

# Student humbled by GlobeMed trip

All eyes on

# Brian Hilliard

One of the things that really hit home with me was the kids.

BY PAUL BISCHOFF  
Staff Reporter

When most students head home in December for Winter Break, senior Brian Hilliard and a group of GlobeMed members will head to the Dominican Republic.

A Truman wrestler and an avid outdoorsman, Hilliard became vice president of the University's GlobeMed chapter during his junior year. GlobeMed is a student organization created to promote global health through fundraising efforts, educational campaigns and on-site trips.

"I believe there are a little [more than] a dozen chapters," Hilliard said. "It's slowly growing, and it's great. It's sort of a grassroots movement — very student-led, even at the national level."

Hilliard is in charge of coordinating the on-site visits as well as working with some of the internal affairs of the organization: supporting the president, brainstorming and making affairs cohesive, he said.

"We want it to be something where the money that it's costing us to go over there is going to be more effective than if we had just sent it over there," he said. "I don't want this to be about me. I want it to be about the people that are there."

Currently, Hilliard is facilitating two trips to 15 sugar cane farming communities, or bateys, in the Dominican Republic. The region rates especially high in infant and maternal mortalities. The GlobeMed team will evaluate the effectiveness of

an educational video on safer pregnancies shown to inhabitants of the bateys.

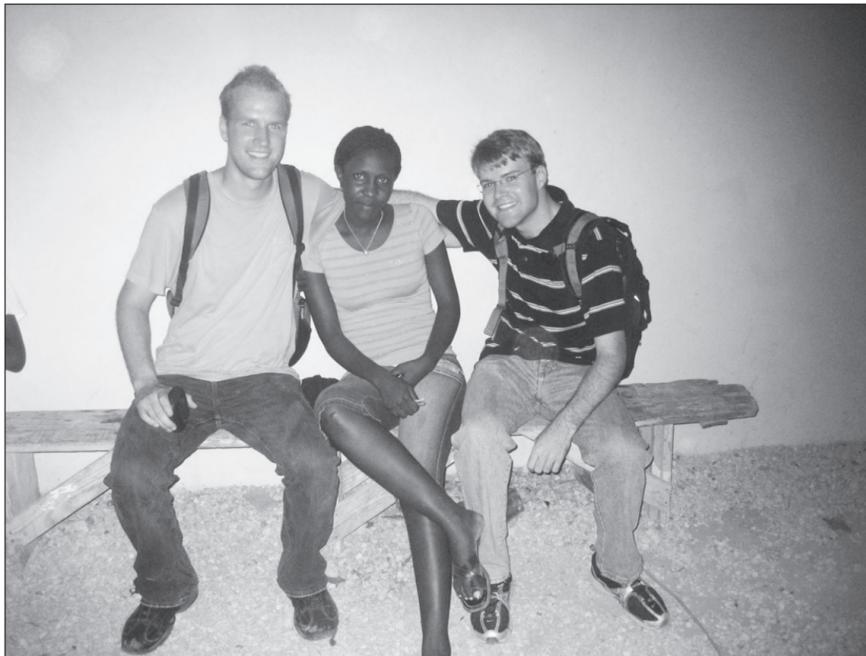
"They live in very rundown and substandard housing," he said. "What we're very careful of in GlobeMed is making sure our projects are sustainable long-term and attacking the root of the problem. For instance, when you pass out food and clothing, that's very good in a sense that you're providing something to people for nourishment, but as soon as they run out and you leave, they have nothing."

More than 100 batey communities are scattered across the countryside of the Dominican Republic and the people in these environments live in poverty. GlobeMed works to promote health equality and access to health care for all people, no matter their income or social status.

"This old lady came up to us and was like, 'Thank you so much. Keep doing this. Keep coming back. Education is what we need to empower ourselves to get past this,'" Hilliard said. "She recognized that while food is necessary, clothing is necessary, medicine is necessary, it's not going to empower the people to move out of the situation they are in themselves."

Hilliard said the team had several American assumptions and biases before arriving and was humbled by how warmly they were welcomed. He recalled some of his most moving memories of his time spent overseas.

"One of the things that really hit home with me was the kids," Hilliard said. "They are just so hopeful and so



Hilliard (left) poses with senior Chris Dove and a woman from a batey, a sugar cane farming community in the Dominican Republic, where he travelled with the organization.

Photo Submitted

happy all the time. They will be covered in dirt and hungry and living in terrible environments, but they are just the life of the time down there. ... The kids, the whole time, they don't stop. They just keep smiling."

Hilliard said he is fortunate to work with GlobeMed. After he graduates in May, he will go to medical school. Although GlobeMed is an undergraduate organization, he said he hopes to stay in touch and help however he can.

"I didn't have this direction and

passion for global health," he said. "I knew I wanted to work with the underserved, but I think this has really cultivated and expanded my desire to work with some of the social inequalities and injustices throughout the world. ... This is going to provide me that motivation to get done with this and go do the things I dream of."

Hilliard said GlobeMed is a great organization for any student interested in global issues. It is not exclusive to any major and recruits

as diverse a student population as possible. Prospective members can find more information at the national Web site, [www.globemed.org](http://www.globemed.org), or the local chapter's Web site, [globemed.truman.edu](http://globemed.truman.edu).

"GlobeMed is a very unique organization, and they have that vision for that long-term, sustainable project with a health partnership," he said. "It's all student-run, really empowering our generation to make some very positive change[s] in the world."

# Playboy Pageant showcases men's talent

BY CASSANDRA MCCARTY  
Staff Reporter

The word "Playboy" might have the connotation of a savvy, swaggering man, yet the men who walked across the stage in the SUB Down Under Saturday represented a new type of Playboy.

The male participants, senior Graeme Allen, freshman Joe Bass, sophomore Chris Dozier and freshman Deon Walker strutted their stuff Saturday in the 2008 Playboy Scholarship Pageant, sponsored by the Mu Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. It included four categories in which the male participants demonstrated styles representing themselves.

"[The] Playboy Scholarship Pageant ... a male beauty pageant with five events and four categories in which the guys, or Playboys, explain themselves in the introduction, second is express yourself, third is sleepwear, fourth is talent and the fifth is formalwear," Dozier said.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has put on a male beauty pageant every year since 1989. Although some parts of the show have been tweaked, it has maintained its original ideas, like the introduction.

"The intro is going to be coming out to this song, 'Doctor Love,' which is a really sexual seduction song, and we all have [a] uniform look, a preppy look," Dozier said. "Each guy will come out individually and strike a pose and introduce [himself]."

Although the beginning of the pageant introduced the audience to the four participants, it was the four other categories, especially the talent portion, in which the crowd learned their personalities.

"I am going to do this hip-hop dance with three backup dancers for my talent, it's going to be great," Dozier said before the pageant. "Graeme [Allen] is the biggest threat because



Sophomore Chris Dozier (top and right) models his sleepwear and dance moves in the Playboy Scholarship Pageant. Freshman Joe Bass (left) gave a cooking demonstration.

Krista Goodman/Index

his talent is awesome. He is in True Men ... and they are going to be doing a trio backing him up at the competition."

Despite Dozier's competitiveness and eventual win in the Playboy Pageant, he said he had a lot of fun and made some new friends

running for the title of Mr. AKA.

"It's a new experience to meet new people," Dozier said. "I didn't know Graeme [Allen] before, but Graeme and I are really close now."

Allen said the opportunity of participating

was unique.

"I have never been one to say no to an opportunity to broaden my horizons or meet new people, so, you know, the goal is to be a part of the pageant," Allen said. "I know it means a lot to the girls of the sorority. It's my understanding that it looks to showcase talented leaders on campus, and so that's why it includes the talent portion but also, during the formalwear section, there is an impromptu question/answer about current events."

Allen said he has never done this type of thing before. Although he said he was not worried about the impromptu question and answer section, he was nervous about the poses he had to do onstage.

"The biggest challenge I am facing is figuring out different poses to do because we have to pose basically four times per section of the pageant," Allen said. "You have to be diverse enough and not be too repetitive. I am not necessarily comfortable showcasing myself, and it just may be because, although I am in True Men, it's different when there are hundreds of people out there, as opposed to in practice I can stand myself in front of a mirror. I have to be able to get into my own skin."

Junior Lauren Johnson, pageant coordinator and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, said she found it difficult to find men willing to participate in a male beauty pageant.

"Well, basically what I need to do is get boys for the pageant, which is the hardest part because they think they have to prance and stuff like that," Johnson said.

The pageant provided the chance for four men to demonstrate the talents they have learned throughout their years at Truman.

"We have been doing the scholarship pageant almost as long as the chapter has been founded in 1979," Johnson said. "We thought it would be good to show off male talents because they are smooth and sophisticated."

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