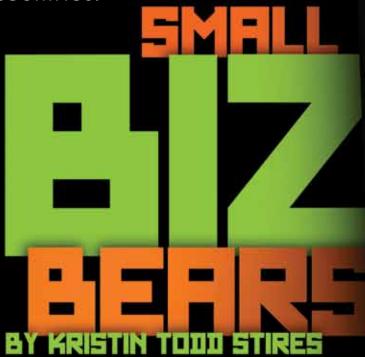
You might need a photobooth for your daughter's wedding reception. Maybe you need to satisfy your sweet tooth. Or maybe you just need time to relax at a bed and breakfast. Today, more than 27 million small businesses operating within the U.S. are meeting a multitude of market needs. We caught up with Hankamer alumni who are involved with small businesses, which impact a variety of industries from food, hospitality, consulting, event services and recreation, to providing sustainable solutions for people in other countries.





"THE F0001E"

about your business: I own an American bakery café. We make all of our own breads, pastries and desserts. It is important to me that our food is handmade as much as possible. All of our soups, salad dressings, chicken salad and pasta sauces are made from scratch.

inspiration: I love to entertain with food. Throwing dinner parties is my favorite form of entertainment. A restaurant seemed to be a natural extension of that.

how you got started: I was given an opportunity to purchase an existing restaurant eight years ago.

biggest challenge: The restaurant business is tough—there is a steep learning curve. Not only learning how to run a kitchen, but also managing finances and employees all at the same time is tricky.

best moment: Having someone tell me they brought their family in to celebrate their birthday because The Olive Branch was their favorite restaurant!

favorite menu item: My favorite menu item right now is the spinach pasta salad. It combines all of my favorite things!

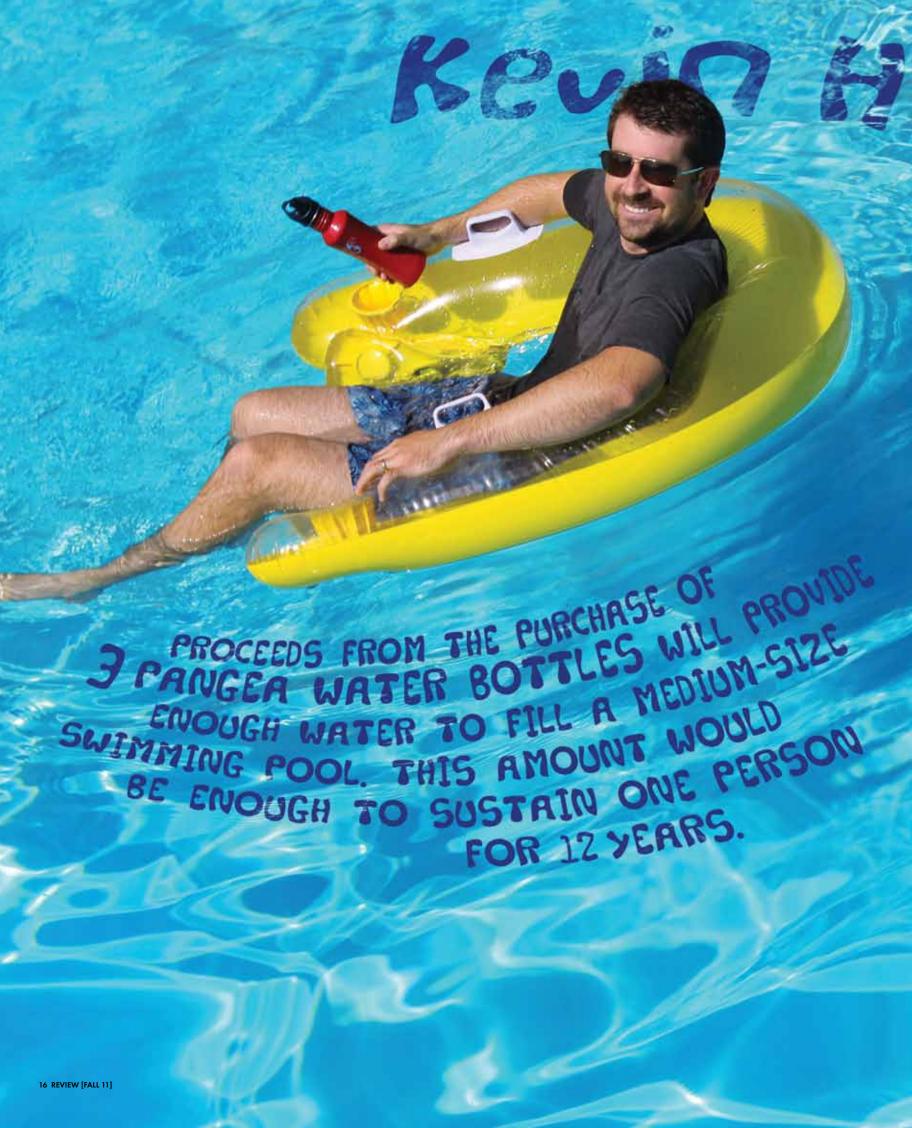
community collaborations: I feel strongly about being able to give back to the community that supports me. I'm part of the 254 Project, which is a group of local businesses that donate a portion of proceeds from a product or service to the 254 Foundation. The foundation provides grant funds, promotes projects and supports local nonprofit organizations that work to alleviate poverty. Through the foundation, I am able to directly impact the issue of poverty in Waco.

words of wisdom: Don't be afraid to ask for help.

what's next: Triple Treat Thursdays! We will be offering a ticketed evening event on the third Thursday of every month: Food, Fun and Friends. We will be advertising these events through our social media sites, Facebook and Twitter. Our first event will be dinner and a movie!











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very difficult to operate due to their size and the complexities

involved in working with the photographic chemicals. We were





DFW Adventure Park, Inc. (DFWAP) is an "Extreme Theme Park," with 170 acres of pure heart-pounding, adrenaline-packed fun. Started in 1993 as a paintball field, it has grown to be the largest paintball park in Texas and has added zip lines, a motorcycle/ATV track and trails, airsoft games and laser combat. It has a family friendly environment catering largely to church youth groups, birthday parties and recreational paintball players. DFWAP also

serves as the North Texas location for two of the largest "mud runs" in the country:

Warrior Dash and Jail Break.

how you got started: In 1989, a group of about 100 friends got together to play a private, all day game of paintball on some private land. I loved it and was hooked. A few of my friends decided we should start a paintball field as a "fun" business—that was 1993. It kind of got out of hand and turned into a real business somewhere along the way.

inspiration: I love being my own boss. I love being a part of a business that involves the outdoors. I love being part of an entertainment business. People come here to have FUN. Everybody that comes out here to play wants to be here.

biggest challenges:

We have the same challenges all businesses face. Attracting new customers, keeping current customers happy, dealing with personnel issues, dealing with governmental regulations, taxes and attempting to contain costs are never-ending tasks.

favorite DFWAP activities:

Paintball and riding ATVs.

words of wisdom: Do not forget the Lord Jesus in your busy life. Easy to say, harder to do. No matter how good a ship's captain you think you are, there is a storm out there that you won't be able to navigate on your own. Don't forget your family along the way. In the end they are infinitely more valuable than any amount of wealth you can manage to accumulate.



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