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VOL. 25 NO. 6

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2013

IN SHORT

Jubilee

BCS will host a 50th Anniversary Jubilee on May 4 from 3-6 p.m. in the Family Life Center, featuring a giant birthday cake, live entertainment, inflatable for kids, and plenty of food. Development director Kevin Claypool said everyone who has ever been part of BCS is welcome to join the celebration, including current students, teachers, and parents.

Math excellence

BCS finished sixth in state in this year's Texas State Math League competition – the school's highest finish ever. Freshman Andrew Armstrong, who missed only three problems all year, tied for third among individuals, behind two students who answered only one more question correctly.

Lilya fifth in state

Seventh grader Derek Lilya placed fifth at the ExxonMobil Texas State Engineering Fair in San Antonio on March 28 after placing third at the Regional Science Festival on Feb. 21. Lilya placed in the cellular and molecular biology category with his project, "The Strong, the Weak, and the Jiggly." Lilya said he is considering entering a project in the electrical engineering category next year.

Alum plans mission

BCS alumnus Levi Matus (Class of '11) has released an album on iTunes and Google Play to help support a mission trip to Ireland he will serve on for 10 months, beginning this summer. The artist name is "Totus Tuus," and the album title is "Guide Me." For more information about Matus' story visit levinireland.blogspot.com.

State champions again

Armstrong wins three events as BCS triumphs in TAPPS academic meet

By Joshua Sass

Brentwood won the TAPPS 3A state academic meet by almost doubling the nearest school's total, 95 points to 48, at Concordia University in Austin on April 6. Brentwood has placed in

the top three in every TAPPS state appearance since they began participating in the meet five years ago and now adds their third state championship.

"Our students are incredibly bright, and I'm glad that they were able to show it at TAPPS," BCS contest coordinator Michelle Mallett said.

The 14 competitors for Brentwood had five first-places and eight other top-six finishers to add to their team score. Of these, freshman Andrew Armstrong won three events: number sense, calculator, and advanced math. Armstrong earned more points than any other individual in the meet.

"I was really pleased with the math team's performance at TAPPS," math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. "The number sense sweep was particularly sweet. They have been working hard all year, and the fruit of their labor was evident."

Freshman Natalie Williams placed first in solo acting and second in duet acting with sophomore Tyler Clark. Junior Bryce Morin

placed fifth in solo acting. Senior Priscilla Glenn placed fifth in persuasive speaking.

Freshman Joshua Sass placed second in number sense, third in calculator, and fourth in TAPPS math. Sophomore Hyunjin Park won TAPPS math and placed third in number sense, while junior M.J. Sung placed sixth in calculator.

Yearbook placed second in their contest; there is no longer a newspaper competition.

Graessle and Dr. Libby Weed assisted Mallett to sponsor and make sure the trip went as planned. Mallett is the new coordinator for TAPPS and TCSIT, while Dr. Weed is giving the job over to her, making this a transition year.

"My expectations for next year are to bring more students and utilize the talent that we couldn't this year because people were so busy," Mallett said.

Mallett said her goal for next year is to get more than 100 points and take another state title.

BCS excels in fine arts contests; see pg. 8



artwork: Jackson Graessle

photo: Joseph Kang

TCSIT team departs today

By Nicholas Bergeron

Brentwood will compete in the Texas Christian Schools Interscholastic Tournament this weekend at Abilene Christian University, taking students from middle school and high school to compete against Christian schools from all over Texas and beyond in a diverse array of subjects.

BCS has a long history with the TCSIT competition, first competing in 1983. The high school team has not placed below second since 1993 and took seven consecutive firsts between 1994 and 2000. However, since 2005, BCS has placed first only twice. The stage is set for new coordinator Michelle Mallett to spearhead a resurgence in Brentwood achievement.

Organizing for TCSIT is a considerable job, entailing selection of teams, organizing with coaches, scheduling practices concurrent with

see **Mallett**, page 8

Track set for district meet today; girls aiming to repeat as champs

By MJ Sung

Brentwood Christian School's varsity track teams have been preparing for their district meet, which will be held today, April 18, in Bastrop.

The varsity girls' team took first place in their recent meet at Jarrell on April 4, and they appear ready to defend their district title. They won the meet last year in Kingsville – their first district championship since 2008.

Girls' coach Katie Smith said the team is doing great so far, training hard and working together as a team.

"I expect them to put the team first and be willing to compete in events that will help us score points as a team," Smith said. "I most of all expect them to use these talents God has given them to glorify him."

see **Track**, page 7



photo: Patsy Glenn

Cleared! Senior Priscilla Glenn competes in the 300-meter hurdles during the Marble Falls meet on March 28.

Guest editorial: Jackson Graessle

Seniors encounter culture, curry, shopping and snow abroad

This year, a large portion of our senior class dreamed of visiting both London and Paris and followed their dreams. We started off the trip by landing in Paris, meeting our tour guide, Anna, and heading to our very floral first hotel. While in Paris, we had some unusual weather that changed our course of action a small amount. On one of the days, we were planning on traveling to the French countryside, but the snow was not going to let us go any further, so our bus driver stopped at a gas station for us to get snacks and to head back.

Now, I'll give you a couple guesses on what we did right outside the gas station. That's right, we had a massive snowball fight. How many people can say they had a snowball fight in rural France? Mrs. Johnson can – ask her. Well, we spent the rest of the day ice skating in central Paris; this was the favorite event of several of the students.

After spending a good amount of time in France, we traveled on a train that went un-

der the English Channel and arrived in London. While in London, our group was able to visit where the great British Queen resides.

We got to see the Changing of the Guard and take pictures with one of the stationary guards. Our group was also able to have some fantastic curry and see the musical *Les Misérables* in a very baroque theater in the city. On its own, this would have been incredible, but as a class we were supposed to have read *Les Misérables*, and having the story fresh in our heads only made seeing it on stage an entirely fulfilling experience.

Going to only two cities allowed us to get a pretty great idea of what it would be like to live

in the motherland. It also allowed us to have two full days of free time. Our free days were put at the end of the stay in each city, so that



photo: submitted

Anna could give us a pretty good visual of the city, and we would know exactly what we wanted to do, exactly where we wanted to go, and exactly how to get there. Both places had something for everyone.

As art fanatics – people like Serene Nermal, Michelle Dembosky, and I – explored places like the Louvre and Centre Pompidou, which is built as an inside-out building (Google it), overly excessive shoppers like Elena Batlle were given the opportunity to completely re-

stock their wardrobes with French clothing. In London, some groups went around and visited the famous attractions, like the London Eye, which is featured in the theme song of the TV show “*Sherlock*,” the Tower Bridge, which looked like it could have been in Disney World, and finally, Big Ben – the clock tower. Other groups explored and visited Platform 9 3/4 from the Harry Potter series and took pictures in front of the big sign. Speaking of *Sherlock*, one of the things that several of my classmates got to do was visit where the character Sherlock Holmes fictionally lived.

This trip was not just an incredible travel experience for each of us. It was also a great growth experience for us as a class. I know that, personally, I spent my free day with people I had rarely spoken to before. By the end of the first couple days, Brooklyn Merkord had nicknames that she created for several of her friends while abroad. We took some classic photos, and we took some silly photos that got progressively sillier as the trip continued. Overall, our trip was both a great adventure and a fantastic bonding experience.

THE BEAR FACTS

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11908 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753

The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of Brentwood Christian High School. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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The Bear Facts is available online at
www.brentwoodchristian.org.

Guest editorial: Kia Khadem

Conspicuous senior thankful for BCS experience

Many of you might know me as that loud-mouth who never shuts his trap, or as an unwanted enigma that nobody liked, or perhaps you know me for my “burning wit and sarcasm.” And despite all of the petulant complaints that I make about everything and anything, which my friends can attest to, I couldn't be happier, four years after coming into the nurturing environment provided by Brentwood.

I suppose a bit of background information is needed, if you are to follow along with my tale; otherwise you'd merely think I'm pretentious. And if you already think that of me, there's nothing I can do to help. Before I arrived at Brentwood my freshman year as that kid that nobody liked, I went to public school over at Canyon Vista and was en route to Westwood High School. Now, I know this is hard to believe based on what many of you have seen, but I was quite isolated from my peers. I mostly stuck to myself and just blended in the sea of nameless students, all who had their own fair share of teenage angst due to the dreaded hormonal shift. I felt rather depressed, as I thought I was unwanted, and I was also harassed by many of my brutish male associates. So, needless to say, it was definitely a low point in my life, and it was going to get worse at Westwood due to the massive size of the school as all of this depression would be magnified on a much larger scale.

However, my wise parents decided to place

me in Brentwood, a much smaller environment that would have the amicable community needed in order to raise me properly. As the old saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” And so, I went to Brentwood, eager for the new learning environment.

As you might have guessed, my frame of reference completely clashed with that of Brentwood, and it took me a lot of time to acclimate to the changes. I wasn't used to being taught

“Despite all of the petulant complaints I make about everything and anything ... I couldn't be happier.”

about the Bible and religion, so I struggled to keep along. I'd constantly fight with my teachers over conflicting views, as I wasn't used to being raised in a religious school. Similarly, interactions with my classmates were also difficult as I never properly developed the social skills required to make basic conversation. So, in an effort to seek attention, I started to revel in the bizarre, such as rolling across the floor of the cafeteria or speaking in gibberish that I couldn't even understand. As time passed,

everybody began to accept my rather eccentric behavior and I now had an identity. Sure, it wasn't the most desirable identity out there, but it did the job and I became content.

Eventually, I began to grow out of my hyperactive phase and began to simmer down and mature into the obnoxious and sarcastic fine youth you see before you today.

So what's the point of this? Why the several paragraphs of spiel? Well, I'd like to thank Brentwood for all it has done for me. Without its friendly students and amicable faculty, I wouldn't have made it through my high school years. I've seen some of my former classmates around town, and they say that Westwood was a difficult environment to say the least. I honestly don't know what would have happened to me had I gone there, and I shudder at some of the possibilities.

But my main point is this: While Brentwood is not perfect and can be criticized on certain aspects, it provides an enriching educational experience like no other. You can't be close friends with teachers at public school like you can at Brentwood, nor can you express yourself without all of the ridiculous rules placed by an out-of-touch school board. Brentwood serves as a second home for many students, including myself, rather than the cold and unforgiving institution that public education is based on. So, enjoy these years while you've got them, as they were some of the best for me.

Beloved teacher remembered for faith, compassion, laughter

By Jonathon Reich

“Alicia, you will be missed but not forgotten, for what you shared with all of us will live on forever.”

When Spanish teacher Alicia Eaton Brothers passed away on Sunday, March 10, in a car accident that occurred near the beginning of spring break, she left a void in the heart of the school that students and teachers alike have since struggled to put into words.



photo: submitted

In honor of her life, a funeral service was held the following Sunday, March 17, where those who spoke remembered her life and the light she had spread throughout it. Held at University Avenue Church of Christ near downtown Austin, where the Brothers are members, the service brought so many more people than expected that rows of chairs had to be brought in.

A service of the same nature was also held at BCS when school resumed the next day. This service left many students in tears, as elementary principal Libby Weed repeated her words from the funeral, explaining how much Brothers meant to the Brentwood community.

In an effort to help students who were grieving, counselors were also positioned throughout the school to talk to students who needed it. Another attempt to help students transition through her death was made by switching Brothers’ old middle and high school classroom with another room on the same hallway.

Members of the Brentwood faculty purchased 18 new Spanish books for the elementary library in Brothers’ honor. School president Marquita Moss revealed during the memorial service at BCS that there will also be a tree planted on campus in her honor, which is a tradition for honoring those close to the school who have passed away.

Brothers began teaching at BCS in 1998. Weed remembers Brothers’ interview, when she said, “I want to help families raise their children to see God in everything they do, hear, and say.”

Two years after joining the Brentwood staff, she left for the arrival of her first son, Quinn. Shortly afterward she was again blessed by a son, Jesse, which kept her away from the classroom longer.

“We loved it when Quinn and Jesse became BCS students,” Weed said. “But we were not satisfied ... until the time came when Alicia was ready to come back to our classroom.”

Halfway through the school year of 2011-12, when the previous Spanish teacher left, Brothers decided she was ready to come back. She then took up the charge as Brentwood’s go-to Spanish teacher, her classes ranging from elementary to middle school, and even Spanish I.

This year, Brothers had been as hard-working as ever. She not only provided almost the whole school with a solid Spanish education, but she also helped to plan the upcoming mission trip to Honduras. High school Spanish teacher Kendra Dean was another who has been helping to plan this trip, and she noted that without Brothers, it has been difficult.

“We were so excited for our plans next year and for the mission trip,” Dean said. “Mrs. Brothers was my closest friend at Brentwood. She was my co-worker, mentor, and friend.”

After Brentwood’s service on March 18, the elementary students did not have class for a week, to help them transition through the loss. These elementary students were also asked to write what they remembered about Brothers in what was called her “memory book.” This book

was made with the intent of helping students through the loss of Brothers, and will be given to the Brothers family after its completion.

Through these comments, it is easy to see what it was about her that made everyone love her and simply appreciate her presence so much. Descriptions range from her grace in dealing with people, to her sparkling eyes, to her listening skills, to many other wonderful qualities. The following are attempts by students to explain how much their teacher meant to them:

“I loved it when Mrs. Brothers smiled. Her bright blue eyes sparkled with happiness and when she laughed, the same thing happened.”

—Jenna Riley, 5th

“I loved it when Mrs. Brothers made us laugh. She was amazing! She let us have fun all the time.”

—Nicholas Hunka, 5th

“Mrs. Brothers was patient, kind, tender-hearted, faithful, lovingly compassionate, a great teacher, joyful, and one of the nicest people I’ve ever met.”

—Theron Garcia, 4th

“Her fourth period was the funnest class I had. She interacted with every one of us and showed that she cared. She knew us and knew how we learned. I’m really sad I didn’t get to know her more. I’m really going to miss her smile and how she laughed with us during Spanish.”

—Gina Huh, 10th
“Mrs. Brothers will be one of the best teachers I will ever get. ... Everybody in the school loved her.”

—Andrew Gewarghese, 4th

Honduras mission set for June

By Becca Willingham

Fifteen of Brentwood’s middle and high school students will travel to Honduras for a mission trip this summer. The students will build a playground and level out a soccer field for the children in Catacamas, Honduras. In addition to these construction projects, they will do mission work with orphanages.

One of the orphanages is a special-needs facility where Brentwood students will help the kids exercise and do VBS activities. The students will also be going to a school and medical clinic in Catacamas to learn more about mission work.

Spanish teacher Kendra Dean, who is in charge of the trip, picked Honduras because of her contact with a few of the missionaries there and the good projects they are involved in. She even brought it up during her job interview last summer, and in September the discussion progressed and became a finalized trip.

Michele Broadway is taking the place of Alicia Brothers, who was a major contributor in planning the trip before she passed away in March.

“I’m excited to help another culture as well as honor Mrs. Brothers,” sophomore Cody Hunt said.

The trip is scheduled for June 6-13, and the students will be staying the night at the school before departure. Dean said this would be a good way to make sure everyone is on time for the flight.

Throughout the year there have been numerous fundraisers, including babysitting, selling tacos, and jeans days, when students had the option of paying a dollar toward the trip so they could wear jeans. All of this is to raise money for the mission work and travel costs.

The trip is not all work and volunteering; the trip-goers will have a day to go sightseeing and take in the culture of Honduras.

“It will be an awesome, life-changing experience for the students that will be a blessing to the people of Honduras,” said Dean, who is looking forward to impacting people’s lives.

Besides Dean and Broadway, teachers and administrators going along on the trip include J.D. Robson, Kaleen Graessle, and Marquita Moss. Brentwood minister Roger McCown and Dean’s father will also accompany the students.

National Honor Society serves at Rosedale twice



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Special friendship Juniors Derek Hall and Co Ho pose with Tony, a Rosedale student, during his school’s track and field day on April 12. BCS students ran events such as bean bag toss, relays, bowling, and softball throw. BCS students also went to Rosedale on March 28 to help with their annual Easter egg hunt.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Morgan Vandygriff*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2013.

Soft-spoken leader passionate for sports, people

By Madalyn Garelick

“Find something you’re passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it.”

These words from famous chef and writer Julia Child apply to the life of senior Morgan Vandygriff. Morgan has shown a passion for sports, academics, and friendships that began as a child and continued throughout her high school years.

Morgan began at Brentwood Christian as a shy but bright preschooler. As she moved on through school, coaches and teachers could tell she had drive and dedication.

“Morgan has a tremendous work ethic,” varsity basketball coach Devan Loftis says. “And this year she has become a vocal and spiritual leader as well.”

As she progressed through her school years and matured, Morgan became a girl who people couldn’t help but want to be around. There was never a time that classmates can recall when Morgan wasn’t displaying a great attitude and participating regardless of what her classes were doing.

But not only did Morgan develop a drive in her academics, she found her passion in sports. Throughout her elementary, middle school, and high school years Morgan has been involved in cross country, track, volleyball, and basketball. She has even achieved all-state recognition in basketball and track. But one of these stands above the others.

“My best memories from high school are with my basketball team,” Morgan says. “Going to Final Four and state championship the last two seasons was amazing.”

Morgan finished her basketball career at BCS having played in 140 varsity games, which is more than any other player in school history. She describes some of her best memories of high school as being with her team during tournaments, games, meets, and practices.

“Morgan is a

very dedicated player and turned into a phenomenal leader,” Loftis says. “She sets the bar of leadership very high for our team.”

Besides sports, Morgan has made her mark on the lives of many students and faculty at Brentwood. She has been historian of her class all four years of high school. She was a member of the repeat state-champion choir and is in NHS, and she was nominated for Homecoming queen this year.

“Morgan’s sense of humor is so unique,” best friend Brooklyn Merkord says. “She doesn’t catch on to things as quick as most people but when she does it’s so funny just to watch her laugh.”

Morgan’s family is very involved in nearly everything that happens at Brentwood.

John and Melissa and their two daughters have been members of Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ for 17 years, where they work with the Children’s Worship Ministry, and Morgan and her mom volunteer in the nursery. They have had children in Brentwood Christian School for 18 years. Morgan’s older sister Lindsay was also a varsity basketball player. She graduated in 2008 and attended ACU, where she graduated last year with a bachelor’s of business administration in accounting, and she is currently working on her

master’s degree.

Morgan’s parents are also members of the BCS Booster Club. Melissa is an aide for the second grade, and John coaches the varsity golf team.

The Vandygriffs say they have enjoyed watching Morgan mature into a Godly, confident young woman, and they could not be more proud of her. Morgan’s parents say they have never seen someone who has a more sweet and caring spirit. Family and friends agree Morgan always puts others first. She sets aside time each week to visit her grandparents and makes an effort to reach out to younger students who just need someone to talk to.

Melissa and John anticipate their daughter doing so many incredible things in her future, but most of all they say they hope she finds a church she can call home and gets involved just like she has done with Brentwood Oaks.

Morgan’s strong faith has led her to many places in the world, including a mission trip to Peru that she participated in during spring break of her junior year. Morgan and Brooklyn will also join a mission trip to Rwanda, Africa, this summer.

“Going to Peru definitely impacted me,” Morgan says. “It was an amazing opportunity to spend time with these children and show them love.”

As for her future, Morgan recently accepted a scholarship to run track for Harding University in the fall. She is still undecided about her major, but her parents plan to support her no matter what she does. Friends and teachers have no doubt that Morgan will strive for excellence and be great at whatever she chooses, due to her persevering and purposeful attitude.

“I have learned from high school that I love being a part of a team and working hard together in something we all love to do,” Morgan says. “I have learned to work hard and to just have fun.”



Brentwood raises more than \$11,000 with Money for Medicines

By Connor Crowe

BCS students brought in \$11,012.27 in this year’s Money for Medicines fundraiser, averaging \$17.13 per student. Almost half of the grand total came in on the last day of the two-week event.

In its ninth year, Money for Medicines provides free medicines to Zambians. The fundraiser was led again by Michele Broadway, who has made nine trips to Africa with the medical mission. During these nine years, Brentwood has raised \$98,381.08.

While the highest grand total ever was more than \$20,000 in 2008, the average yearly donation is just under \$11,000.

Money for Medicines kicked off this year with stories about personal mission trips from David Peyton, Kendra Dean, and Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth during all-school chapel on March 28. Broadway also spoke about Money for Medicines, showing a video with pictures of the Zambians and the medical mission, reminding students that every penny that is donated goes to help cure a Zambian in need.

“Every penny makes a difference,” Broad-

way stressed during the chapel service.

After chapel, M&Ms representing Money for Medicines were passed out to students during the next period.

In lower elementary, the class that donated the most this year was Sharon Howard’s kindergarten class with \$271.45, which was \$15.08 per student. In upper elementary, Glenda Morrow’s fourth-grade class donated \$333.88, which was \$13.91 per student. Morrow’s and Howard’s classes both receive ice cream parties.

Lori Morin’s eighth-grade class and Karen Peyton’s sixth-grade class donated the most

money in middle school. Both classes will receive a new reward: an extended lunch at Gattiland. The eighth graders enjoyed their trip this week, while the sixth graders plan to travel to the pizza place soon.

With \$296.95, Brooke Hollingsworth’s senior class donated the most money in high school, averaging \$13.50 per student. Her class will receive an extended off-campus lunch.

Other faculty members and friends of BCS also donated money, which helped raise this

see **Money**, page 5

TEACHER FEATURE: *Lauren Warner*

Keeping school affordable is Warner's work

By Morgan Gage

While Brentwood might be best known for their high quality teachers and friendly student body, there's a lot more involved in running the school than just the people who stand out front.

Behind the scenes in offices and work rooms, the Brentwood Christian staff is key in keeping the school afloat.

Spending much of her day sending out letters and email notices, Lauren Warner, who works as a development and admissions assistant in the administrative offices, is one of these people.

School president Marquita Moss pointed out the important role Warner played in the campaign to raise funds for the Center for Science and the Arts.

"Her work is very important to our school's commitment to keeping BCS affordable," Moss says.

Warner schedules events and raises funds. Working on all the main things like Jog-a-fun, Grandparents Auxiliary, and even some with Partnership Dinner, Warner often teams up with Brentwood's new director of development, Kevin Claypool, and is known for helping students whenever they get their Jog-a-fun letters confused.

"Lauren has a plethora of knowledge about the history of the development office and has done a great job this year getting me up-to-speed," Clay-

pool said. "Lauren's position is one that brings much value and stability to my office."

Warner says she always likes to help with Partnership Dinner because of the importance and general formality of the event.

"I always enjoy seeing the way it comes together, all the little details of it," Warner says.

Warner spends most of her year scheduling and organizing for Jog-a-fun. Putting together the packets for each student and counting the number of letters when they return, she has to check and make sure that each one has a legitimate address and the student's name both signed and printed.

After they're all finished and mailed out, Warner has to collect the pledges that are sent back by family members amidst all the planning of activities for the actual day of the run. After the laps are entered for each student, she sends out billing letters to all those who pledged money per lap and organizes data for the students to determine who receives awards.

Warner has her own mentor group this year, made up of freshman girls, and she says she loves to spend time with the students and learn about their lives. She laughs as she admits that donuts seem to be a "must" for every mentor-group meeting, and she often merges with other groups to have parties.

"I personally think she's amazing, and I'm blessed to have a mentor leader like her," freshman Margelid Baez says. "Usually when we leave the mentor group we leave super happy and with an extra two pounds!"

Growing up with three sisters, Warner attended a public school for almost all of her childhood in her home town of Sweeny, about 65 miles south of Houston. After graduating in 1998 she moved to Searcy, Ark., to attend Harding University. She earned a bachelor's in business administration and management and moved back to Texas, where she met her husband, David, through Cameron Road Church of Christ.

Cameron Road, the same church Warner's mother attended as a young girl, has been like Warner's second home ever since she moved back to Texas. Very involved with the ministry there, she and her husband have taught Bible classes, have led a Financial Peace University class by Dave Ramsey, and often go in their spare time to help with the Sunday meals.

"(David is) adventurous and funny," Warner says. "He's a real spiritual individual and is very God-led. He complements me in a lot of ways."

In her free time Warner and her husband enjoy hiking and kayaking in national parks. Sometimes in new places, sometimes in the same spots, they will often go out randomly on the weekends to kayak and just get away. She also likes to cook, sew, read, and talk to friends.

All in all, Warner says she loves her job at Brentwood. Meeting new people and welcoming new potential families, she is content where she is.

"The plan is just to be here," Warner says. "You never know what God has planned. ... I enjoy what I do."



photo: Joseph Kang

Crucial to school, parent group raises funds

By Grace Cammack

Probably one of the lesser known organizations on the Brentwood campus is that of Parents, Teachers, and Friends. One of the school's primary money raisers, PTF's main commitment is to coordinate events to raise funds for the entire school and for individual classes.

This year PTF has especially blossomed. As a result of this year's Fall Festival more than \$5,000 was donated to the elementary for teachers' wish lists and overall class expenses. The secondary received \$4,000 in addition to the yearly \$75 given to each individual teacher's fund. PTF is also the source of 12 of the new multimedia projectors that can be seen in every secondary classroom, and will soon be in all elementary classrooms as well.

The group of 226 members is led by its officers. This year they are president Lynn Petrik, vice-president La Juanda Hannah, secretary Terri Legband, and treasurer Dawn Esche.

PTF organizes Fall Festival, teacher luncheons, and the campus beautification days. The money PTF earns goes directly into the immediate needs of BCS, such as Grandparents' Day, safety patrol, and the science fair. More specifically, PTF pays for the golf carts used to shuttle grandparents around, vests and signs for the safety patrol, and judges' snacks provided during the science fair.

PTF also makes smaller purchases for the school. They funded the new bleachers on the soccer field as well as supplies for art teacher Lori Morin and cabinets for music storage in the band hall.

For each event PTF hosts, there is a parent who leads in directing the year-long commitment. PTF has a coordinator for everything from Box Top and Fall Festival fundraisers to teacher appreciation lunches and homeroom moms.

"Our coordinators are the heart of PTF," Hannah said. "We could not do what we do for the teachers and students without them."

The uniform resale is another event spearheaded by PTF. Part of the proceeds goes toward the school's scholarship fund, and another large share goes to a noble cause on campus. Each year the organization picks a person or a group to receive these payments. PTF tries to choose something which will benefit the whole school from the money received. This year they chose school nurse Nancy Meyer, who used the money to buy medical supplies.

At the beginning of each year, students are sent home with a PTF membership form. All parents have to do to join is fill out the form and pay the membership fee of \$15. The group has meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the chapel. PTF has a bulletin board in the same building where parents can find current updates with what the group is doing.

"PTF touches every faculty (member) and student at Brentwood from kindergarten to twelfth grade," Hannah said.

Money for Zambia

continued from page 4

year's grand total.

In 2005, Broadway and former BCS second-grade teacher Linda Gregersen started Money for Medicines at Brentwood. That summer, Gregersen went on to become a missionary in Zambia with her husband David for 5 years.

Nearly every year, Broadway and her husband Mark travel to Zambia with other American volunteers to prescribe medicines to the Zambians while spreading the word of Jesus. This year, the Broadways will go with about 110 other Americans, including Liz McClellan (BCS class of '08). That group includes doctors, physical therapists, lab technicians, nurses, dentists, and other volunteers who get to help the Zambians and talk about Jesus.

The Broadways leave for Zambia at the end of June and will spend about a month there. The rest of the group leaves on July 4.

Track girls win meet, set to soar at district competition

continued from page 1

The boys' team finished fifth out of 11 schools in last year's district meet, and head coach Jacob Rotich said he hopes to be in the top five again.

Rotich said this year's team is very young because it is mostly composed of freshmen. He also said he has been impressed with the team's captain, senior Anthony Milan, who has shown great leadership to the freshmen.

"I am excited about the future of the track program," Rotich said. "We lost some good runners from last year, but the freshmen are making up for them."

Results from their three pre-district meets are as follows:

4/4: Jarrell Invitational

The girls took first place out of 10 schools with a score of 145, which exceeded the score of the second-place team by 47 points.

Senior Priscilla Glenn won first place in the 100-meter hurdles (17.42), 300-meter hurdles (47.73), and long jump at 16-5. She also placed second in pole vault at 9-6, giving her 43 individual points – more than any other athlete in the meet.

Her sister Nicole Glenn won first place in high jump (4-10), and she placed second in 100-meter hurdles (17.84) and triple jump (31-3). She was second among individuals,

with 33 points.

Senior Morgan Vandygriff won the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.58. She also took first place in the 400-meter dash (1:00.17). Freshman Martha Hughes won first place in the pole vault (10-0) and placed third in the 400-meter dash.

The 4x400 relay team (Vandygriff, both Glenns, and Hughes) beat the school record with a time of 4:15.61. The 4x100 relay team placed fourth in 55.99.

Freshman Lauren Lewis placed fourth in 3200-meter run (16:04), and senior Michelle Dembosky placed fourth in the discus (86-9).

Competing in the JV division, the boys took third place out of 10 schools with a score of 71 points. The 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams each placed third.

Junior Kent Howell won first place in high jump (5-2) and second in long jump (18-0). Milan placed third in pole vault (8-6) and fourth in the 100-meter dash and long jump.

Freshman Garrett Shake placed third in 300-meter hurdles in 53.76. Freshman Joshua Sass placed third in the 800-meter run and sixth in discus. Freshman Logan Schuster placed fifth in both shot put and discus.

3/28: Marble Falls D.R. Mustang Relays

Although the varsity girls faced mostly public schools, including Westlake and Lake Tra-

vis, they took eighth place with 44 points. Priscilla Glenn won first place in long jump and was third in the 300-meter hurdles (48.38). She also placed sixth in the pole vault, gaining 17 points.

Vandygriff placed third in the 400-meter dash (62.61) and fourth in the 800-meter run (2:30.58), gaining 10 points total. Nicole Glenn was second in high jump and set a school record in the triple jump at 33-6. Senior Serena George placed sixth in high jump at 4-10. The girls' 4x400 relay was fourth in 4:19.56.

Leading the boys in the JV division, Howell placed seventh in long jump.

3/21: Eagle Relays in Lexington

Competing with 14 schools, the varsity girls took third place with a total of 93 points. Priscilla Glenn earned the top athlete award. She won the 300-meter hurdles in 49.70 and placed third in the 100-meter hurdles and in long jump. She also placed second in pole vault.

Vandygriff set a school record in the 200 meters, taking third place in 26.99, and she was first in the 400 (1:01.01). George placed third in high jump and fifth in pole vault. Hughes



photo: Jeff Glenn

Raising the bar Sophomore Nicole Glenn clears the high jump bar during the meet on March 28. She took second place in the event.

won first place in pole vault, going 10-0. Nicole Glenn won first place in high jump, setting a school record at 5-2. She was also fourth in the 100-meter hurdles and fifth in the 300-meter hurdles. The girls' 4x100 relay was third in 57.38.

The varsity boys ended up in tenth place among 14 schools. Milan and Howell joined with senior Dennis Clifford and his freshman brother Jonny to place sixth in the 4x200 relay.

Softball girls putting it all together as playoffs near

Staff reporting

The Lady Bear softball team will make playoffs for the third year in a row. They are 7-2 in district, pending their final regular season game against the first-place team next week.

Depending on the outcome of that game, the girls will finish second or third in district, and could have a playoff game in San Antonio, Katy, or Bryan.

"This was the BCS team that I thought we would have all year," head coach Paul Sladek said early this week. "It just took this young group time, game experience, and understanding how good they are to get to this point."

Senior night will be Tuesday, April 23, at home against Keystone. This final district game of the season will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Balcones.

All season, Sladek has emphasized to his team the importance of pitching well and playing good defense. This week, he was saying the same thing.

"We just need to continue to work on not allowing walks, which we've done a much better job, making routine plays, and having focused

at bats," he said.

3/19: TSD 13-10 L

The Lady Bears hit well but came up a bit short defensively, allowing too many walks and committing too many errors. The game went back and forth, taking three hours to play the full seven innings.

3/21: @ SJ Diego 17-5 W

Fourteen of the first 17 batters reached base safely, and Brentwood scored 13 runs in the first inning. Freshmen Nicole Gentry and Madi Fench had 10 RBIs between the two of them. Freshman Sofia Torres and junior Cynthia Smith combined to give up five runs and keep San Juan Diego off balance all game.

3/25: @ St. Andrews 18-13 L

The Lady Bears hit the ball well and were led by Torres, Gentry, and senior Lanae Hollingsworth going 10 for 13



photo: Norma Nanyes

Ready to fire Freshman Sofia Torres throws a pitch during a recent game.

with six RBIs. The pitching and defense, though, could not keep the Crusader bats at bay in this non-district loss. The game ended early due to darkness.

3/26: OLH-Kerrville 25-2 W

Again the offense led the way with the top five girls in the order combining to drive in 18 runs. Sophomore Yara Qussad went 2 for 3 with three RBIs, and Smith went 3 for 4 with four RBIs to lead the way. Sladek said Torres pitched really well, allowing only two runs in three innings.

4/2: @ SA Keystone 11-9 L

The offense struggled and so did the defense and pitching, as BCS got down early 6-1. The Lady Bears would tie the game at 6-6 with Gentry's three-run home run. The defense and pitching could not keep the Cobras in check, though, as the

girls took a hard-fought loss. Brentwood was led offensively by Gentry and Hollingsworth combining to go 4 for 8 with six RBIs.

4/4: St. Gerard 19-9 W; 22-8 W

After an earlier scheduling mishap with the umps, Brentwood played a double header. In the first game, the girls batted .567 as a team, scoring 19 runs on 17 hits. They were led by Gentry, who was 4 for 4 with seven RBIs, and Smith, who was 2 for 3 with two RBIs. Thirty minutes after the first game ended, the teams battled again, with an end result very similar to that of the first game.

4/8: St. Andrews 16-4 W

Not only had the Bears lost both previous games against St. Andrews this year, but Brentwood had not beaten the Crusaders in years.

"St. Andrews' coach Mamon (Tucker) has owned me in my six years at Brentwood, as I never have beaten him, until now," Sladek said.

Sladek said Smith pitched a great game, and the defense turned the first "true double play" in his BCS coaching career. The offense was

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THE BEAR FACTS APRIL 2013

Golf team sixth in regionals

By John Hollingsworth

Back in action after not fielding a team last year, the BCS golf team closed out their season by placing sixth in the Regional Tournament on April 15 at The Woodlands Panther Trails. Freshman John Hollingsworth led the team with an 87, then lost in a playoff for the final individual spot in the state tournament.

Two weeks earlier, the team placed third in the District Tournament at The Republic Golf Club in San Antonio. Hollingsworth led the boys with an 89 and placed sixth overall. He was followed by junior Kent Howell and sophomore Jacob Orick, who each shot 110. The team's combined score was just under 440, good enough to advance them to regionals as a team and placing them third in district behind Keystone and Central Texas Christian.

Brentwood's team this year was made up mostly of players who had never played before, except for Hollingsworth, who has been playing since he was two years old. The team practiced during P.E., after school, and occasionally on the weekend, either at Golfsmith or Harvey Penick Golf Campus.

This year's team included senior Dennis Clifford, Howell, Orick, and four freshmen: Hollingsworth, Jonny Clifford, Mason Miller,

and Collin Hall. The boys were led by head coach John Vandygriff and assistant coach Brant Troutman.

Vandygriff said he wanted to help the team learn the basics of the game and how to carry themselves and act around a golf course.

"We want to try and create a foundation to build a team for the future," Vandygriff said last month.

He said the team has a lot of good athletes, and they have a bright hope for the future.

"If they could play golf as well as they play basketball and soccer, we will have a great team," Vandygriff said.

To kick off the season they played in Regents School of Austin's golf tournament in March. Brentwood was led by Hollingsworth with a 93, followed by Howell with a 110. The boys' team score ended up close to 460, but for a first tournament the team was pleased.

"If I could go play again I would have done like 20 shots better," Jonny Clifford said.

Clifford played as a medalist because a team can only have five players, and the top four scores count.

"The course was very hard," Hollingsworth said. "The ball would roll forever and you couldn't get the ball to stop on the green."

Softball

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scoreless until they exploded for 16 runs in the third and fourth innings. Gentry led the Bears going 4 for 4, and Torres went 3 for 4.

4/9: TSD 14-2 W

This game was a battle between the two teams tied for second in district, and Smith pitched well.

"I'm so proud of Cynthia – she is pitching at a very high level," Sladek said.

The offense was led by Hollingsworth going 4 for 4 with five RBIs and Torres going 1 for 3 with three RBIs. It was the Bears' fourth straight win by run-rule.

4/11: San Juan Diego 16-1 W

The offense led the way in this game, scoring 10 runs on nine hits in the first inning alone. Qussad and sophomore Maysie Bartos combined to go 6 for 7. Hollingsworth led the girls with five RBIs, and Torres had four. The defense and pitching held this team to one run.

4/15: OLH Kerrville 19-6 W

While the girls run-ruled Kerrville after five innings, they did not play as well as they would have liked. The Lady Bear batters walked frequently and added a few timely hits to drive in runs. Defensively, the girls did commit a few errors.

All-District, All-State

BASKETBALL

Girls' all-district first team: Ariana Marks, Nicole Glenn, Morgan Vandygriff, Priscilla Glenn, Brooklyn Merkord

Second team: Keely Hardin, Lanae Hollingsworth

Honorable mention: Megan Burcham, Christina Onabajo, Rachel Orick

Girls' all-state first team: Ariana Marks

Second team: Morgan Vandygriff, Nicole Glenn

Boys' all-district first team: Matthew Archer, Cody Hunt

Second team: Mike Taylor

Boys' all-state second team: Matthew Archer

SOCCER

Girls' all-district first team: Hailey Miller, Rebekah Legband

Second team: Courtney Flores,

Marisol Lawson, Jasmine Selman

Honorable mention: Mary Monacelli, Rachel Dixon

Girls' all-state Honorable Mention:

Hailey Miller, Rebekah Legband

Boys' all-district first team: Joshua Sass,

Jae Hwang, Anthony Milan, Mason Miller

Second team: Skyler Treut-Shaffer,

Matthew Onabajo

Honorable mention: Haehwan Park

Baseball team nears playoffs with five-game win streak

By Charlie Sinclair

With three regular season games left, the Brentwood Christian varsity baseball team is in shape for a playoff berth after a rough start to their season. The Bears were 1-3 in district a month ago, but since then they won five district games in a row.

"Everything seems to be coming together towards the end of the year and a playoff berth" sophomore Zachary Marsh said.

Coach Brian Thrift said he is proud of the way the boys have come together, and he's happy to have key positions filled with experienced players.

"I cannot say enough about the coaching staff and what they have done to put our boys in a position to succeed," Thrift said. "Coach (Rich) Russo and Coach (Gary) Marsh have been incredible teaching our boys how the game is supposed to be played."

Through last week's games, junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer leads the team with a .682 batting average, followed by freshman Jake Velasco at .417. Treut-Shaffer leads with 10 RBIs and 15 hits, while freshman John Hollingsworth leads with 11 walks.

3/19: @ Kerrville OLH 8-5 L

Brentwood went up against the top team in

the district, holding the lead until the fifth inning, when the boys made some errors that ultimately cost the game. Hollingsworth had a base hit RBI in the second inning. Treut-Shaffer was the starting pitcher, and sophomore Cody Hunt closed the game.

3/21: @ RR Christian 6-5 L

The Bears were distraught after the loss to the Crusaders, which was pitched by Marsh. There were numerous mental and physical errors, but the Bears hung onto the lead until the seventh inning, when an opposing batter hit a line drive that reached the fence, scoring two runs and ending the game.

3/22: @ SJ Diego 12-1 W

After a disappointing week, the Bears dominated San Juan Diego. Hollingsworth threw a no-hitter and only allowed one run.

"As a coach it's neat to see a young player experience that – it's a fairly rare thing to see," Thrift said.

Velasco hit a triple in the first

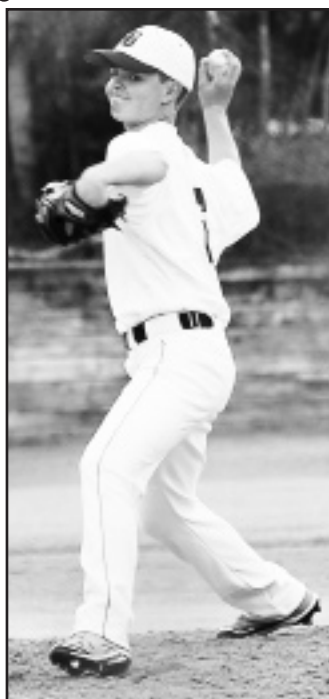


photo: Tina Treut

Wait for it Freshman John Hollingsworth throws a pitch against the Centex Chargers.

inning, and Marsh, Hollingsworth, Treut-Schaffer, Hunt, and junior Mike Taylor all had RBIs in the second inning.

3/26: Concordia 20-2 W

The Bears scored eight runs in the first inning, benefiting from poor pitching. There were 10 batters hit by the Concordia pitching staff. Almost every time a Bear runner made it to first, he was given the steal signal and sent to second. The Bears scored two in the third inning and 10 in the fourth, while holding their opponent scoreless after the first inning. Treut-Shaffer started at pitcher, and Marsh, Hollingsworth, and freshman Jacob Yager pitched as well.

3/28: Centex 8-1 L

Brentwood started out well, playing solid de-

fense and keeping the score close in the early innings of this non-district game. The Bears' solo run came in the third inning, when sophomore Charlie Sinclair hit Taylor home on a muffed grounder to third base. Two Chargers pitchers were the best the boys had seen.

4/9: Round Rock Christian 7-4 W

Treut-Shaffer started on the mound in this match-up of rivals. The lead went back and forth until Treut-Shaffer had a two-RBI hit in the fifth inning, giving Brentwood the lead for good. Treut-Shaffer also had all three of the Brentwood RBIs. Sophomore Ben Powell, in his first appearance of the season, began pitching in the fifth inning and shut down the Crusaders, striking out most of the batters he faced.

4/12: Kerrville OLH 9-6 W

The Bears took down the top team in the district while missing two starting outfielders. Brentwood pulled away in the third when Velasco hit a two-run home run and Kerrville committed several errors, giving BCS a 7-3 lead. Hollingsworth pitched the first five innings and Powell finished the last two.

4/16: San Juan Diego 13-3 W

Brentwood actually trailed 3-0 before they came to bat. Marsh allowed three runs in the first before shutting down San Juan. Offensively, BCS had several extra-base hits.

THE BEAR FACTS APRIL 2013

Choir takes first in state again; band, art excel

By Jin Ha Jeong

Brentwood Christian's high school choir returned from their state competition last Friday as winners of their third consecutive TAPPS 3A title and eighth in 11 years.

Band students brought home good news a day later after they finished fourth out of about 15 schools that advanced to the state level of TAPPS 3A instrumental competition. Competition for choir was April 12 and for band was April 13, both in Belton.

Three weeks earlier, Brentwood's art students showed their excellence by placing third at the TAPPS state art competition, which was held at Concordia University on March 22. BCS earned 67.5 points and almost got second place, falling short by a half point. First place was only ahead of BCS by 5.5 points.

Choir students earned a top-rating of "one" for each of six ensembles, and 12 students displayed their excellence by earning a "one" for their solos: seniors Catherine Amann, Travis Clark, Serena George, Priscilla Glenn, An-

thony Milan, Danielle Riedesel, and Hannah Witcher; junior Marisa Wagner; sophomores Haley Hutson and Yara Qussad; and freshmen Jodie Singleton and Natalie Williams.

Choir director Missy Weaver said there were about 30 schools in the competition.

"It was a great day of competition," Weaver said. "I am very proud of all our students."

For the band, director Travis Pollard said this is their best TAPPS state meet since 2007, which was the last time until this year that they earned a "one" rating for concert band. In 2007 BCS earned 175 points, but this year the band earned 263 points.

Besides concert band, five other groups earned a "one": concert band sight reading, brass octet, brass sextet, saxophone quartet, and clarinet quartet.

Pollard said band students represented BCS well in Belton. According to Brentwood's parent volunteer Richard Howard, one of the student helpers from the host Mary Hardin-Baylor University commented to Howard on how quiet and respectful BCS students were compared

to those of other schools.

Pollard also said he will miss the students who will graduate, but he believes the band will grow to over 40 members next year.

"We have a great bunch of well-rounded kids who glorify God in so many different areas of their lives," he said.

For the art competition, BCS took 83 pieces to the district meet on Feb. 8, and 28 pieces advanced to state. Of those, 14 placed in the state meet.

Their third-place finish was their best ever, after finishing fifth last year. Art teacher Lori Morin said that she was proud of students.

"It was an amazing accomplishment for Brentwood," Morin said. "It would have been an amazing accomplishment for any school."

Three students placed first in state: freshman Elise Lilya in Printmaking, senior Jackson Graessle in Photography-Creative and Experimental, and senior Serene Nermal in Senior Portfolio. In addition, two students placed second, two placed third, three placed fourth, two placed fifth, and two placed sixth.

Mallett molds TCSIT teams

continued from page 1

BCS students' busy schedules, organizing transport and hotels, and registering the team. The process starts early in the year, and preparations go on long before the competition. Thankfully for the many high school and middle school students participating in the competition, Mallett has been working diligently on the task.

Having taken over the job of TCSIT and TAPPS coordinator from Dr. Libby Weed, Mallett has made changes in both transportation and dress code. Charter buses are now provided for students traveling to TCSIT, and all students were scheduled to depart from the school campus at 7:30 a.m. on April 18. In previous years, a fleet of volunteer parents filled their cars with students, leaving at two different times during departure day.

For the dress code, students are no longer permitted to wear jeans on Friday while in competition on the ACU campus.

With a 20-year background of organizing TCSIT for Oklahoma Christian Academy, Mallett is well qualified to help BCS "continue their winning tradition."

While academics is highly valued by BCS student culture, Mallett emphasized the importance of fields of competition outside of the core subjects, giving most BCS students who wish to compete the opportunity to do so.

"To me," Mallett said, "drama is as academic as math is."

Students practice for their respective events with their coaches and fellow students as often as every week. Among the competitors, there are many motives and goals.

Freshman Andrew Armstrong, who took first place in six events last year, likes TCSIT for the opportunity to "get to compete for our school" as well as more playful reasons.

"It's kind of fun to get a break from school," Armstrong said.

As for the competition as a whole, Armstrong thinks of it as "for the glory of God."

he would be teaching at Brentwood. Upon accepting the job he informed principal Carol Johnson about the trip, knowing he would miss three days of school.

"Mind blowing experience," Robson said. "I was blown away historically and spiritually."

Robson 'blown away' by trip to Israel

By John Hollingsworth

With 43 other people from the Pine Cove Discipleship Program, American History teacher and coach J.D. Robson set out to walk where Jesus walked during a spring break trip he will never forget.

"I'm such a visual learner, I wanted to be where the Bible was written," Robson said.

"Before going on my trip, when I read the Bible it was in black and white; now I see it in color."

Robson began his journey by meeting his friends in Tyler and then flying from Dallas to Tel Aviv, Israel, on March 9.

The moment his plane landed, Robson's group began the tour. He said they walked most days from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. By the time

he returned to Texas on March 20, he had seen where Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, Masada, Qumran, the Dead Sea, and the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found.

One part of the tour focused on places where King David had been. They saw Ein Gedi, where David hid from Saul, and they also saw where David killed Goliath.

"It was crazy – you always hear these amazing stories about David but never can feel what it is like," Robson said. "Everything became so real

because you feel where it really happened."

For part of the trip they experienced some of where Jesus had been. They went to the Jordan River, and Robson was baptized in it.

"I was saved when I was 17," Robson said. "But when I was baptized in the Jordan, you had to say what you had seen the Lord done through you and how he has changed you. It was amazing."

They also saw the Judean wilderness where Jesus was tempted, the Sea of Galilee, and Bethlehem, as well as where the Sermon on the Mount was and where Jesus fed the 5,000.

"Going to the Judean wilderness was awesome," Robson said. "It was one of my favorite experiences of the trip."

His group's guide had everyone sit in silence for 20 minutes to just soak it all in. Then he came around and told lies about everybody, just to give a realistic view of what happened to Jesus.

Robson said other memorable events from his trip include creating a Harlem Shake video at the Dead Sea, and when a woman in his group almost fell off the face of Qumran.

"The food in Israel was awesome," Robson said. "Before going I never really liked hummus and pita bread, but I ate it every day there."

Robson has worked at the Pine Cove camp for five summers. Every year camp leaders travel to Israel with a group of young adults ages 19 to 26. Robson decided he would go on this trip last summer, even before he knew



photo: Submitted

Walking where Jesus did Coach J.D. Robson stands above the valley where David killed Goliath on his trip to Israel last month. His travel group was from the Pine Cove Discipleship Program.