with me teaching them, and I think anyone in this position would feel the same way."

As the night progressed, the extent of the damage became clear. Golliver would need a completely new set of teeth and multiple skin grafts, as well as the reconstruction of her nose, jaw and cheek bones. Multiple surgeries loomed in her future, but even facing an uncertain recovery timeframe, she decided to stay at Harding.

"There's a support system at Harding that is unlike anywhere else," Golliver said. "Being at Harding gives me a sense of normalcy."

A story like Golliver's was bound to get around. People with similar struggles looked to her for encouragement, whether she knew it or not.

"I've gotten messages from people I don't even know telling me that they are inspired by the way I've handled this," Golliver said. "Those are total God encouragements."

Even as she encouraged others on campus, Golliver looked to others for advice and comfort. Junior Peyton Templeton, who suffered severe burns at a young age, spent time with Golliver as she came to terms with the side effects of the accident.

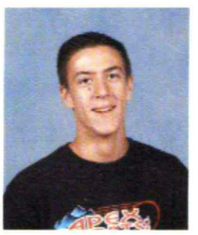
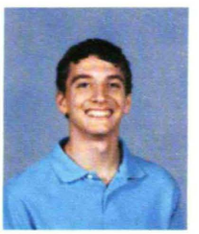
"It teaches you to base your self-confidence and self-worth on something other than your physical appearance," Templeton said. "I think that was a very quick and hard lesson for her to learn, but the way she carries and handles herself has just taken over. She holds herself with so much confidence and assurance, and she knows that whatever happens, her worth is in God."

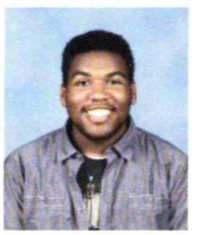
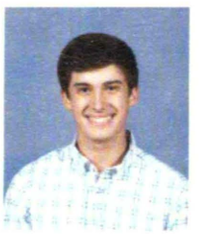
By choosing to continue school, Golliver put herself in a challenging situation, but she allowed herself the chance to learn, to grow and to help others.

"I'm not going to lie and say every day has been a box of chocolates and I've been able to put a smile on, because I haven't," Golliver said. "But every day God has been with me, and my very best friends have been by my side, and my family has supported me. ... Faith is not circumstantial, and God's love and forgiveness isn't either. That lesson has covered this whole thing."

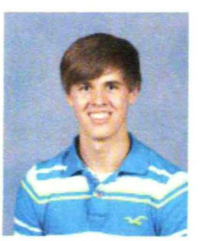
By Rachel Brackins

Erica Smith
Kaymon Smith
Keith Smith
Natalie Smith
Ross Smith
William Smith

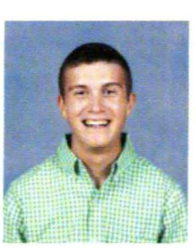



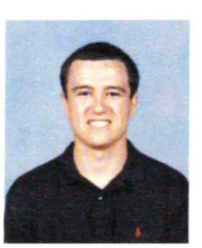
Brittany Smyser
Amanda Smythia
Katie Snell
Greyson Spears
Megan Spence
Heather Spillman



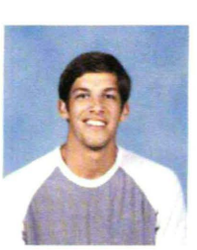
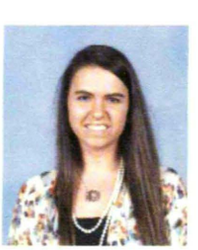
Jessica Stano
Sarah Steely
Carley Stevens
Kendra Stevenson
Carrie Stewart
Kelli Stewart

Robert Stewart
Madison Stone
Nicole Strittmatter
Shana Struble
Billy Sullivan
Emma Summers

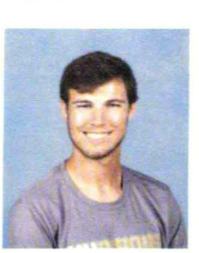


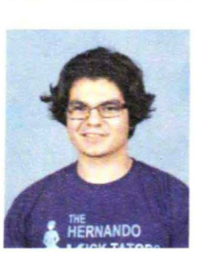


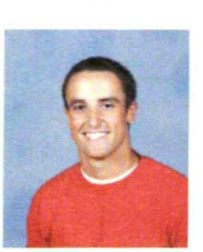
Andrew Sweatt
Landon Tabor
Carlie Tacker
Olivia Tarbet
Bethany Tatum
Ashley Taylor

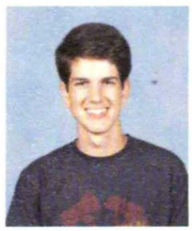



David Taylor
Madison Taylor
Payden Taylor
Wesley Taylor
Misahel Tello
Jack Thomas

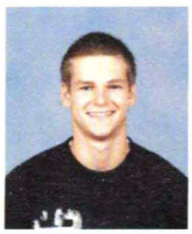
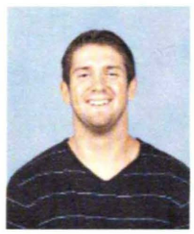
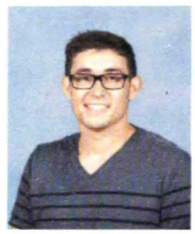




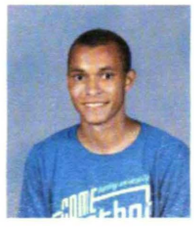
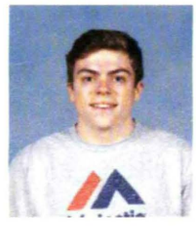


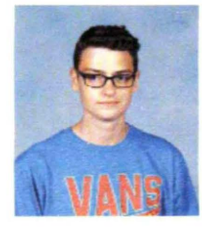


Mitchell Thomas
Brighton Thompson
Isaiah Thompson
Hanna Thrasher
Ashley Tillett
Hayley Tobias

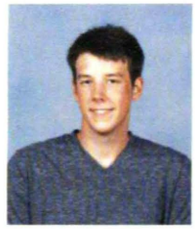
Kyle Toillion
Joe Tolar
Gavin Traber
Natalie Traughber
Kara Treadwell
Tylar Trimble

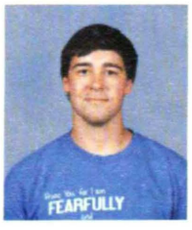


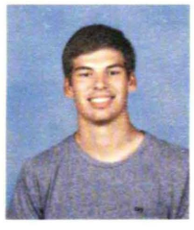
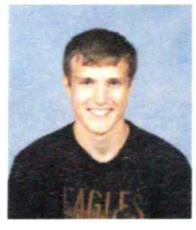
Michelle Troeglen Balmaceda
Jessica Trujillo
Jaxon Turner
Jonah Turner
Jordan Turney
Luke Uebelein

Catherine Ullman
Rachel Van Curen
Lauren Van Eaton
Elizabeth VanCuren
Sierra Vangilder
Claudia Velasco Ventura

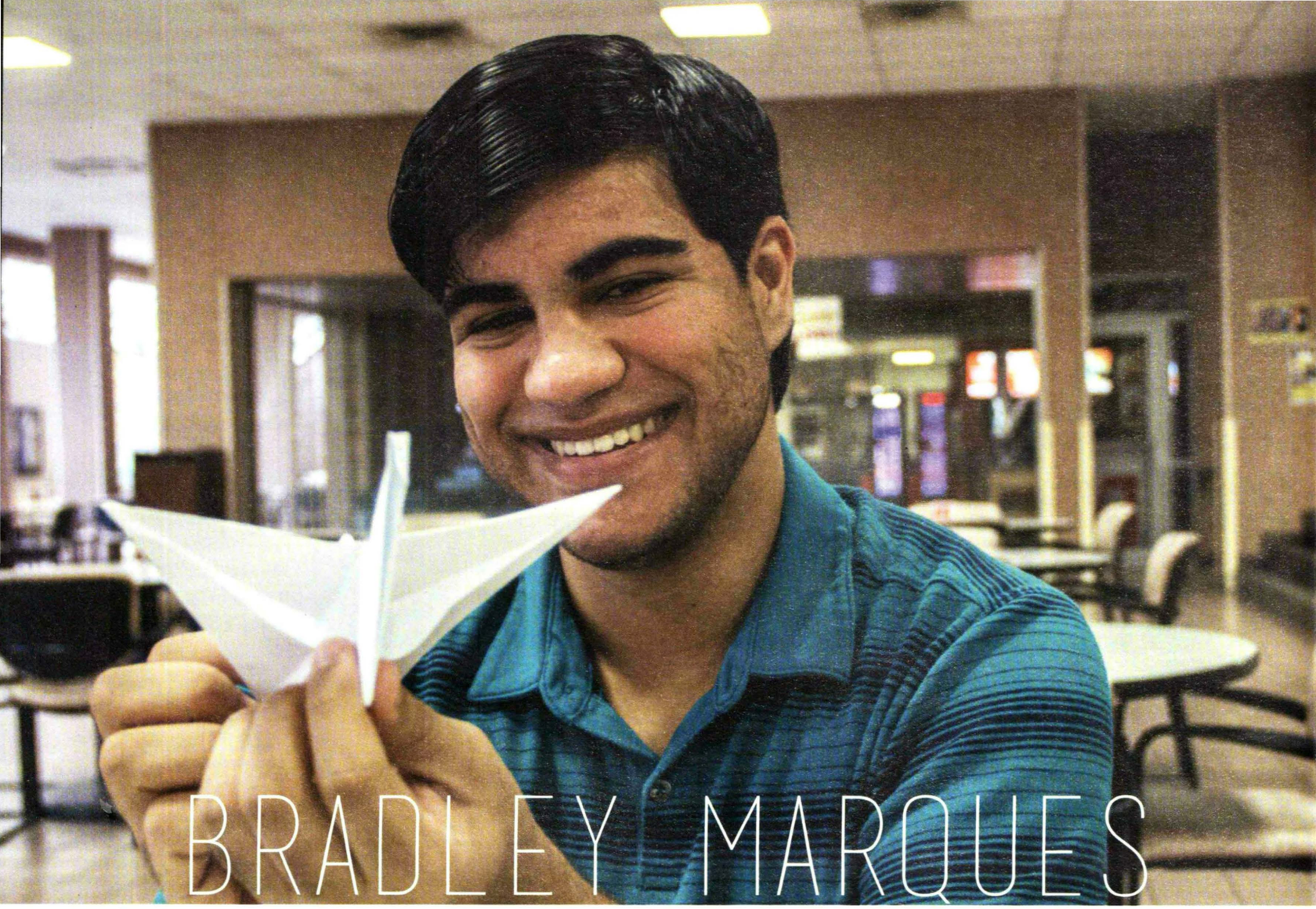


Jennifer Ventura
Yisel Ventura-Mendez
Shannon Walker
Brett Wallace
Kendall Wallace
Daniel Wallis



John Warren
Ian Watson
Conner Webb
Kianna Webb
Sarah Webb
Hallie Weber



BRADLEY MARQUES

THE ART OF ORIGAMI

Freshman Bradley Marques became engrossed in the paper-folding art of origami at a young age. With the help of friends and instructional videos on YouTube, he taught himself how to create an increasing number of models as he grew older. He built his repertoire by beginning with the simple fortune-teller model. After years of learning and practicing, he added more complex models such as the flapping crane and the unicorn.

"The great thing about origami is that it's very beautiful," Marques said. "You can take real-life objects — say, like a bird — and translate it to paper. It can be a homemade gift. Instead of buying a flower, you can make a bouquet of flowers. That seems more sentimental to me because I made it myself instead of buying it."

The word "origami" derived from the Japanese words for "fold" and "paper." Paper-folding projects were documented as early as the sixth century in multiple Asian countries. Over the centuries, origami transformed and developed into many different styles and techniques. Not only did origami provide an aesthetically pleasing artistic outlet, but it also served a wide range of practical uses. Some patients recovering from hand operations used origami as exercise during their physical therapy, while patients struggling with anxiety used origami to calm their minds. In educational settings, teachers taught origami to help students increase spatial sense and math skills.

"Origami is a skillful craft," assistant professor of art Beverly Austin said. "I think origami has spatial and mathematical awareness that a craft like, say, papier-mâché does not. The line between knowing what's fine and what's not so fine is an aesthetic difference."

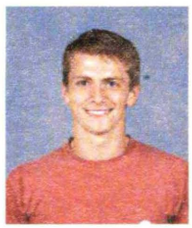
Marques showcased his work in many ways, from sharing it with his friends to teaching elementary school students how to make paper cups. Freshman Riley Jones, who had known Marques since junior high, was impressed with Marques' artistic prowess.

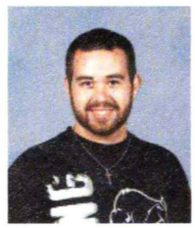
"I think it's a very beautiful art form," Jones said. "It's hard to do, but if you're good at it you can create some very beautiful masterpieces. I like the way Bradley does it and his creations."

Marques credited his patience and dedication to the practice of his art. He spent several hours every day fine-tuning his skills, hoping to one day reach the master levels of origami.

By Tin Nguyen

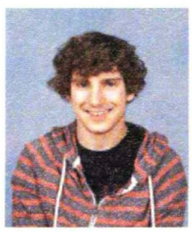
Mastering the art of origami, freshman Bradley Marques gave away his art as sentimental gifts while he continued to develop new designs. **Photo by DJ Lawson**





Grant Webster
Maggie Weeks
Morgan Weiland
Robert Welch
Jamie Welfare
Katherine West

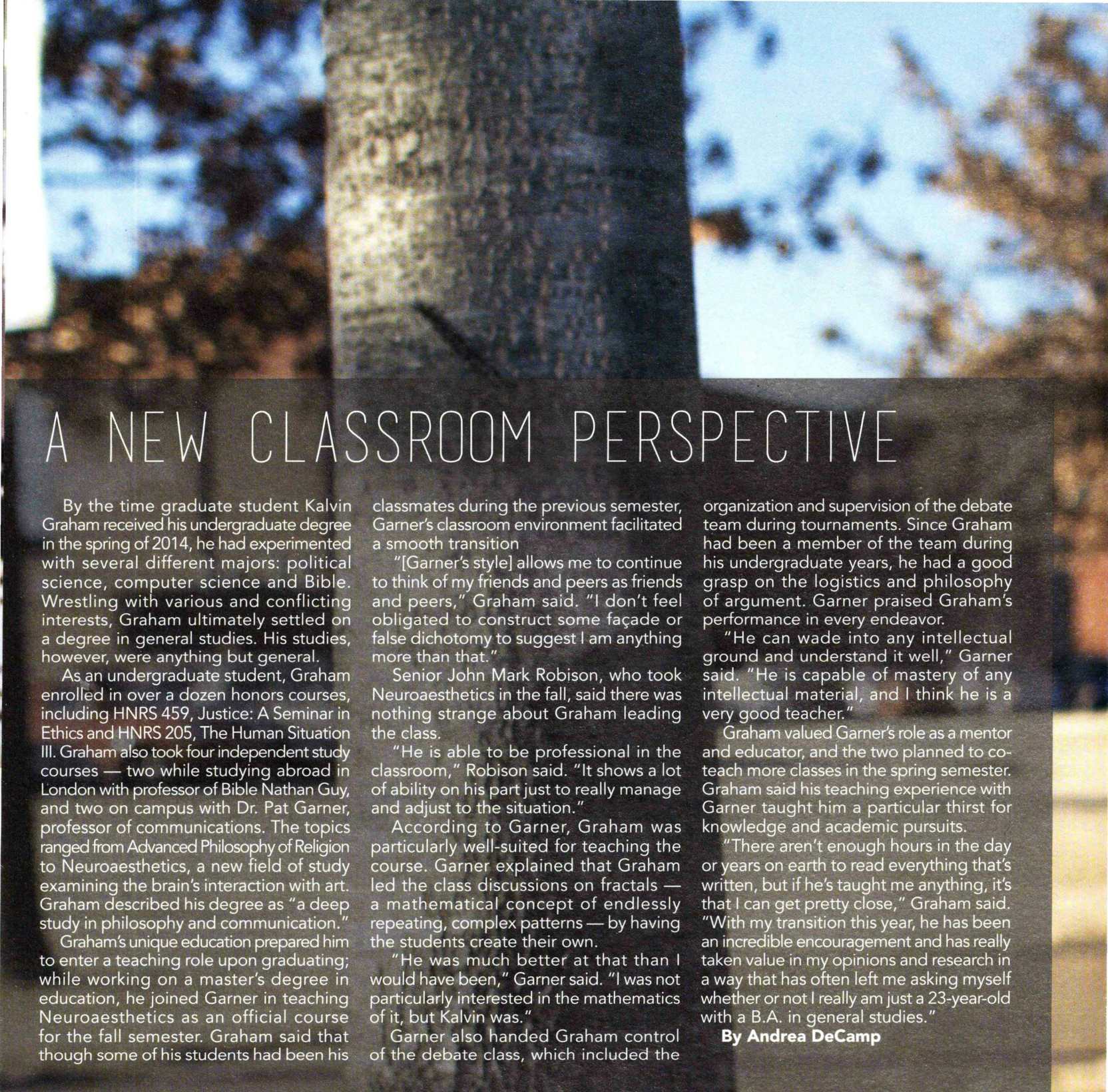
Emily Wheeless
Elizabeth White
Julia White
Natalie Whitlock
Mieka Wilcox
Anna Claire Williams



Cassie Williams
Lundon Williams
Patrick Williams
Abigail Wilmsen
Marilynn Wilson
Rebekah Wilson

Grace Windle
Leeanna Wolf
Kaylynn Wolfe
Elizabeth Woodruff
Kayla Woolard
Sarah Wortman

Sara Wright
Alyse Yates
Shauna Yeager
Monica Yingling



A NEW CLASSROOM PERSPECTIVE

By the time graduate student Kalvin Graham received his undergraduate degree in the spring of 2014, he had experimented with several different majors: political science, computer science and Bible. Wrestling with various and conflicting interests, Graham ultimately settled on a degree in general studies. His studies, however, were anything but general.

As an undergraduate student, Graham enrolled in over a dozen honors courses, including HNRS 459, Justice: A Seminar in Ethics and HNRS 205, The Human Situation III. Graham also took four independent study courses — two while studying abroad in London with professor of Bible Nathan Guy, and two on campus with Dr. Pat Garner, professor of communications. The topics ranged from Advanced Philosophy of Religion to Neuroaesthetics, a new field of study examining the brain's interaction with art. Graham described his degree as "a deep study in philosophy and communication."

Graham's unique education prepared him to enter a teaching role upon graduating; while working on a master's degree in education, he joined Garner in teaching Neuroaesthetics as an official course for the fall semester. Graham said that though some of his students had been his classmates during the previous semester, Garner's classroom environment facilitated a smooth transition

"[Garner's style] allows me to continue to think of my friends and peers as friends and peers," Graham said. "I don't feel obligated to construct some façade or false dichotomy to suggest I am anything more than that."

Senior John Mark Robison, who took Neuroaesthetics in the fall, said there was nothing strange about Graham leading the class.

"He is able to be professional in the classroom," Robison said. "It shows a lot of ability on his part just to really manage and adjust to the situation."

According to Garner, Graham was particularly well-suited for teaching the course. Garner explained that Graham led the class discussions on fractals — a mathematical concept of endlessly repeating, complex patterns — by having the students create their own.

"He was much better at that than I would have been," Garner said. "I was not particularly interested in the mathematics of it, but Kalvin was."

Garner also handed Graham control of the debate class, which included the organization and supervision of the debate team during tournaments. Since Graham had been a member of the team during his undergraduate years, he had a good grasp on the logistics and philosophy of argument. Garner praised Graham's performance in every endeavor.

"He can wade into any intellectual ground and understand it well," Garner said. "He is capable of mastery of any intellectual material, and I think he is a very good teacher."

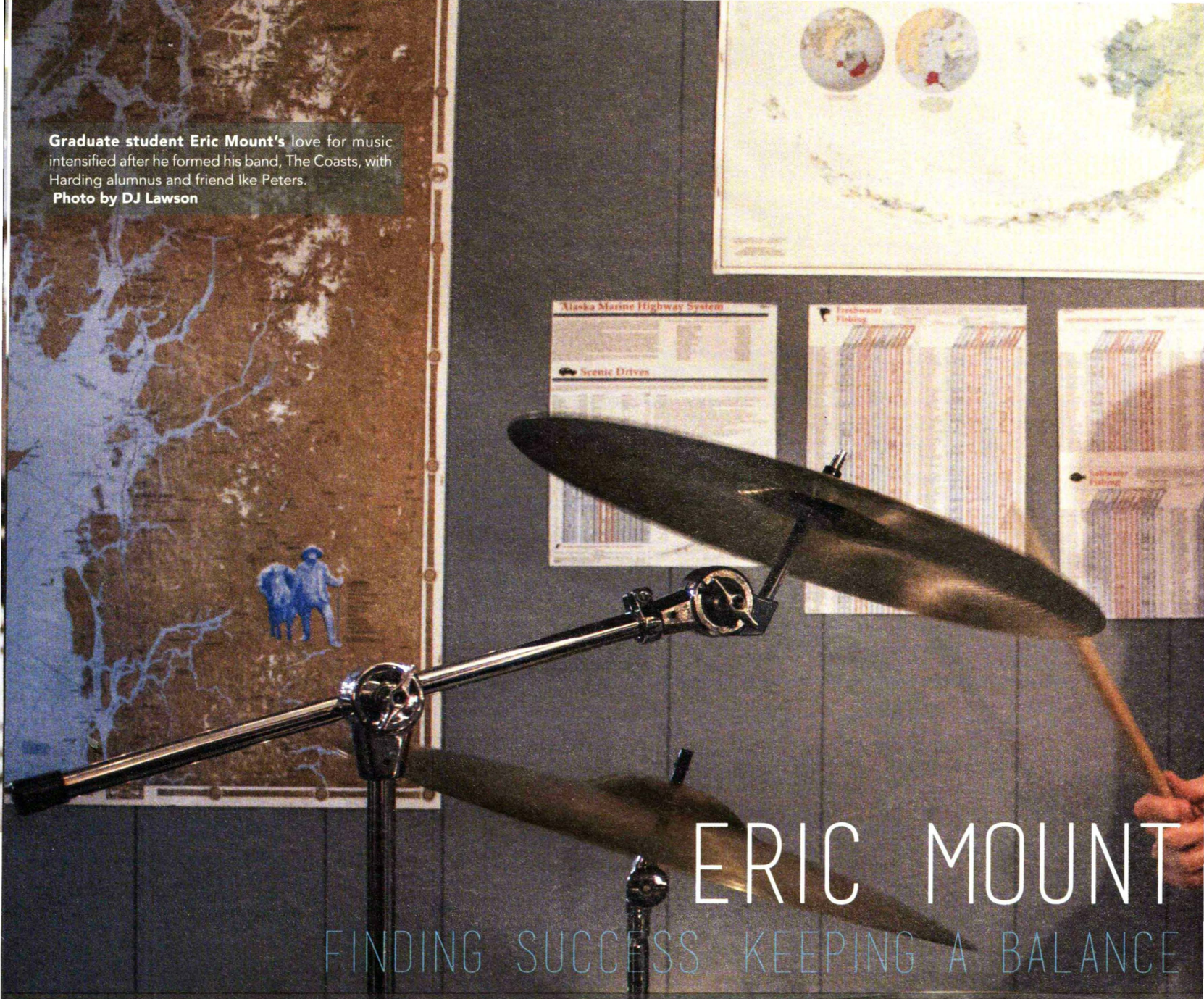
Graham valued Garner's role as a mentor and educator, and the two planned to co-teach more classes in the spring semester. Graham said his teaching experience with Garner taught him a particular thirst for knowledge and academic pursuits.

"There aren't enough hours in the day or years on earth to read everything that's written, but if he's taught me anything, it's that I can get pretty close," Graham said. "With my transition this year, he has been an incredible encouragement and has really taken value in my opinions and research in a way that has often left me asking myself whether or not I really am just a 23-year-old with a B.A. in general studies."

By Andrea DeCamp

Graduate student Kalvin Graham dove into the real world when he began teaching neuroaesthetics with Dr. Pat Garner immediately following the completion of his undergraduate education. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

KALVIN GRAHAM



Graduate student Eric Mount's love for music intensified after he formed his band, The Coasts, with Harding alumnus and friend Ike Peters.
Photo by DJ Lawson

ERIC MOUNT

FINDING SUCCESS, KEEPING A BALANCE

As a father, husband, club sponsor and part-time graduate student, Eric Mount did it all. Mount learned to split his time between these responsibilities, whether that meant staying at home with his two daughters, studying professional counseling or attending cookouts with the men's social club Knights. Most students, however, knew Mount for a different reason. Mount was one of two members of The Coasts, a band that performed several times on campus and was beginning to receive national attention.

The Coasts consisted of Mount and alumnus Ike Peters, who began collaborating with Mount after college. Peters, the band's guitarist, said the two had been good friends since becoming suitemates freshman year.

"I [had] some songs I [wanted] to record. Eric was the only guy I knew who played drums that I figured would be easy to collaborate with," Peters said. "I sent him the songs, and he was game for it, so he drove down to Little Rock from Ohio, and we recorded that first album. Since then, we've become more collaborative and more of a band."

At the time, Mount lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, whereas Peters lived in Little Rock, Arkansas. The distance initially proved to be the most challenging aspect of their new project.

"With Eric in Ohio, playing live shows was out of the question," Peters said. "Now that he lives in Searcy, we can play shows from time to time and get together and practice, but Searcy is still a ways from Little Rock."

According to Mount, the band overcame these difficulties and met impressive success. The independent film "Leaving Circadia" and television shows such as "Grimm," "90210" and "Franklin & Bash" included The Coasts' songs in their soundtracks. A music video for the song "I Just Wanna Be a Star" was featured on USA Today's Pop Candy, a recently discontinued blog on pop culture.

Mount said that the band created a change in both their families' dynamics, but they adopted the mindset that the band's success was a perk, not a priority.

"We've both had kids since our first record came out, so our time has become more limited," Mount said. "But neither of us would have it any other way — we're able to spend time with our families and make music on the side, which is great."

Senior Justin Dority and graduate student Brandon Ragsdale opened for The Coasts at their Midnight Oil show on Oct. 17. As members of Knights, they knew Mount as a sponsor, so Mount felt comfortable asking them to open for the show. According to Dority, The Coasts were more than just another local band; they were the real deal.

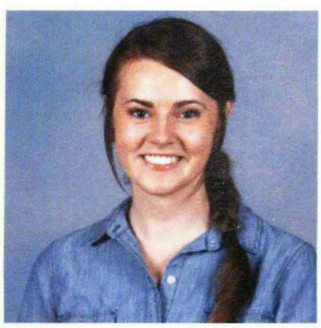
"The Coasts are top-notch. I think they really have something it's hard to find these days," Dority said. "Ike and Eric write songs that are fun to listen to; the tunes stick with you, and they mean something. Luckily, their albums are on iTunes and even Spotify, so it's easy to hear their sweet records."

By Megan Smith

ALASKA

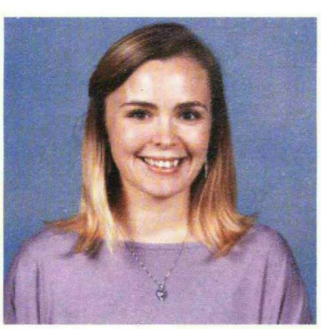
Clarissa
Freer

Kim
Hawkins

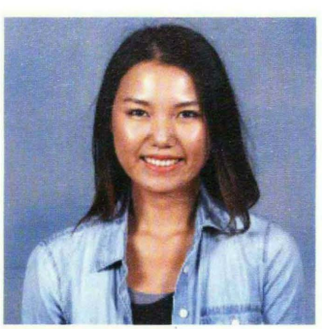


Hannah
Robison

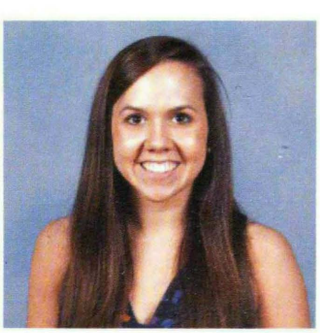
Leighton
Teague



Sandra
Wade



Yiman
Wang



Julie
White

Xiahua
Zheng

ALKMINI TSIRMPA

STEPPING INTO A NEW WORLD

Though leaving home for college could be an exciting time, full of new experiences and personal growth, it could also be a scary time characterized by homesickness and doubt. For sophomore Alkmini Tsirmpa, the experience of coming to college was particularly intensified by the transition from her native home in Greece to her new home in Searcy, Arkansas.

"My dad is the lawyer of the Harding University in Greece program, and that's how I heard about Harding," Tsirmpa said. "They offered my dad's family a scholarship, and we didn't take it seriously at first, because it was in the United States. My mom wouldn't listen to it at first; she said it was too far away and that she couldn't see me being so far away."

Over time, the distance seemed less and less daunting. Tsirmpa began to realize the significance of her opportunity to attend college in the U.S., and the idea became more appealing to her. After some serious conversations with her family about her decision, she resolved to begin her freshman year in the fall of 2013.

"It has been really nice. Everyone is really friendly," Tsirmpa said. "It is a really good atmosphere to be in. I know it's the usual answer, but the people are definitely the best thing about Harding."

According to sophomore Megan Albers, Tsirmpa's suitemate, Tsirmpa added to the friendly atmosphere.

"Alkmini is lots of fun," Albers said. "She is really easy to talk to and open up to because she is a really great listener. She is really easygoing and laid-back. She doesn't stress out too much. She is just a lot of fun to do crazy things with. She is very sweet and compassionate towards others."

After her arrival at Harding, Tsirmpa fully invested herself into the campus experience. She attended West Side Church of Christ, met with a home Bible study, joined Delta Gamma Rho social club and developed many close relationships.

"She absolutely has taken full advantage of being here," Albers said. "She makes an effort to go to any event and meet and get to know people."

Senior Meghan Ramsey met Tsirmpa while studying at Harding University in Greece the semester before Tsirmpa came to Harding.

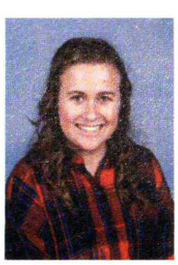
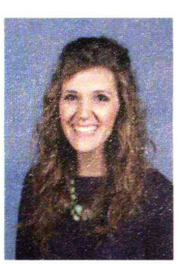
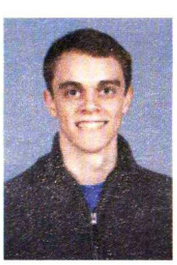
"I think it is very brave of her," Ramsey said. "I don't know if I would have had the courage to go so far away from home."

Tsirmpa, however, did not feel like she made this leap alone. Between other students and her spiritual connection with God, someone was with her at every step of the way.

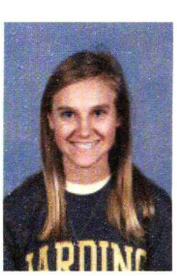
"I think it is very important that I have a relationship with God, because I really don't think I could do it on my own," Tsirmpa said. "I have really seen His support throughout my year here because I've had times where I ask myself, 'What am I doing here?' but he always sends someone or something happens that gives me support."

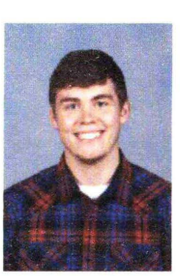
By Tin Nguyen

Ashlynn Armstrong
Broolyn Billner
Ethan Brown
Ashley Collins
Ashley Crossman
Courtney Davis

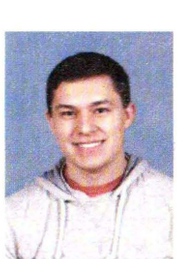
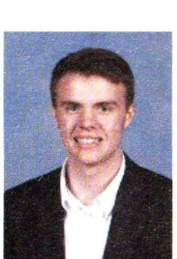




Michelle Gontko
Lane Grissom
Kelly Hall
Jacy Hans
Rebeccah Henthrone
Drew Howerton

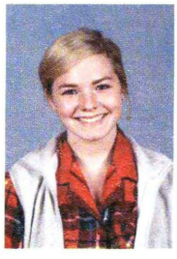
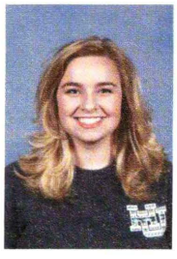
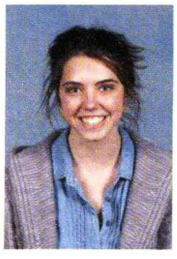




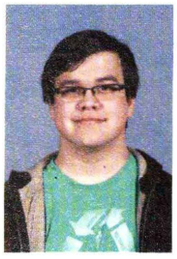
Lane Hull
Seth Jernigan
Rebecca Kiser
Kristina Kiser
Lindsey Luter
Rebecca Mahle

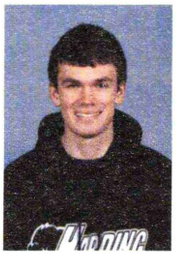
Originally from Greece, sophomore Alkmini Tsirmpa was grateful for the opportunity to attend college in the U.S. and for all of the friendships she made while there. **Photo by Owen Brown**

Melcher Megan
Mims Sara
Patterson Taylor
Patton Claire
Shepherd Samantha
Smith Abby



Smith Bo
Stanfield Stephanie
Telgren William
Tram Thuy
White Taylor
Williams Payton



Yeats Hunter