

# THE PATTERSON POST



## 2014 & 2015



The adventures of **Coleman** continued in full force in 2014 and 2015. His travels included BRAT II in 2014, the second Bike Ride Across Texas, which went from Brownsville, TX to Liberal, Ks. He took six college students as a part of a leadership workshop class. He took seven students to Vienna, Austria for a Model United Nations class, stopping for a few days in London to see what that's all about. In 2015 he took a students on BRAT III from Surfside Beach, TX to Liberal, Ks, to New York City and Washington, D.C.

He is in his 18th year of teaching at Hardin-Simmons University and is enjoying directing the Leadership Studies program and creating cool classes such as Cults and Charismatics, Ethics (using Star Trek ethics book) and Creativity. The whole fam got to go with him to a conference in San Antonio (aka "summer vacation").

In his free time he enjoys riding his bike (and getting new front teeth and a glued chin due to bike accident) and training for bike rides across the universe (riding 3501 miles in 2014), participating in charity bike rides, teaching karate and fencing at his dojo Texas Martial Arts Center, kayaking, obsessing about Ancestry.com, shopping for great deals on instruments at pawn shops, eating Mexican pastries and playing the accordion and saxophone very loudly in the house.

**Tracy** continues to stay busy with lots of stuff, fueled by Diet Coke and coffee. 2014 saw the addition of a fourth part-time job to her schedule, the director of the Children's Art and Literacy Festival, which she started very part-time in the summer and which get busier in January, culminating in the festival in June. In addition, she is teaching Jazzercise three days a week, and teaches ballet and tap. She co-directs Jr. Jazzercise camps in the summer and does some freelance writing for Abilene Scene magazine.

In her free time, this Momarina loves to perform with Abilene Ballet Theatre, dancing the roles of Spanish chocolate, a snowflake and a flower in the Nutcracker in 2014 and 2015. She also danced in their Valentine's performance and in the Ballet Abilene May recital and is looking forward to Spring 2016 performances. She danced in The King and I with the Abilene Opera in the Uncle Tom's Cabin dance sequence with other dancers from Abilene Ballet. She continues to serve as secretary of the ballet's board of directors and maintains the ballet web site. She also serves as secretary of the Abilene Philharmonic Guild and is in her 15th year of being a children's choir small group leader at First Baptist Church, where she also serves on the building and grounds committee.

In her REAL free time, she likes reading, doing home projects, doing crafty stuff, trying to get a decent picture of the boys, and attending her children's events. She even sometimes gets a home-cooked meal on the table! By



On the news....talking about BRAT.

**Cole** has had a jam-packed couple of years full of... well, you-name it! He finished out his elementary school years in 2014 by winning the school spelling bee and going on to compete in the regional bee--placing 5th. The end of the fifth grade year brought the 5th grade talent show (performing a pogostick, unicycle and juggling routine), attending a ropes course and an end-of-year 5th grade bash. He participated on the middle school Destination Imagination Team and participated in the DI competition in Mansfield, TX. He also was a member of a robotics team from school, placing second in the regional meet and advancing to state in Houston. He continues to take piano lessons and started tennis lessons in the summer. Not one to sit around all summer, Cole attended three camps--Pine Cove in Tyler, TX, technology camp (robotics), and Threshold G/T camp at Hardin-Simmons.

With the end of elementary school, there was the decision to be made as to where Cole would attend middle school--at Abilene Christian with Kirsten and Jack--or public school at Mann Middle School. He chose to go on to Mann with his friends. (continued on p. 2)

## Patterson zoo.....



Albus (Albie) Dumbledog joined our zoo on Dec. 30, 2014 from rescue shelter



Fudgie (blue) and Floyd (green). Floyd didn't last too long.



We lost our Sweet-face in Nov. 2015.



Gizmo

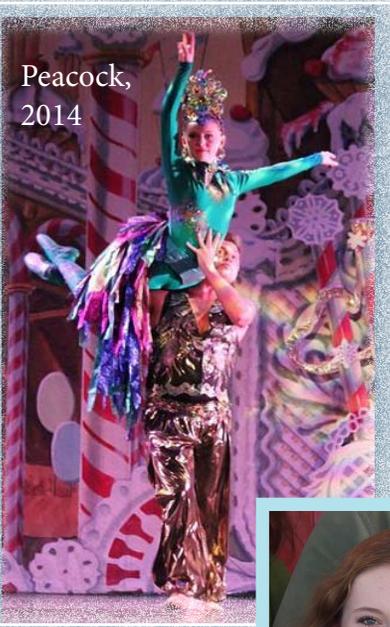


Jabba



Cutter

Peacock,  
2014



The past few years have been uber-busy for *Kirsten* ! In the Spring of 2014 she performed at the Regional Dance America/Southwest Festival in Richardson, TX, where Kirsten performed in two pieces with Abilene Ballet Theatre (ABT) and in one piece representing ABT in the RDA/SW performance company, which featured one dancer from each ballet company in the region. She rounded out the Spring by dancing in the Ballet Abilene recital in May.

As a junior at Abilene Christian High School, Kirsten sang in the choir, played alto sax in the jazz and pep bands and was named a Top 5+ Scholar at the May. She continues to love art and will most likely major in some kind of art or graphic design in college.

Outside of school she continues to serve in the Philharmonic Belles and Beaus program, ushering at concerts and helping with the Brunch and Ball and keeps up with her karate (Ninja!) skills at Texas Martial Arts Center. She also got to model in the Dillard's prom show in the Spring of 2014. She can be found at any time drawing or painting or doing some kind of art. She also likes to kayak and ride her bike in local bike rides.

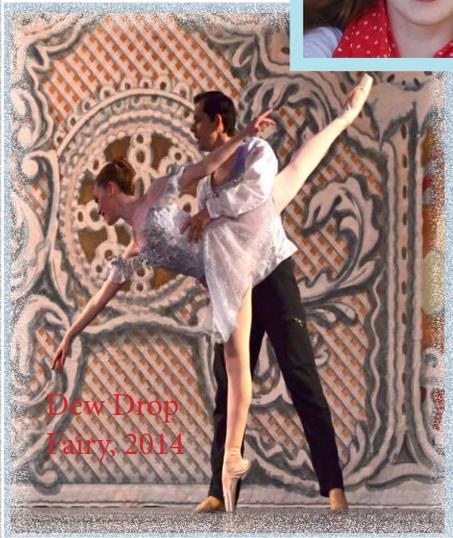
The Summer of 2014 was pretty lazy, except for a two-week ballet summer intensive program at the International Ballet Competition School in Jackson, MS. She and her friend Maya took dance classes every day and got to see ballet competitors from all over the world compete for medals in evening performances. The family joined her to watch her perform in the Regional Dance America Day with the performing company that she performed with at the ballet Festival in Richardson earlier in the year. In 2015 she participated in Festival in West Monroe, LA and was awarded a scholarship at the awards gala to attend a three-week Joffrey program in San Antonio.

The Fall 2014 semester started off with a bang with the institution of school uniforms, Nutcracker auditions and college (really?) visits to Baylor, TCU and Hardin-Simmons. At this point she is non-committal and has no opinion about colleges whatsoever except that dorms are gross.

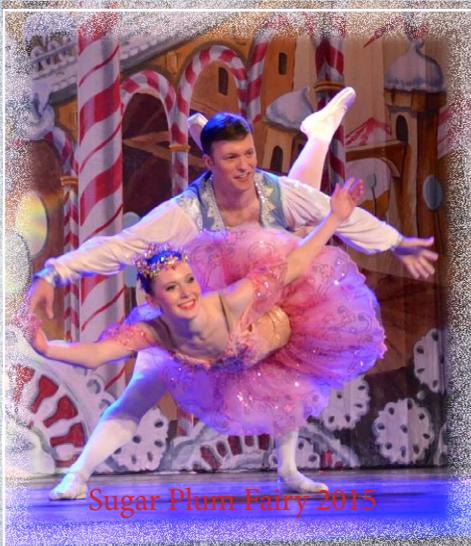
The 2014 Nutcracker season was all-consuming and very rewarding once again, coming off of a great 2013 season performing the lead role of Clara. In 2014 Kirsten shared the role of the Peacock (Arabian) and Dew Drop Fairy (Waltz of the Flowers), performing with male partners from the Metroplex, and was also a Snowflake. In the Fall of 2015 she performed in The King and I with the Abilene Opera as the Angel in the Uncle Tom's Cabin dance sequence with a group of Abilene Ballet Theatre dancers. 2015 Nutcracker was the penultimate performing experience as she danced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen and Peppermint Twist soloist.

She is thoroughly enjoying her senior year in high school and keeps very busy with ballet, studying and hanging out with friends. She is looking forward to her senior Philharmonic Belles presentation at the Ball in February, where her dad will be required to wear a tux and dance with her!

Dew Drop  
Fairy, 2014



Sugar Plum Fairy 2015



*Jack* is the resident computer guru in the Patterson family. He likes to disassemble old ones, create new servers, switch out hard drives, etc. etc. etc. things that normal humans don't understand, He has his own youtube channel with his videos that he created.

Jack ran track in the Spring 2014 at Abilene Christian and participated in the math team, pep band (alto saxophone, carrying on the family tradition) and choir. He finished out 2014 by earning a black belt at Texas Martial Arts Center and is an assistant instructor there. He discovered his dancing feet as he tore up the dance floor at Spring formal and Homecoming dances.

In 2015 Jack decided that he was interested in tennis and plans to join the tennis team at ACS in the Spring. He is still playing in the band and sings in choir. He learned how to skim board and surf over the summer. He is an avid reader and is constantly glued to his books or Kindle. He also got his learner's permit and drives every chance he gets. He is really excited to turn 16 in the Spring so he can drive himself to Taco Bell every day.

He is a great dad to his bird Fudgie. He really loves movie nights with friends and going to pawn shops with his dad and Cole. He also enjoys kayaking and going on outdoor leadership trips with Hardin-Simmons students.

**COLE CONTINUED...**

He has had a great time at middle school and is playing in the orchestra--violin--and band--alto sax. He attended his first middle school "dance" and had a blast and performed in his first orchestra concert. Nutcracker season rolled around and Cole graduated/outgrew his role as Fritz to being a "cousin" in the party scene in 2014 and 2015. In 2015 Cole joined the tennis team at Mann and is a student worker for his piano teacher. He also joined the ranks of kids in braces!

Cole continues to enjoy...everything...but mostly Rubik's Cubes, juggling, tennis, unicycling, doing science experiments that



Mann Falcon of the Year,  
2014-2015

mostly involve fire and vile-smelling liquids, learning to play bizarre instruments such as the accordion and fife, searching websites for junk for mom and dad to buy him, grocery shopping and cycling with Coleman. He is a third-degree brown belt in karate and enjoys fencing as well. And we are all very tired!