Student humbled by GlobeMed trip

BY MALLORY BEECH

When most students head home in December for the holidays, they'll probably read about Graeme Allen. He'll be the star of the show. Allen is a freshman at Truman State University who is the national president of the GlobeMed student group. The group's mission is to promote health equity and access to health care for all people, regardless of their income levels.

Allen said he had a lot of fun and made some new friends over the holiday. "I was able to do this really cool dance with these backup dancers for my talent," Allen said. "I'm going to be a junior, so I'm not sure if I'll be able to go to the competition again." Despite Allen's performance, his talent was not the most impressive of the night. However, it included the title of "Mr. AKA" and some of the other categories.

The pageant provided the chance for four girls to demonstrate their talents, but only one of them was able to make a positive change in the world. "I knew I wanted to work with the kids," said Brian Hilliard, a junior at Truman State University. "I have never had this direction and I am very happy about it. I have never been able to make a good plan for the kids." Hilliard's hope is to help provide them with something to nourish them and a sense of belonging.

Hilliard said he is fortunate to have student-lead organization, he said he hopes to stay in touch and help them grow. "I didn't know this effective and passionate for global health," he said. "I want to give them the chance to work with the kids and be in the world. … This is going to be a part of my life, and I am very happy about it. Thank you to everyone who came up to us and helped us."