

Muselman family grieves with hope

BY CARRIE BRAGG
ONLINE EDITOR

Two weeks ago today, President Emeritus Jay Kesler gave a chapel message in honor of Homecoming weekend. In his message, Kesler spoke of the comfort and acceptance one receives from home.

For Karen Thomas and Roger Muselman and family, Taylor University has been the kind of home Kesler described.

In the wake of the death of their parents, Taylor trustee emeritus Art Muselman and his wife, Gloria, Thomas and Muselman have felt the love and comfort of their friends at Taylor, they said. Art and Gloria Muselman died in a car crash August 30.

"The Taylor community has been so uplifting and supportive," said Naomi Muselman, Roger Muselman's wife.

Thomas says she is especially thankful to Dick Gygi, chair of the board, who called her within minutes of her receiving word

about the accident, and to her Taylor roommate, who flew in from Colorado in order to be with Thomas in her time of grief.

"It's exactly as [Emeritus Kesler] said. Taylor has been our home — his words, in action," Karen said.

The Friday of homecoming was a significant day for the Muselmans, marking the 50-day anniversary of the crash.

"It's been fifty days, today. Every day, it is so hard," Thomas said. "We are grieving, but with hope."

The Muselman family shares their hope with others through the Web site they created in honor of the couple.

"We wanted to create a living legacy of our parents," Roger Muselman said.

Naomi Muselman said she has an evangelistic vision for the Web site's creation.

"I just had a burden that people would come to know Jesus," she said. "We'd love to see a hundred people come to Christ."



David and Karen Thomas hold their children Mary Esther and John Paul Thomas as family mourns the loss of their parents.

Photo courtesy of Roger Muselman

Thomas' husband, Reverend David Thomas, has seen the legacy of his wife's parents touch others. On the Sunday immediately following the funeral, David decided to share his wife's parents' testimonies with the

congregation. He spoke to the church about the importance of living life to the fullest, just as the Muselmans had. After his sermon, a young man who had been touched by their testimony gave

his life to Christ, he said. "Art and Gloria lived ready, fulfilling lives," Thomas said. "They lived well." Although their life on earth has ended, Art and Gloria's legacy lives on through their family and

friends, who take comfort in their faithfulness. "Their biggest miracle was that the Lord blessed them in the last second of their lives," Roger Muselman said. "They met Jesus together."

Second English's Halloween open house: a four-year tradition

BY JOSH KENNEDY
FEATURES EDITOR

Floor / Wing. This week's "floor in the spotlight" hails all the way from English Hall where the entire second floor participated in the event.

This is the fourth year for the Halloween-themed open

house. Tradition says freshmen are in charge of decorating and organizing the entire event.

"Which basically means that nobody helps," said freshmen April McDonald and Danna Dormer.

Atmosphere. When I arrived on the second floor, I was

greeted by a crowd of people in costumes, chatting in the hallway.

I maneuvered my way to a suite on Second North to find freshman Jessica Higgins, who offered to give me a tour of the open house. She led me from suite to suite, pointing out the theme of each room and offering me ample amounts of kettle

corn. The most noticeable attribute was the decor.

Each suite sported decorations, including spider webs, real corn stalks, covered lights and more. I even saw a cotton-covered limbo thing. They claimed it was fog...

I ran into senior Justin Lee, who claimed the hallway "smells like spiders." I didn't ask.

Activities. Second English offered a few, including a couple of rooms with board games, food, scary movies and a leaf pit.

Freshman Colin James, who claimed to be Spiderman, described his leaf pit experience with a gasp.

"(It's) where guys can wrestle guys in costumes ... which is awkward," James said.

Attendance. I spoke with sophomore Kirsti Kanas, who was in the hallway talking with some of her suite mates.

"We've had hundreds of people come through here," she said.

While I wouldn't quite go that far, the hallway provided little room for comfortable standing. I guess it's a good thing I'm not claustrophobic.

Many costumed figures pushed their way through the halls of Second English, including Bob Marley, Upside-Down Man, Rufio, Spiderman and the Habeckers.

Freshman Danny Loudermilk came dressed up as Imagination Boy.

"I had 45 minutes to come up with a costume," Loudermilk said. "So I put on a Syrian flag (as a cape) and decorated my white (Airband) costume with an abstract design."

Creativity at its finest.

Food. Now, don't take this the wrong way, but when you go to English, you expect to have food.

From the looks of it, English pulled through with numerous

rooms of kettle corn, candy, fudge, apple cider, jello, cookies and a chocolate fountain with bananas, marshmallows and pretzels for dipping.

"We've gone through about seven pounds of chocolate," Kanas said.

Summary. My overall experience of the open house was worthwhile. The complex themed open house was choreographed successfully.

"The hardest was getting everybody to help out," said freshman Rachael Morgese who helped spray-paint the corn and prepare the food (hopefully not at the same time).

However hard it was, the women of Second English provided an enjoyable evening.

Junior David Foley stopped by to enjoy some fudge while sporting his allegiance to Petra, the "Father's of Rock" and make an attempt to steal a Zac Efron pillow, which was thwarted.

"No, I was just carrying it around," he said. "It's very comforting."

After I thought about it, Foley was right. The night was very much like Zac Efron: flamboyant and comforting.

Overall rating:



Four out of five



Mark Statler (left) and Reed Spencer pose as President Habecker and Mary Lou at Wednesday's Halloween open house on Second English.

Photo courtesy of Rachael Morgese

Kathy St. Cyr brings Millie to Taylor's stage

BY JONATHAN FRIDAY
CONTRIBUTOR

Kathy St. Cyr, fair-skinned and freckled, could have stepped off the train from Salina, Kansas — home to her character, Millie Dillmount, in Taylor's performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" which opens today.

But looks can be deceiving — Kathy was actually born on the other side of the world.

St. Cyr grew up in Poland as the daughter of missionaries, after being born in Nairobi, Kenya, on a family trip. Her family moved to Annapolis, Md. when she was 7.

St. Cyr performed in musicals throughout high school, taking classical voice lessons on the side. She planned to minor in theater, but then changed her mind.

"After my senior play, my parents challenged me that I should major in what I love," St. Cyr said.

As one of Taylor's few theater majors, St. Cyr has acted onstage in three other Taylor

productions, most recently in "The Chalk Garden." While at Taylor, she also took advantage of the opportunity to study musical theater during a semester in Australia.

St. Cyr won the role of Millie after September auditions and callbacks, trying out with more than 50 other women.

"She got up there as Millie, and she just lit up," Director Tracy Manning said.

But St. Cyr said she did not expect to land the part, hoping instead to play Millie's best friend, Dorothy Brown.

She told herself she had little chance because of Millie's vocal requirements.

"I have no idea how to belt. I don't belt," she told herself. "I sing light and with lots of vibrato, and that's Dorothy, so I'm going to audition for Dorothy!"

But Manning had other ideas.

After being "floored" on Sept. 11 by the news that she had the lead, it was time for St. Cyr to work. Rehearsals began the same day with a reading of the script. The cast learned the choreography and music first, and then moved on to the staging.

"A little tap solo here and there — when

I've never tapped before — is a little bit intimidating," St. Cyr said. But Manning says she has confidence in St. Cyr's abilities.

"She's the one who usually knows it," she said. "When everybody else is like, 'What do we do here?' Millie knows it. Kathy knows it."

On a recent night, before two day-long rehearsals, St. Cyr was in the theater helping the crew, modeling for her costume and thanking volunteers. The next morning, the leading lady was among the first cast members to arrive, and began sweeping the stage floor.

St. Cyr is not certain of what direction her life will take after Taylor, but she says she is certain the stage will play some part in her future.

"Theater's one of those things that you can do for the rest of your life," St. Cyr said.

Soon, the young woman from Kenya, Poland, and the U.S. will take her own steps into the future. But tonight, St. Cyr will step onstage as an ambitious Midwestern girl hoping to make it in the big city, bringing a "thoroughly modern" Millie to life.

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