

Gestalt

March, Issue 3

gestalt |gə' sh tält; -' sh tōlt| (also Gestalt)
noun: an organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts.

ORIGIN 1920s: from German Gestalt, literally 'form, shape.'

What's in this Newsletter?

Student Profiles

Chelsea Dean: Rising Star



Student Experience

Breaking in the New Semester



HP News

The Masquerade Ball: HP Dance gets an A+ in Party Time



Our Mission:

“The purpose of ORU’s Honors Program is to provide academically gifted students an educational experience at a level that (1) transcends both the rigor and scope of the general curriculum and (2) integrates the ethical responsibilities of using God’s intellectual gifts for the healing of humanity into the concept of the “whole person” education.

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Student Experience



Christmas Break

Breaking in the New Semester

We are a little over a month into the new semester, and I already hear complaints of being overwhelmed by mounds of homework, classes, and missions fundraising. This, coupled with the buzz of Masquerade, Homecoming, Valentine's Day and all the other social events of our busy-body generation, make for a fast-paced time.

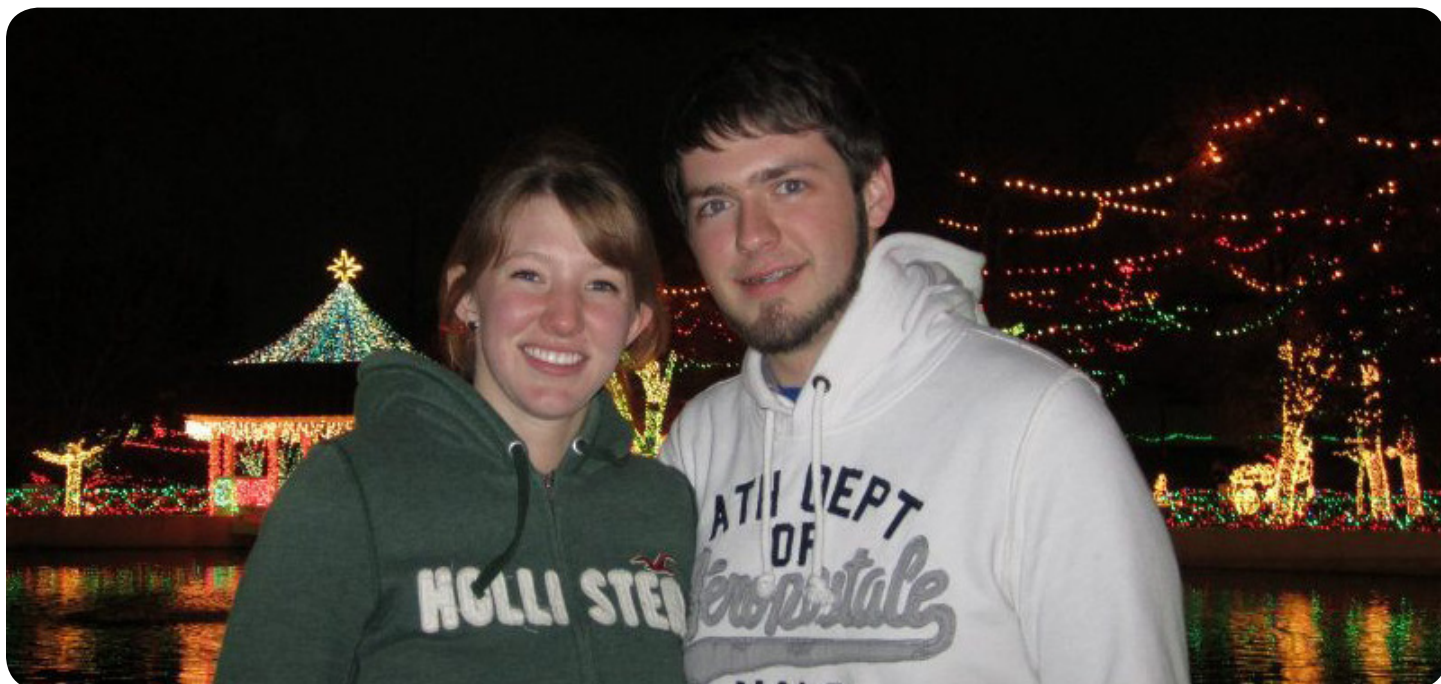
When we at Gestalt discussed articles topics, the idea of highlighting Christmas break came to mind. In recalling winter break, I could not help but realize how quickly it had flown by and now seemed insignificant amid the influx of responsibility during spring semester. I realized that I had not even paused to ask

anyone about their break, much less recounted the exciting adventures of my own. During the holidays, I got to spend time with close friends and family, enjoy sand karaoke, bake lots of sweets, and received a Nerf gun for Christmas. I promptly used this gift to terrorize my siblings in an epic Nerf battle, which became my favorite memory.

Others had (ahem) less adventurous experiences such as skiing in Colorado or visiting Disneyland in California. Many students spent valuable time with family and friends, refreshing and mentally preparing for the upcoming semester. Our own Josh Beck and Samantha Gaines even got engaged on Christmas day! One overachiever read all of the required books for

Philosophy of Science (high-five to Dave Murray), while another hard worker spent her winter finishing up a full-time internship with an engineering company (props to Bethany Dickie). A few honors students traveled with others in the ORU community to campaign for Michele Bachmann in Ames, Iowa. All in all, the most common HP response about favorite break memories was a simple and joyful, "Sleep!"

Needless to say, there were many ways to enjoy your time between the labor-intensive honors courses and physically-draining social events of fall and spring semester. However you chose to spend it, we at Gestalt do hope you had a refreshing and fun-filled break with many precious memories. *By Allison Boswell*



Josh Beck and Samantha Gaines got engaged this past Christmas Break

Photo By Courtesy

Student Profiles



Ian Harrup

Quite a Character

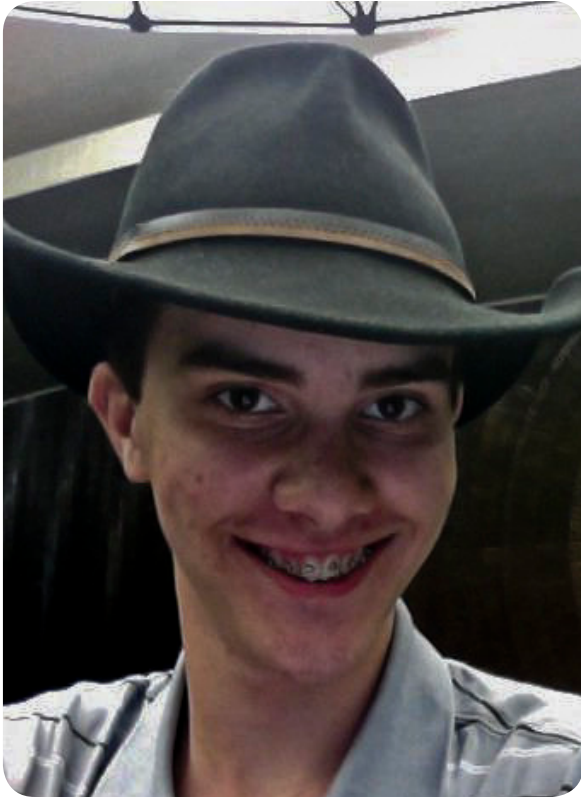


Photo By Courtesy

Many who are acquainted with the now fully-ingrained freshman honors class know a few familiars that stand out among a crowd of faces. One of those individuals is our own Ian Harrup. Ian is, if nothing else, a true character. He hails from nearby Harker Heights, Texas (halfway between Dallas and San Antonio for all the non-Texan natives), where he was homeschooled the majority of his life by his mother. Ian has three brothers and one sister-- Arianna, 10; Quentin, 15; Brennan, 17; and Marshall, 20. Marshall is going on his third year at ORU and is also in the honors program.

What sets Ian apart from the

rest of the world? That was evident in our very first encounter at Honors Retreat. Before I even knew the name "Ian Harrup," I was listening attentively to a practiced and precise Smeagol imitation. For those of you who have heard it, I am sure your reaction was something similar to mine--a look of temporary confusion followed shortly after by raucous laughter. Later that night, I was on the edge of my seat for a brilliantly delivered campfire story that I would come to think of as the essence of Ian--his passion and talent for reaching others through entertainment.

Despite this so very obvious connection with others, one of Ian's main struggles coming to ORU was his inability to connect to people his age, especially girls, as is the case with anyone who has little to no social experience with their age group outside of family. In his own words, "I've never been used to being around so many different types of people as at ORU. The first couple of months I would put on a show and make it up as I go. I didn't know how to be myself because myself was very weird."

Whether Ian believes himself to be weird, wacky, or just spontaneously fantastic, he is loved for it! It

is this very unique personality that sets Ian up for his calling and his major. Ian is studying in multimedia production which he said is, "Basically the mechanics of film making," and has already made headway in his dreams through YouTube mini stories My favorite is "The Prisoner Game" which you can view by visiting his channel, iharrup.

He aspires to eventually make it to Hollywood and become a famed director. Ian believes strongly that his time here has already furthered that vision by teaching him better communication skills and by introducing him to many bright new people that he could potentially work with in years to come.

Another thing Ian really likes about ORU is the excellent Honors Program. He does not live on an Honors floor, yet really enjoys being immersed in both sides of the academic and social worlds. Ian believes that, "Honors programs people have a dream, a goal like I do and are dedicated to it. We have a passion and a drive. I can discuss things with honors students. We seem like people who are going to get everything we can out of this and actually do something with it. I have a career in mind; I have a life."

Well if it is true that Honors scholars and fellows are set apart because of their drive, Ian is in the right place. Whatever the differences in our blend of personalities, there is no denying Ian's confidence in his calling. "I want people to know that in a few years the best movies they ever see in the world will be directed by me. And I truly believe that."

By Allison Boswell

Chelsea Dean

Rising Star



Chelsea Dean, a senior social work major and fellow in the HP, became passionate about serving people at an early age.

As a young girl, Chelsea desired to be in a helping profession, such as a teacher or public defender. In high school, she refined her interests to the fields of missions or social work. After taking the introductory courses in both majors at ORU, Chelsea's love for serving people was best met in social work.

"I wanted to know how to get people out of this situation," said Chelsea. "People can't hear the gospel if they're hungry."

Between her down-to-earth personality and practical talents of cooking and crafting, this beautiful young woman is a credit to the social work profession. Indeed, when you walk up to her door on Frances 11, you will see her posted response to the question, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" Chelsea's answer, "a helpful person."

In the fall of 2011, Chelsea worked at the Madonna House in Tulsa for her senior year practicum. This Catholic charity home is a safe place for women experiencing unplanned pregnancy, or as Chelsea puts it, crisis life situations. They provide refuge for women who are homeless, have drug addictions, or have been imprisoned.

"At the Madonna House, we try to look at the whole situation of what's going on," said Chelsea.

In addition to housing, they provide transportation, counseling, and classes for the residents. Chelsea's practicum allowed her to develop goals and objectives with one woman and to teach creativity classes including cooking, crafts, communication skills, and a book study of *The Purpose Driven Life*.

Chelsea said working with the residents was difficult, but rewarding. The staff were very caring and had to work together to manage challenging residents.

"I learned to have thicker skin there for sure," said Chelsea. She also realized the importance of honest and open communication between staff members so that they could best provide care for the residents.

"It's a real family atmosphere. They kind of adopted me as their daughter, so I have a lot of Tulsa moms," said Chelsea, laughingly.

During her practicum, she worked four days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., getting to know the Madonna residents and staff and learning to practice empathy.

One of the most impactful experiences she had was when one resident was upset and harshly criticized the home's effectiveness.

Another woman staying there just broke down and said that the woman's comments hurt her. She said, "People look at me when I'm not here like I'm nothing, but this is the first time in my life that people have loved me without looking at all that."

Chelsea said her time working in the Madonna House definitely confirmed that social work is the profession she wants to pursue. It amazed her that the women could receive the acceptance they need in a place like that.

The excitement in Chelsea's life does not end there. She recently got engaged to Elliot Butay on January



Photo By Courtesy

28th, the night of Masquerade and Elliot's birthday. They will be wedding June 30th near Chelsea's Alabama home. The two lovebirds also won "Most Outstanding Student" for class of 2012 in the social work and music departments. Congratulations you two!

After getting married, Chelsea and Elliot will move to New York, Chicago, Alabama, or Tulsa so Chelsea can get her master's in social work. Elliot will work for a year and then pursue grad school for music afterward.

Wherever their next path leads them, the two will do great things as they embark on their journey together.

By Beth Knier

The Masquerade Ball

HP Dance gets an A+ in Party Time

Mysterious, masked figures. Fun music. Elaborate mansion. Endless food. Crazy dancing. All of these ideas sound great on their own, right? But, believe it or not, they all come together in one epic event known as The Honor Program's Masquerade Ball. Hosted every spring at the grandiose Agee residence, this is a night for honors students and their dates to come together for the evening and dance off some stress.

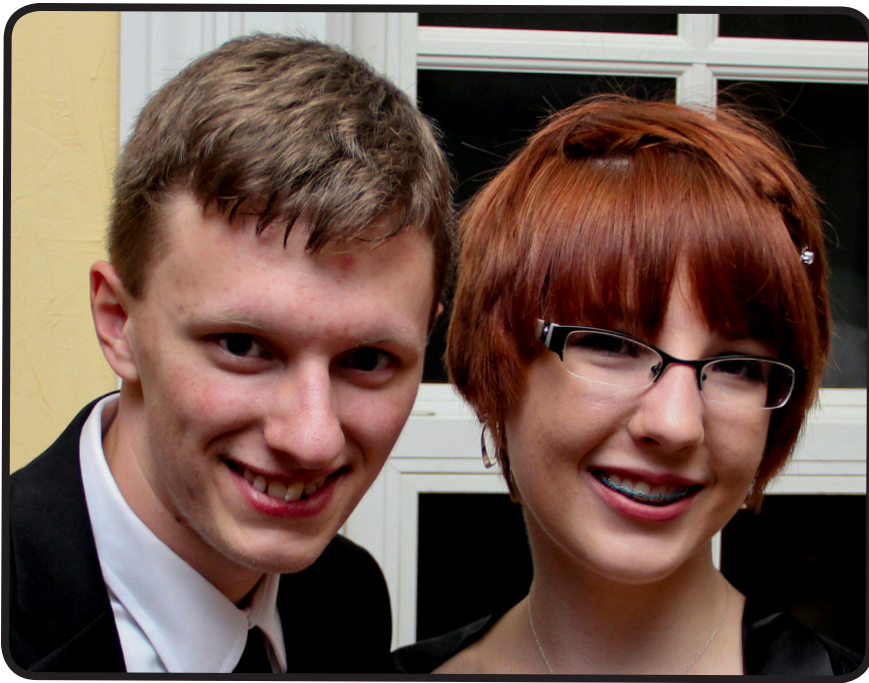


Though intellectuals and beauty queens are not always found in the same category, I would argue after attending Masquerade that ORU has a lovely group of ladies in our Honors Program. Arriving to the grand host home around 7pm were girls in dresses of every color and style. Some brought masks with feathers, beads and pearls. Others painted their eyes with bright hues of color, making elaborate designs with face makeup and glitter. Through the front door came a constant procession of very pretty masked figures. Oh, and the boys cleaned up nice too! It's amazing how what a jacket and tie will do. The Honors Program has some seriously suave gentlemen. As couples streamed through the entrance, there was an elegant spiral staircase where most students stopped to have their picture taking before heading to the dance floor for a wild time.

The dance floor was its own adventure all together. Of course you had every variety of dancers present. Some stayed on the dance floor for the full three hours, who knew every song and new move, and never seemed to run out of enthusiasm. These were the type who had an alternate dance party ego—he may be shy as a mouse in your Chemistry class, but he will flail around in front of anybody once there is music playing! You also found the swing couples, who had jazzy partner dances to fit every beat.



Next, there were those who took the casual approach. They were the less-enthusiased, or possibly less confident, who were your basic rock-back-and-forth type of dancer. These usually congregated around the edge of the dance floor and made small talk, swaying to the beat. Lastly, Masquerade had a unique layout and therefore a unique fourth category of attendees. The dance floor had a vaulted ceiling, and there was a beautiful balcony that wrapped around the room from above. Therefore, the fourth type was the onlooker. They walked gracefully around the balcony, usually arm in arm with a date or a friend, and watched from above as all of the dancers let loose. This provided great opportunity for surveying moves, dresses, and for bird's eye view photography. I visited the balcony myself, a party observation deck of the finest kind.



As any college student knows, dances can be just as tiring as they are fun. It is always good to have a place to cool off, sit down and enjoy a bite to eat. The kitchen of the Agee home provided this perfectly. There were finger foods galore, and fluffy couches around a big screen TV which played movies the whole night through. This was the place of retreat, to wipe the sweat from your brow or sip some punch. It was also a time for the girls to compliment each other's dresses, and for the boys to brag about their dates.

My favorite part was the dessert table, complete with crème puffs, cheesecake bites, and ripe strawberries. I have to admit that I visited that table more than a few times. I am the first type of party goer mentioned- enthused, tireless and having the time of my life acting silly in a circle of friends. Types like me were especially appreciative of the recharge room. It was a perfect place to run between songs and refuel for the next hour of festivities.



Although the food was delectable, the dancing was a blast, and the DJ had a fantastic song selection, the best part about Masquerade was having everyone together. It was quite entertaining to unite all of the diverse personalities represented within HP to simply relax and get to know one another better. There were masks made out of oversized glasses, Mardi Gras beads, and even one boy who had taped a giant rubber spider to his face—much to the dismay of some alarmed young ladies. There were girls in everything from prom dresses to casual spring smocks. The extroverts and the sideliners, the couples and the onlookers all melded together for one night of silliness and genuine HP bonding. The photos from everyone's night were classic, and the event is sure to go down in my book as a highlight of sophomore year.



I woke up the morning after Masquerade with feet so sore I hardly wanted to stand. This is usually indicative of either a waitressing job, or a really amazing dance party. Luckily in my case, it was evidence of the latter. We Honors Program members are much better known for our study habits than our event planning, but I would argue that Masquerade knocked the ball out of the park. Everyone I spoke with reported having a blast, and it takes a special group of people to have so much fun that they feel it in their heels the next day. With this year's Masquerade a roaring success, I believe ORU HP earned themselves an A+ in party planning.

By Mackenzie Jackson

*All Masquerade pictures were taken
by Ben Garrett*



Student Opinion



What is your favorite memory from Masquerade?



As soon as I put on my spider mask, it was easy to talk with people because they were suddenly interested. Everyone will notice a guy with a giant spider on his face. ~Ian

When the music stopped at the end of the night and everyone kept singing and dancing!
~Allison

My favorite memory from Masquerade was when we were pulling up to the house and I saw the Christmas lights on the pillars and all of the lights off in the distance that you could see from the top of the hill. It was like stepping into a fairy tale :)
~Elena



Seeing the beautiful people of the HP all dressed up and having a ball!
It was a magical evening. ~Beth

Watching girls reactions while watching Indiana Jones.
~Ben

The dancing expertise of Greg Butron and Hannah Covington. Wasn't that everyone's favorite memory?
~Megan

Information



Upcoming HP Events

Honors Chapel - 20th February

HP Directors

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Dr. Kay Meyers - kmeyers@oru.edu

HP Student Council

President: *Lauren Wells*

Vice President: *Michael Bellew*

Events Coordinator: *Ashely Sweeney*

Assistant Events: *Rachel Simmons and Nicole Tucker*

Communications Coordinator: *Bethany Dickie*

Assistant Communications/Graphic Design: *Sarthak Nigam*

Secretary: *Hannah Covington*

Treasurer: *Zach Wells*

Chaplain: *Raquel Cardenas*

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