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HUE 2021

THE ONE WHERE HUE GOES TO HUF



THE RENAISSANCE MAN

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP

HUE AT HUF



Robbie Shackelford wears many hats, but the one he wears with the most flair, the one that has touched the most hearts, is that of the painter. While he has painted vistas from all over the world, his venture into painting began in his hometown of Searcy. Shackelford said, "I took classes all the way back in junior high, and my art teacher at Harding Academy was Bill Watts, whose paintings are hanging in buildings at Harding University." He added, "It was fun because we always had student teachers from Harding who would teach new techniques and styles."

When Shackelford went to Harding University, he minored in art and got his masters in education, which allowed him to teach art at Dallas Christian. Eventually he ended up at Bowling Green University in Florence to pursue his terminal degree in the fine arts, but when he was approached by Dr. Burks about the HUF director position, a masters degree was sufficient.

"I never finished my terminal degree, but I've always been a part of an art association where I've taken classes and gotten connected to other artists," said Shackelford.

This year, the HUF director started a study abroad scholarship fund using the money he receives from commissions. "I've painted about 60 paintings this past year, and they've already raised \$20,000," said Shackelford.

With the help of donations of art and money from his colleagues and students at Harding, he hopes to raise even more. He said, "I'm also organizing an art show for the 42nd anniversary of HUF where several art teachers or students from Harding that came to HUF will donate pieces of art to raise money." Shackelford continued. "My goal is to raise \$100,000, either through donations or from the purchasing of art."

As prolific a painter he is, Shackelford is very humble about his talent. "I don't think I sell a lot because I'm a great painter, I think it's because of the many connections I have with students," he said. "They just want a painting from Robbie."

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP

Between the big moments, like seeing Michaelangelo's David and the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, also called the Duomo Cathedral of Florence, HUE students are able to support the community in which they are living. One of those opportunities was a run called the Passaggiata della legalità.

The organization that sponsored the run is called Legalita, and they do work to counter the reach of the Italian mafia. Associate Professor Ben Jones explains, "When members of the mafia are arrested or shut down, the government takes their land, and Legalita sends volunteers from the Scandicci area to go out there and clear the brush to try to make it usable again." HUF director Robbie Shackelford paid for the HUE students and faculty to participate, and even introduced the entire group to the Mayor of Scandicci Sandra Fallani.

In addition to the importance of the Passaggiata della legalità in its fight against organized crime, students found beauty in the interactions with the participants and with the course itself. Emma Claire Myhan, a rising sophomore from Arkansas said, "The views were amazing, but I think what stood out the most for me was all of the different types of people and age groups that were participating." She added, "I saw everything from families with their little kids to little old grannies who were just be-bopping along."

Some students saw the Italian countryside from an entirely new perspective during the run. Garrett Smith, a senior from Missouri explained, "When your body wakes up and you feel that adrenaline rush and then slow down, it gives you a renewed energy to take in your surroundings, which literally gives you a new perspective of the countryside." Smith added that because of the experience of Passaggiata della legalità, "Our bodies were experiencing Italy in a whole new way."



MEET THE RUNNERS...

...and their fave Gelato flavors

- Garrett Smith** Caffè
- Cole Davis** Lemon
- Emma Claire Myhan** Biscotto
- Ben Jones** Fragola + Stracciatella
- Asher Patton** Caffè
- Dr. Ellen Jones** Dolce De Leche
- Zach Bishop** Nutella
- Hannah Ferrie** Dolce De Leche
- Aubrey Jones** Melon
- Stella Jones** Stracciatella
- Riley Shephard** Dolce De Leche
- Covi Crain** Caffè
- Keller Montgomery** Fondente
- Sadie Alexander** Lemon
- Gabi Gonzales** Cinnamon
- Haley Lynn** Lemon
- Cenzi Crain** Caffè
- Mikey Hutchinson** Stracciatella
- Sierra Cassidy** Chocolate
- Robbie Shackelford** Yogurt



HARMONIES IN ITALY



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This summer, the HUE 2021 group is using their Church of Christ harmonizing roots and natural musical talent to grow closer as a unit. About half of the group is pursuing either a music or theater major or minor. Aubrey Jones, an incoming Harding freshman from Searcy said, "Music has been a big part of my life, always has been. At school, the time to make music was handed to me, but at HUE we've been able to make that time for ourselves."

Rising junior Gabi Gonzales, a theater major from South Carolina, agreed. "I feel like music connected us because we all had it in common," she said. "The fact that we grew up singing in the church makes it easy for us to do devos, and we love to play guitar or piano and just sing for fun."

Since the trip started, the group has had several opportunities to add music to their educational experience as well. HUF director Robbie Shackelford and the Church of Christ in Florence hosted the HUE students for a Sunday morning service in both Italian and English. Several students helped lead the service, giving the group the opportunity to use their talents to glorify God and listen to the living Word in a different language and context.

In addition to the church service, Associate Professor of Theater Ben Jones took his theater history class on a field trip to the remains of a magnificent amphitheater in the Roman ruins of Fiesole, Tuscany. Dr. Ellen Jones performed an Italian aria for the group, showing off the impressive acoustics of the ruins as well as her own impressive voice. About 150 feet separated Dr. Jones at the base or stage from the students at the top row of the amphitheater, and the students could still hear Dr. Jones's voice as if it was microphoned. Inspired, the group went to the stage and sang four-part hymns, marrying their present reality with Roman history in a beautiful way.

From the amphitheater to the classroom, Robbie Shackelford added to the musical experience by exposing the group to classical music frequently during his lectures. "His taste in music is great," said rising junior Asher Patton from Arkansas. "He's a music guy and an art guy. It's just perfect for a group like this to be on a trip with him. We're picking up so much from him, even though we're only here for a little bit. I feel like we're getting opportunities to do everything." Truly, everything the HUE group is doing this summer is touched by music and the arts. The gift of sharing music brings together the students, faculty, curriculum, and locale in harmonious ways.

Dynamic Duo

As a last musical hurrah, Shackelford surprised the group by inviting guitarist Lorenzo Bagnoli and trombonist Francesco Cangini to play at the End-Of-HUF party. In typical Harding fashion, the two instrumentalists had some Searcy connections as well. "We stopped in Searcy on a tour from Albuquerque to Nashville," said Cangini. "When we went to Searcy, I went to Harding with Robbie. We even played at Zion event center." The two musicians hadn't played a concert in over a year and were more than happy to perform for the HUE group.

