

Spring 4-1-2002

Harding Magazine Spring 2002 (vol. 10, no. 2)

Harding University

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HARDING

SPRING 2002

*first lady,
first mom*



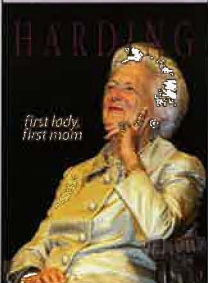
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Dr. David B. Burks,
President

Surely the promotion of citizenship within a global perspective is well and alive for students who choose to attend Harding.



First lady,
first mom

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Promoting citizenship within a global perspective

WHEN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR BEGAN last August, the chapel convocation featured flags from 58 nations along with those of the American states. These international flags represent 220 students enrolled from foreign countries. Part of our mission statement is "The promotion of citizenship within a global perspective," which involves developing a Christian understanding of and respect for other cultures through an emphasis on liberty and justice.

■ Perhaps the crown jewel of our global program is the Walton Student Scholarship Program, which began in 1985. Since that time, 198 students have graduated and are now managers of multinational corporations, chief executive officers of national companies, entrepreneurs, and employees in government and education.


Approximately one third of all Walton Scholarship graduates have a master's degree, three have the doctorate, and four are medical doctors.

These students have been outstanding in terms of their scholarship, together averaging a 3.4 grade-point average, while five have maintained a perfect 4.0 record. We host 60 Walton Scholars each year in this program who come from Central America and Mexico. An astonishing 91 percent of Walton Scholars enter as freshmen and graduate in four years.

One of the significant aspects of this truly unique international educational program is the fact that these students return to their home country upon degree completion. They take excellent jobs and make strong contributions to their countries, following the dream of the

founder of the program, Mr. Sam Walton.

When I think of all of our emphasis on global education, including a commitment to international campaigns in the summer and our five international study campuses abroad, I am reminded of the young lady who said to me, "I came to Searcy and found the world." She made this statement standing on the tile map of the world in the McInteer Center. She had been on three international campaigns, spent a semester abroad with the Harding University in Florence, Italy, program, and had interacted with numerous international students during her college career.

Surely the promotion of citizenship within a global perspective is well and alive for students who choose to attend Harding. 

David B. Burks

On the cover.

Former first lady Barbara Bush followed in her husband's and son's footsteps when she visited campus April 11. To learn what she had to say, turn to page 16. (photo by Jeff Montgomery)



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HARDING is published in January, May and October by the Public Relations Office of Harding University for alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends of the University. Editorial offices are located on the second floor of the John Mabee American Heritage Center at 900 E. Center St., Searcy, Ark.

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HARDING

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Newsmakers

Bailey top presenter at research conference

B.J. Bailey of Harrison, Ark., won first place in the general session for his oral presentation, "Spectroscopy of Rubidium 85 and 87 Using Diode Laser Spectrometry," at the 22nd annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Memphis in March. Other students participating were Douglas Cutsinger of Englewood, Fla.; Justin Dyniewski of Carrollton, Texas; Rhonda Gregory of Ridgeway, S.C.; Adam Jacoby of Fleming, Ohio; Sheila Kukta of Cassville, Mo.; Matthew Neely of Dayton, Ohio; Tommy Nix of Bono, Ark.; Elizabeth Null of Inola, Okla.; and Derek Selvidge of Searcy.

Bruner president-elect of philanthropic organization

Tim Bruner, assistant vice president for advancement, was named 2002 president-elect of the Arkansas chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He previously served as vice president of programs.

Casey conducts Italian band

Dr. Warren Casey, professor of music, spent two weeks in December in Florence, Italy, working with an Italian community band that has been in existence since 1880. He was the guest conductor at their end-of-the-year concert.

Crockett writes on infant and toddler care

Sharen Crockett, professor of family and consumer sciences, had an article titled "Caring for Infants and Toddlers" published in the fall 2001 Arkansas Early Childhood letter. The newsletter is an information service of the Department of Human Services' Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education in Little Rock.

Sansom selected chief financial officer

GEORGIA HEALTH CARE EXECUTIVE Mel Sansom ('84) will succeed Buddy Rowan July 1 as the University's vice president for finance and chief financial officer.

Sansom is controller for the Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) in Dalton, Ga. He is responsible for the financial reporting of 13 corporations included in the Hamilton Health Care System, including two hospitals, a consolidation of four nursing homes, and a senior living center.

"I am extremely pleased that Mel Sansom has accepted our offer to become Harding's next vice president for finance," said President David Burks. "He has an excellent background in accounting in the nonprofit sector. He believes in Harding's mission, and he will be an important part of our senior management team at the University."

Sansom received both the B.B.A. and M.S. degrees in accounting from the University. He also holds the CPA certification. Prior to assuming his current position at HMC in 1997, Sansom served HMC as its director of reimbursement and rate setting from 1990 to 1997. He also worked two years for Ernst & Whinney in the accounting firm's Nashville, Tenn., office.

In his new role Sansom will be responsible for the University's offices of business and finance, human resources and campus security. He will also oversee the school's physical plant operations,



Mel Sansom

transportation, campus post office, auxiliary enterprises and cafeteria operations. Rowan, retiring after 35 years at the University, joined the staff in 1967 as an accountant. In 1970 he was named comptroller and in 1984 was promoted to assistant vice president for finance. He was promoted to his current position in 1998.

Fall Lectureship will encourage Christian thinking

THOUGH IT MAY SOUND SIMPLE on the surface, the 79th annual Lectureship on Sept. 29-Oct. 2, "Thinking Christianly," has plans to delve much deeper into the topic.

According to "Let My People Think," an article by Os Guinness, "Expressed positively, 'thinking christianly' is thinking by Christians about anything and everything in a consistently Christian way — in a manner that is shaped, directed and restrained by the truth of God's Word and God's Spirit."

As Dr. Howard Norton, executive director for the Institute for Church & Family, explains, "The Lectureship will encourage all of us to think in a Christian way in whatever it is we do in life — whether as a mother, a businessperson, a preacher or a school teacher." Topics to be explored include the city, family, children, diverse spiritualities, and suffering and persecution.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. Jim Baird, professor of Bible at Oklahoma Christian University; Dr. Monte Cox, associate professor of Bible and director of the Center for World Missions; Dr. Mike Ireland, associate professor of Bible; Bill McDonough, director of Partners in Progress; Chuck Monan,

pulpit minister for Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark.; and others.

As in previous years, special programs will be offered for women and for the Latin American community. New this year is the Child Care Workshop, coordinated by children's home administrators in Arkansas. Dr. Bud Myers, president of Global Christian University, and Dr. Bob Reely of the University will again co-host the Christian Distance Learning Conference.

For additional Lectureship information, contact the Institute for Church & Family, Harding University, Box 10750, Searcy, AR 72149-0001; call (501) 279-4660; e-mail icf@harding.edu; or visit the Web site at www.harding.edu/lectureship.

Economics team wins regional honors

THE UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS TEAM was named winner of the Mid-South Regional Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Competition conducted at the Peabody Hotel and Convention Center in Memphis, Tenn., April 1-2.

The team's entry, "Free Enterprise — Supporting the System that Supports America," was a multi-media presentation elaborating on more than 35 projects and programs that they presented to civic, professional and educational groups in the Mid-South this school year.

Team members include co-captain Beth Juhl of Center Point, Iowa; co-captain Hillary Patrick ('01) of Thornton, Colo.; Elizabeth Hendrix of Antoine, Ark.; Travis Newell of Celeste, Texas; and Daniel Schlarman of Imperial, Mo. Dr. Don Diffine, professor of economics and director of the Belden Center for Private Enterprise Education, is the sponsor.

Thompson, Burks named new deans

TWO ASSOCIATE DEANS will receive promotions on June 1, according to an announcement made in December by Dr. Dean Priest, vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Travis Thompson, professor of mathematics, will become dean of the College of Sciences, and Bryan Burks, assistant professor of accounting, will become dean of the College of Business Administration.

Thompson will replace Priest, who is currently serving as both vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Sciences. Burks will replace Dr. Randall McLeod, who announced his decision to return to full-time classroom teaching.

"I am extremely pleased that both of these fine educators have accepted these new roles of leadership," said Priest. "They are certainly familiar with the academic programs in their respective areas, and I anticipate only the smoothest of transitions as they assume their new leadership positions."

Thompson, a 1971 graduate, holds the master of science degree from Northeast Louisiana State University and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

He has been a member of the faculty since 1985. In 1992 he re-

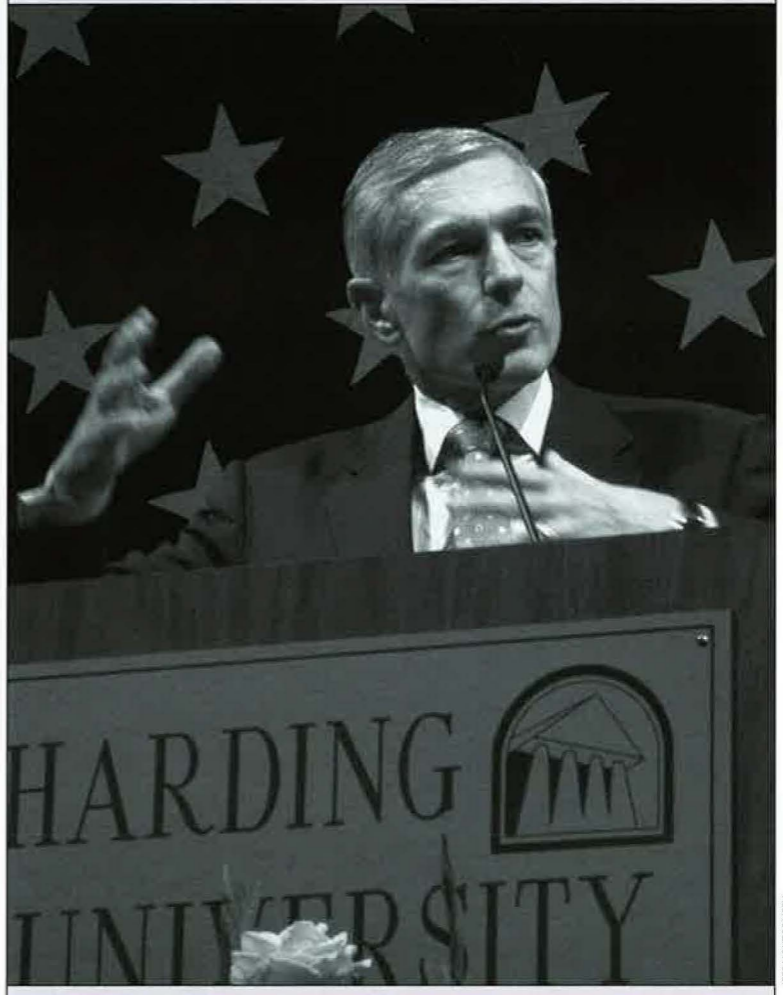


Dr. Travis Thompson



Bryan Burks

Military analyst



Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.), the supreme allied commander in Europe from 1997-2000, tells his audience that the most significant event leading to the current war on terrorism was the breakup of the Soviet Union. He spoke as part of the American Studies Distinguished Lecture Series Jan. 22.

ceived the Distinguished Teacher Award.

A 1989 alumnus, Burks received the master of business administration degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

Burks, a CPA, has been director of the University's accounting program since 1999. Prior to joining the faculty in 1995, he was a senior accountant with Ernst & Young in Nashville, Tenn.

The College of Sciences includes the departments of behav-

ioral sciences, biology, computer science and computer engineering, family and consumer sciences, kinesiology, mathematics and physical science.

The College of Business Administration offers majors in accounting, communication management, computer information systems, economics, health care management, human resources, information technology, international business, management, marketing and professional sales.

Newsmakers

Ellis judges at state thespian festival

Dr. Morris Ellis ('67), professor of communication, served as an adjudicator for the Arkansas Thespian Festival, Feb. 22-23, at Arkansas State University. He judged the categories of duet acting, publicity design, and solo and duet pantomime.

Fisher authors war-game book

Shawn Fisher, a training coordinator for campus security, recently completed "Hand of Steel," a source-book for people interested in World War II Special Forces. Through a role-playing and war-gaming system called GURPS, participants can re-enact famous battles and have the chance to make the same crucial decisions as the Army's leaders.

Hoggatt chosen for broadcast media seminar, fellowship

Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, associate professor of communication, was one of 75 media educators from around the country selected to participate in the International Radio Television Society's annual faculty-industry seminar titled "From Newsroom to Boardroom: How Current Events are Altering the Media Landscape." The seminar, held in March in New York City, featured news correspondents and media professionals involved in the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack.

In addition, Hoggatt is one of 20 broadcast educators from around the country designated to participate in the Radio-Television News Directors Foundation "Excellence in Journalism Education" fellowship in June. He will spend four weeks working in Minneapolis for Conus Media.

S	P	R	N	G	S	T	A	S
4,417	4.7	170	19	665	2,600	203 and 201	90	
Total enrollment	Percentage of increase over spring 2001	Number studying at the Memphis campus	Number of students from Albania, the foreign country with the largest representation	Number of married students	Number of students who live in dorms	Number of students in the most popular majors, management and nursing	Number of students studying at our international campuses: Australia (20), Italy (32) and Greece (38)	



Newsmakers

McAfee new School of Biblical Studies recruiter

Brad McAfee ('90) has been named director of recruitment and development for the School of Biblical Studies, handling alumni relations, fundraising and recruitment for the program. A 1987 graduate of the program, McAfee previously served as vice president for development at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Ark., and as a minister in Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri.

Nursing students travel to Guatemala for medical mission

Working with Health Talents International Organization, senior nursing students Maurine Free of Rolla, Mo.; Vernetta Hilliker of Sterling, Mich.; and Michele Puckett of Columbia, Tenn., spent two weeks in February in Guatemala City, assisting with the care of patients who have no other access to surgical care. They prepared patients for surgery, worked in the operating room as circulating and scrub nurses, and provided post-op recovery care. The College of Nursing has been sending senior nursing majors with this group since 1994.

Ross accepts assistant director position in human resources

Searcy native David Ross ('94) has been named assistant director of human resources. In this role he assists the director in developing policy and coordinating employment, compensation, employee relations, and training and development. He also assists in negotiating and contracting with benefit plan vendors and analyzing benefit services, coverage and options available. Prior to his position with the University, he was assistant vice president and marketing manager for SMC Inc. in Searcy.

Spring Sing takes a journey across America

JU GO JU, KO JO KAI and friends prevailed as the John H. Ryan Sweepstakes winner for the second consecutive year with their show "Did Somebody Say McDonald's?" Earning first place in three categories, the number celebrated America's tradition of fast food at the golden arches with Ronald and the Hamburglar.

A panel of 20 judges scored the eight club acts on a 1-to-10 scale in the categories of choreography, costumes, music and originality. The top scorers in Spring Sing 2002 received plaques, trophies and monetary awards. While the prizes offer extra incentive for clubs to participate and work hard, most students find that developing friendships is the

biggest motivation to be in Spring Sing.

"This is my fourth and final Spring Sing," says Ryan Cook, a senior from Des Moines, Iowa. "The whole reason I did Spring Sing my freshman year was to get to know people and make new friends — then I just couldn't stop myself!" Spring Sing director Steve Frye also recognizes that teamwork and a good group dynamic is integral to the production. "The goal of any Spring Sing that I direct is to create a structure where students work together to accomplish something greater than themselves."

This year it seems that all involved succeeded. "From what I've heard people say, this was one of the most well-received shows,"

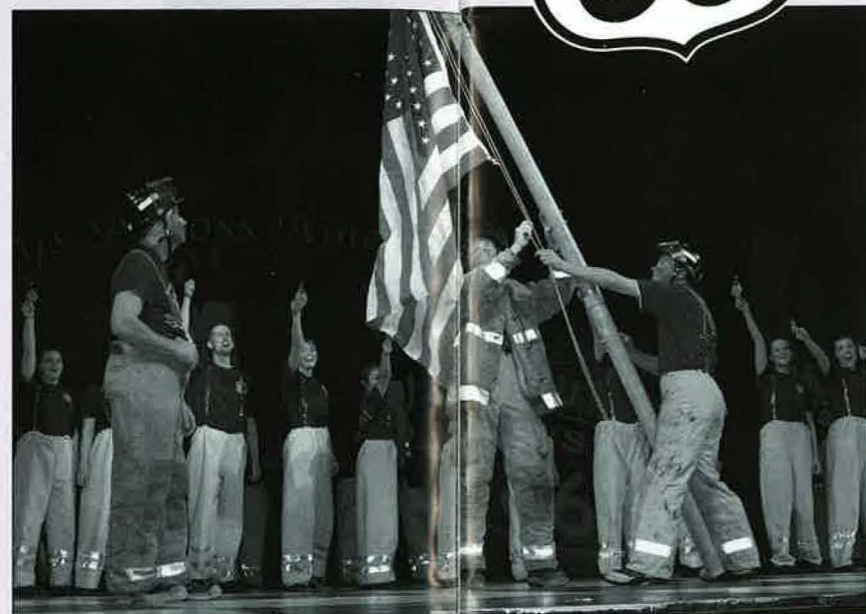


Second-year host Joey Kincheloe and hostess Jennifer Driggers perform to "Fabulous Fifties" to open the second act.

says Frye. "It was a great production, and I'm ecstatic about our students' talent. They never cease to amaze me."

Frye and student directors are now planning for Spring Sing 2003, which is tentatively titled "Reel Music" and will feature movie musicals and soundtracks.

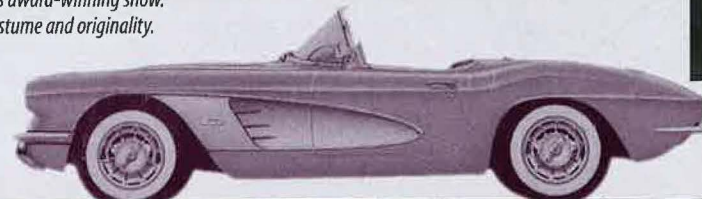
The first runner-up show "Courage Under Fire," performed by Delta Gamma Rho, Delta Chi Delta, Kappa Gamma Epsilon, Gamma Sigma Phi and friends, salutes the firemen of America. The show took first runner-up in all categories.



Burgers and fries take center stage as performers in the sweepstakes award-winning show. "Did Somebody Say McDonald's?" also took first in choreography, costume and originality.



Nerd Bethany Kloske fights back during Zeta Rho, TNT and friends' second runner-up production of "We're Not that 'Snort' of Nerds."



photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY



Newsmakers

Shultz to evaluate nursing literature

Dr. Cathleen Shultz, dean of the College of Nursing, has been appointed task force chair with the National League for Nursing. The task force is to conduct a meta-analysis and prepare a monograph and book manuscript of literature related to "New Teaching/Learning/Evaluation Paradigms."

Beth Wilson helps prepare video

Dr. Beth Wilson, professor of family and consumer sciences and department chair, served as a trainer in the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's compressed video, "Best Care: Myths and Magic," Dec. 1, 2001. The topic of her presentation was "Promoting Emotional Health in Young Children."

Ed Wilson named Solar System Ambassador

As a representative of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL) Solar System Ambassador program, Dr. Ed Wilson, professor of chemistry, has been selected to lead public events around Arkansas in 2002.

Wilson will run events such as star parties, lectures, community displays, musical presentations and library appearances, conveying news and excitement about solar-system exploration. JPL provides him with special training opportunities, including question-and-answer sessions with leaders of interplanetary missions. It also supplies materials such as the latest pictures from JPL-managed spacecrafts orbiting Mars and Jupiter.

Multilingual speaker addresses December graduates

THOUGH HE IS USED to addressing groups in three languages, Dino Roussos stuck to English when he spoke at commencement Dec. 15, 2001, in Benson Auditorium.

Roussos is the preacher for the Omonia Church of Christ, an international church in the heart of Athens, Greece, that holds three services each Sunday — one in Greek, one in Bulgarian and one in English — with members representing 15 nationalities.

He addressed 269 students who received degrees awarded from the six academic divisions: from the College of Arts and Humanities, 61; the College of Bible and Religion, 23; the College of Business Administration, 62; the College of Education, 67; the College of Nursing, 12; and the College of Sciences, 44.

Roussos helped establish the Athens International Bible Institute, which meets in the Omonia building and trains gospel preachers. He serves as an international speaker and is the author of several books. Roussos also teaches modern Greek at the University's international campus in Athens.

Seniors honor two peers with Regina Spirit Awards

STEVE CLOER OF SEARCY and Lindsay Snow of Seminole, Okla., are the recipients of the 2002 Regina Spirit Awards.

Cloer, a math education major, is the Student Association president and has been involved in numerous service projects, including the Searcy Children's Carnival, Rake and Run, Angel Tree and Day of Outreach. A member of TNT social club and Alpha Chi, he has led several spring break campaigns and preaches twice a month.

Snow has also participated in spring break campaigns every year, as well as one summer campaign to the Northeast. She is an education major and a member of Ko Jo Kai social club. Snow has served her

club as devotional, athletic and service director. She helps with Kojies' fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk, and she also participates in regular outreach projects at the Sunshine School in Searcy.

Two education faculty members promoted

DR. JIM NICHOLS and Pat Bashaw, faculty members in the College of Education, assumed new administrative responsibilities at the beginning of the spring semester.

Nichols was named associate dean of the college, and Bashaw was selected to serve as director of the educational leadership program.

In his new role Nichols will assist Dr. Tony Finley, dean of the



Dr. Jim Nichols

College of Education, in overall administration duties, while continuing to serve as the director of graduate studies.

Bashaw will direct the University's programs that prepare students for administrative positions in school districts.

Nichols, a professor of education, has been a member of the staff and faculty since 1977. He won the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1987 and 1992. He is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University, Auburn University and the University of Arkansas.

Bashaw, an assistant professor of education, has been a member of the faculty since 1999. Prior to joining the faculty, he taught for 14 years in the Riverview School District, most recently as the elementary principal at the Kensett, Ark., campus.

Bashaw holds the baccalaureate and master's degree from the University. He is currently completing his doctorate at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Pat Bashaw

Sidelines

Farley receives basketball accolades

Junior guard Aaron Farley was named to Daktronics Second Team All-South Region by a vote of the region's sports information directors. He received the same honor from the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Farley also earned First Team All-Gulf South Conference honors for the second consecutive season.

Lawrence, Ware achieve academic honors

Forwards Heather Lawrence and Chad Ware are the first University players to earn Academic All-Gulf South Conference honors.

Lawrence, a junior accounting major from Memphis, Tenn., ranks seventh in career rebounding for the Lady Bisons.

Ware, a native of Springdale, Ark., averaged 8.4 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. He is a sophomore accounting major.

Bisons take first trip to GSC Tournament

THE BISON BASKETBALL TEAM won 16 games, the most since joining the NCAA, and made their first appearance in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) Tournament. With an 8-8 conference record, the Bisons qualified as the fourth seed from the West Division, earning their sixth trip to the postseason in the last nine years.

Much of the team's success came in the legendary Rhodes Field House. The Bisons won a school-record 13 of 16 home games this year, including seven straight to start the season.

The first loss of the season came in game eight to NCAA Division I foe Louisiana Tech University. In that game, the Bisons nailed 14 three-point shots, the most ever by a Tech opponent. Of the 11 losses during the year, seven were by five points or less.

By Feb. 14, the Bisons had a 5-7 conference record and needed to win three of the last four to qualify for the GSC Tournament. The team opened that stretch with a 96-63 rout of Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tenn., and followed that with an 81-77 win over Delta State University, the third-ranked team in the South Re-

gion at the time. After dropping an 82-79 decision at Ouachita Baptist University, the Bisons came home and defeated Arkansas Tech University 79-76 before a record crowd of 3,245.

The Bisons fell 95-73 to Valdosta State University in the first round of the tournament.

Junior guard Aaron Farley led the team, averaging 17.2 points per game and ranking in the top 10 in the GSC in six different categories.

Three other Bisons averaged double figures in scoring, including junior forward Jason Malek at 15.5, senior forward Datron Wilson at 13.1, and junior guard Chris Campbell at 12 points per game. Malek was the team's leading rebounder at 6.7 rebounds per game, and sophomore guard Darren McCrillis led the team with 4.2 assists per contest. Junior guard Carl Vault was one of the top defenders in the country with 62 steals, which led the GSC.

Napier leads Lady Bisons in scoring

RECOVERED FROM A KNEE INJURY that kept her from playing much of last season, senior Mindy Napier averaged a team-high 12.4 points per game during the Lady Bisons 10-16 season.

Napier led the team in scoring eight times, including a season-high 25 points against the University of North Alabama. Napier scored 911 points in her career, finishing as the 10th leading scorer in Lady Bison history.

Also providing scoring punch was junior guard Julie Wright. She averaged 12 points per game and led the team in three-point field goals (50), free throw percentage (83.8), assists (80) and steals (42).

Junior forward Heather Lawrence led the team in rebounding, averaging 9 per game. She was third in scoring at 10.2 points per game.

Kendra Bell scored 9.4 points per game as the team's only other senior. Junior Susan Berry contributed 8.8 points per game.

The top freshman player was Saretha Jackson, who averaged 5 points and 4.1 rebounds per game.

Guymon named cross country/track coach

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Greg Harnden recently announced that Steve Guymon, presently the head cross country/track coach at Cordova High School in Cordova, Tenn., will replace current coach Bryan Phillips in August.

Phillips recently resigned that position to teach full time in the kinesiology department.

Last season, in leading Cordova to third place in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) State Championship, Guymon was named "Best of the Preps" Track Coach of the Year by the Memphis *Commercial-Appeal*, TSSAA Section 4AAA Track Coach of the Year, and TSSAA Region 7 Track Coach of the Year. He also earned TSSAA's Region 7 Cross Country Coach of the Year title in 2000.



Steve Guymon

Prior to his five-year stint at Cordova, Guymon spent 10 years as the recruiting coordinator and assistant cross country/track coach at the University of Kansas. During his time with the Jayhawks, he coached 15 All-Americans and 15 Big Eight individual champions.

"I have great respect for the tradition and the national reputation that Ted Lloyd and Bryan Phillips have created at Harding. I am going to do my best to keep that going," said Guymon.

During his time at the helm of the cross country/track program, Phillips coached more than 20 All-Americans and led both cross country teams to the NCAA Division II National Meet each of the last two years. The Bison men's team placed fifth at nationals in November, the highest finish by a Gulf South Conference (GSC) school since 1979.

In the last two years, Phillips earned four GSC and three South Region Coach of the Year honors as Harding won both the men's and women's conference titles in their first two seasons in the league.

Tennis players among nation's elite

BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S tennis teams are well on their way to qualifying for NCAA Division II regionals as they did last year.

The Bisons, off to a 9-2 start, are ranked fourth in the NCAA Division II South Region and 23rd in the nation. Leading the push to regionals is freshman David Ferreira, who is undefeated in singles play, with an 8-0 record.

Reigning Gulf South Conference player of the year, Jacobo Martinez, is off to a 9-5 start in

singles play and is one of four Bisons who compete in the number 1-singles slot. Other Bisons with impressive records include Klaus Schmidt (6-1), Artur Sikora (7-5) and Justin John (8-3).

The Bisons have an 18-11 record in doubles play, with the team of Martinez and Schmidt compiling a perfect 5-0 mark. Freshmen Derek Bullington and Stephen Paine are 4-2 as a doubles duo.

The women built a 10-2 record to start the season and are ranked fourth in the South Region and 24th in NCAA Division II.

Four Lady Bisons have reached

11 wins early in the season: Eva and Pernilla Axelsson, Sara Campbell and Daniela Corrales.

Pernilla Axelsson, a senior from Sweden and a transfer from Arkansas State, is an undefeated 8-0 at number 1 singles and has a perfect 21-0 mark in the top spot in her two seasons as a Lady Bison.

Eva Axelsson and Laura Tollett both have 44 victories in their careers, good for seventh on Harding's career victories list.

The Axelsson sisters have a combined 5-0 record as the Lady Bisons' top doubles team. The Campbell and Corrales duo is 7-1.

Sidelines

Ritakallio fifth at nationals

Senior Hanna Ritakallio finished fifth in the 800-meter run at the NCAA Division II Indoor National Meet March 9 at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston, earning her second indoor and third overall All-American honor. She broke her own school record with a 2:09.92 in the preliminaries, the second fastest qualifying time. The Finland native then ran a 2:10.54 in the finals.



Canada's Sean Camilleri hits one of two doubles during the game with Williams Baptist College. Camilleri had four hits, and the Bisons won 16-5.

Bison baseball team off to quick start

THE BISON BASEBALL TEAM used eight- and six-game winning streaks to jump out to an early 15-3 overall record, tying the best start in school history.

After dropping their season opener, the Bisons won eight straight. The weekend of Feb. 15-16, the team traveled to Branson, Mo., and won all three games of the Snowball Classic, hosted by College of the Ozarks, to take the tournament championship.

They then suffered their only home loss of the season, 10-5, to Lyon College, but responded with six more wins. They swept a dou-

bleheader at Northeastern State University, a team they were 3-13 against when both schools were members of the Lone Star Conference. Following a 13-2 win over University of the Ozarks, the Bisons opened Gulf South Conference (GSC) play with a three-game sweep of Christian Brothers University, the first for the Bisons in the GSC.

Junior center fielder Stephen Smith and junior right-hander Aaron Gurley both received GSC Player of the Week honors for their performances against Christian Brothers.

Offensively, the Bisons are led by senior right fielder Kenny Sprenger who has a .407 average. He also leads the team with 11

walks and ranks second with six doubles. Smith and senior Ben James have both launched a team-best four home runs. Sophomore third baseman Morgan Trotter leads the Bisons and ranks sixth in the GSC with 22 RBI.

As a team, the Bisons are hitting .334 and average almost eight runs per game. They have 18 home runs to their opponents combined total of five.

The Bison pitching staff ranks fifth in the GSC with a 3.44 earned-run average. Junior Matt Walter leads the team and the conference with a perfect 4-0 record. Gurley, senior Ryan Lee and freshman Brandon Kimbrough are also off to strong starts.

2002 Bison Football Schedule

Aug. 31	University of Missouri-Rolla	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	East Central University	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	University of North Alabama Florence, Ala.	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Arkansas Tech University Russellville, Ark.	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	University of West Alabama Parents Night	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	State University of West Georgia Carrollton, Ga.	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	Henderson State University Arkadelphia, Ark.	2 p.m.
Oct. 26	University of Arkansas-Monticello	2 p.m.
Nov. 2	Delta State University Homecoming	2 p.m.
Nov. 9	Southern Arkansas University Magnolia, Ark.	2 p.m.
Nov. 16	Ouachita Baptist University	2 p.m.

Home games in bold



Vis-à-vis with America

by JAMIE LOCKWOOD

photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

To international students, a passport is not Honda's sport utility vehicle, and a visa is not how the world pays — they are passage to the United States and to opportunity. From Albania, Belarus, China, Russia and Venezuela, five students speak openly about homesickness, first impressions of America, personal goals and faith.

Emily Mazhirina is on a Quest for a future

SECURITY IS SO STRICT at the U.S. Embassy in St. Petersburg, Russia, that when 17-year-old Emily Mazhirina applied for her tourist visa, officials there put her up against the wall and proceeded to search her bags, her notebook and even her person.

Thus, Emily's adventure to the United States began. "This is my first trip to America, and it was really hard. All the visas, papers and going through consuls are a lot of work," she says. But for a young Russian who had cradled a desire to see America for years, the work was worth it.

Emily spent her first couple of months in Nashville, Tenn., which she laughingly terms "real America" in comparison to small-town Searcy. "It was awesome. I found out about people, went to art and history museums — 1,000 times I went — just to see Van Gogh. Expressionism is my favorite."

She also spent some time in Fayetteville, Ark., with her friend Alex Ivannikov ('99), also from St. Petersburg, who talked to Emily about Harding. In a rapid progression of events, Emily was accepted to the University in late July and housed by Mike Williams, assistant vice president for admissions and student financial services, waiting for the dorms to open for the fall semester. "I really appreciate how Mr. Williams helped me to come here and explained everything to me," she says.

Since then, Emily has unreservedly doused herself in University life. She is working 15-20 hours a week for campus catering, practicing the piano, and majoring in both vocal music and graphic design — an economic move on her part. "The thing is, you're not getting any money for music," she says. "I plan to work in the graphic design field so I can get some money to pay for my school."

Indeed, Emily hopes to stay in the United States for her ca-

reer, believing this is currently her only opportunity for a financially-sound life. "If I stayed in Russia, I would become nobody — nobody, that's for sure. I'd just be another Russian trying to get a job working ... at McDonald's or whatever, just working."


"There are a lot of problems that our president is trying to solve, but it will take him a long, long time. Maybe it will take 20, 50 or even 100 years, and by this time, I'll be old and not getting from life anything that I want. Here I have a possibility to get a lot from life, from a job," she says.

EMILY'S YEARNING for an American adventure has slowly transformed into a goal and hope for her own future, spurred by difficulties faced in Russia. Her financial planning reveals a maturity most 17-year-olds do not possess, and yet, she is still only 17 and thousands of miles from home and her family. Sometimes it's all too overwhelming.

"When I came here, I was ready for a new experience, but then I realized that you will never find another place like your motherland. In America, there is really good stuff, and you can live well, but it still won't be the way you were raised, or your friends ... it's not the same. Sometimes you just feel lonely," Emily says.

She has learned a lot in her 11 months in the states, from art to the Bible, from music to debit cards, but perhaps the most tender new truth for Emily is that there really is no place like home.

"When you are there [in Russia], you see all the negatives," she says. "But now I love my motherland more because it's the country of my parents, country of my grandparents, and I hope the country of my children. I hope of that."

Perhaps hope will become reality, and Russia will grow strong enough to bolster Emily's dream to find financial independence and raise a family in her homeland. If not, the United States offers possibilities for a better life, now and later. 



Venezuela's Goyo Nieto came for love, but is Returning for ministry

SARAH (SHADE '00) NIETO DOESN'T MIND that her husband, Goyo, wears his wedding ring on his right hand. For Venezuelans like Goyo, a band on either ring finger clearly signals "taken." And while he has worn the ring for a mere 20 months, he's been taken with Sarah since the summer of 1998.

Goyo, 27, started writing Sarah after meeting her during the University's summer campaign to Venezuela. He was the newest of three preachers at the 180-member church of Christ in San Cristobal, Venezuela, and she was a campaigner assigned to his congregation. Sarah, a Spanish minor from St. Peters, Mo., was slow in responding to his correspondence.

"Eventually I wrote him back," she says, laughing. Their Spanish e-mails crisscrossed countries for two years, and after several international flights, one denied tourist visa, a national flood disaster in Venezuela, and nine months of English lessons, Sarah had an engagement ring, and Goyo had a student visa to attend Harding's School of Biblical Studies (HSBS).

"I felt like the whole country was against me when they denied my visa, and our families were against me because they were scared, and everybody was against me," says Goyo. "But God was with us."

In fact, after arriving in Searcy in August 2000 after an eight-hour drive from Houston (following the long flight from Venezuela), Goyo thought God might be the only one with him. "I came from Texas to Arkansas, and there was this emptiness. I thought, 'So where's this huge and wonderful country?' I wasn't expecting cows and a lot of plains.

"I was alone. Nobody was here. Sarah was working, and I was facing all the change alone."

The "change" included everything from the suffocating Arkansas humidity to the more substantial culture shock of a different language.

"My first semester was horrible. Not my grades, but learning and listening. The semesters in the HSBS program are eight weeks long, and in my first eight weeks, I had to read seven books. Reading is my best skill because of that class," Goyo says.

And as he was finally settling into a class routine, October rolled around — time to get married. Then it was Sarah's turn

to experience some culture shock.

"I've had to learn to cook heavier meals. Lunch is the main meal in Venezuela, and I gave Goyo a plate with a sandwich on it. He does not eat sandwiches for lunch," says Sarah, still amused by her early ventures. "Now I've learned to make a huge meal for dinner that will give us leftovers for lunch."

Sarah has also learned to make fresh fruit juice, and once every week she and Goyo make traditional Venezuelan arepas — the equivalent of stuffed pitas — to have a taste of home.

But food is just one way the Nietos harbor a little of Venezuela in Searcy. Casitas decorating the walls, a Venezuelan flag hanging in the guest bedroom, the small four-stringed instrument called a cuatro that Goyo serenades Sarah with all echo Latin roots. And of course, so does the Spanish they speak at home.

"GOYO DIDN'T SPEAK ANY ENGLISH WHEN WE MET. Our relationship was based in Spanish, so I guess that's why we still speak it," Sarah says.

In fact, English was Goyo's major hesitation in applying to the HSBS program. "I really wanted to learn more about the Bible, and we didn't have any school in Venezuela. To be honest, though, I didn't think I could do it. I thought it would be too hard for me since I was just learning the language, and this is college level. But Sarah kept encouraging me to come here."

The challenge is worth it to Goyo, though, for the preparation he's receiving. "Just for Greek, biblical interpretation and Old Testament classes, it's worth it to come here. The professors tell you something simple that has a lot behind it because they know Hebrew and Greek and the culture behind the passage."

Goyo hopes his knowledge will eventually benefit other Venezuelans who have a desire to learn God's Word. He and Sarah have recently approached Armando Alaniz of the Sunset School of Preaching in Miami about establishing a school of preaching in San Cristobal.

"We don't have any formal Bible education in Venezuela. We have 50 churches of Christ, and only two preachers have gone to school. The rest of them are just trained by missionar-



Sarah and Goyo Nieto

ies and teaching themselves, so it is a huge necessity."

"And we realized how hard it is to get enough money to move to the United States and learn the language to get a formal education," Sarah adds. "The closest training is in Ecuador. This would be more accessible to Venezuelans."

Offering the two further motivation, the Venezuelan government has recently demanded that all non-Catholic preachers receive a formal education. "They say they don't want to have backyard churches," Goyo says. "We want to do something new and something good for the country."

Sarah agrees, and in 2004 the two plan to return to

Venezuela to pursue this dream — though it's not what either originally anticipated for their ministry.

"What I really want to do is preach, be a preacher," says Goyo. "I want to work with the families and young people, but I think sometimes you have to do what you have to do. I think right now I need to continue this process. We need this. So I'm going to be a teacher-preacher. I'm ready to do that."

Sarah, too, is ready. "Maybe some day we will want to come back. But right now we just want to go there!"

Perhaps then the Nietos Venezuelan visitors will find an American flag hanging in the guest bedroom. ☐

Out of communist clutches, Vera Ranchinskaya is Free to dream

VERA RANCHINSKAYA OF BELARUS bristles when cafeteria goers pile their plates with food they never touch. "If they only knew," the senior international business major says, referring to her experience of living under rations. "Once the Soviet Union fell apart, we had a really hard time finding food. There were coupons, and we would stand in line for three and four hours just for bread and milk."

Those memories have stayed with Vera through the years, across the ocean, and today she still finds herself pausing in the grocery section of Wal-Mart. "I just stand and look at the food and smile because it's going to be here tomorrow, you know," she says. "It's great."

Though her classmates may never fully grasp what she's been through, Vera doesn't begrudge their naiveté. Instead she recognizes that they have been blessed not to know hunger — a hardship that pales when compared to other struggles Belarusians faced at the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Communism had offered structure and organization to the

country; people had hope for their futures. Vera says even kindergartners volunteered to die for Lenin and give their lives to lead the country to a brighter future. But unfortunately, the brighter future the citizens of Belarus spoke of never dawned, and they soon found out the glossy stories of Lenin and his perfect childhood — a childhood they were taught to emulate — were fiction. Lies.

"You don't want to believe anything after that because what you've been told since you were born was all a lie. So there's no structure; there are no goals to live for," Vera says, explaining the state of her home country.

Those dismal sentiments did not permeate Vera, though. She has goals, and five years ago she came to the United States to achieve them. She misses her small Kansas-sized Belarus with the four distinct seasons and "real" pine trees, but she knows America, and more specifically Harding, is where she needs to be.

"I love Harding. I always call it home when I talk to my mom and dad," she says. "I've made some of my best friends here, and I think I've grown a lot."

"Starting college when I was 16 meant that I had to know what I wanted to do with my life. It's made me grow up a little more."

On the fast track to adulthood, Vera will be only 20 when she graduates with her B.B.A. in international business and starts the University's M.B.A. program in August. Post 2004 graduation, she hopes to do financial analysis in collaboration with international business. And that's just the tip of her dreams.

"I'm really hoping that in 15 years, I can organize a non-profit rehab center for teenagers who have drug and alcohol addiction problems — but not the kind they are forced to come to," Vera says. "I just want it to be a place they can come, stay for as long as they want, get help, and know that there is still hope for the future."

After all, Vera knows the importance of having hope for the future, and she believes the offer of a prosperous life is one of America's most effective lures.

"One thing I enjoy the most about the United States is you can always do something to make your life better," she says. "Another thing is the freedom. Back home we don't have freedom of speech, freedom of press. Here you're just free to speak your mind, be who you are and who you want to be, and learn. It's great."

Her only dilemma so far — there are too many opportunities and not enough time to realize them all. ☐



Vera Ranchinskaya

From Albania to America with a Love for language

IMAGINE BEING RAISED IN A CLOSED COUNTRY under communism and hearing about the United States — this great country with big skyscrapers and lights,” says 21-year-old Ilir Skendaj of Tirana, Albania. In truth, though, not many Americans can imagine growing up in Albania.

But Ilir is used to Albania’s crowded streets, hot with the hurry of walking shoppers. He’s experienced at bargaining in open street markets that trickle through piazzas.

He’s weathered a couple of earthquakes, and he’s seen his country riot in response to economic problems. He’s fully aware that Albania is the gate between Eastern and Western Europe, and thus frequented by drug traffickers and prostitutes. And he does understand what it is like to be raised in a closed country under communism, left only to dream of foreign travel, or else face charges of espionage.

Fortunately, though, dreams were enough to motivate Ilir to prepare himself for the entrance of democracy, and he started studying languages: English, French, Italian and Spanish. “You have to love languages and learn them in order to go out because nobody else in the world speaks Albanian,” he says. “But I also just like languages.”

In fact, Ilir worked as an interpreter for an Italian missionary solely for the opportunity to practice Italian. He had no idea the job would change his life. “I just read Giuseppe’s preaching and did the translations,” he says. “He never pushed me, but by looking at his things, I had this urge to get baptized. I felt like it was the right thing to do.”

So Ilir’s passion for languages brought him to his Savior, and after communism fell, it also brought him out of Albania.

AFTER TAKING A ONE-YEAR ACCELERATED English course, Ilir came to the United States in the fall of 1998. “There were seven of us who came over together as part of the student exchange program to finish up our senior year of high school. I went to Morrilton (Ark.) High School for two months, but there were too many Albanians in the same school, and we got kicked out,” Ilir says.

Because of a new school policy, all seven Albanians were abruptly denied an education and forced to take the G.E.D. exam after only five months in America.

Again Ilir’s affinity for languages benefited him, and after passing the G.E.D. exam and spending a semester at Crowley’s Ridge College in Paragould, Ark., he came to Harding in the fall of 1999 to study information technology. So far, he’s enjoyed his time in Searcy.

“I think my experience here has been really good. The professors are really helpful and understanding of problems because they know that we are international students,” says Ilir.

“And that’s one thing I notice about Americans, too. You’ve got nice people. Everybody’s got a big smile on their face, and they’re like, ‘How can we help you?’ I love it. I think one of the best experiences of the United States is just being with the people.”

Ilir enjoys the company of Americans — playing soccer and eating at restaurants with new friends — but nothing compares to spending time with the 18 other Albanians enrolled at the University. “I think everybody is the same way, in that just being away from our country makes us feel more nationalistic, more patriotic. We try to get together as much as we can, arranging our schedules so that we can come together and sing Albanian songs, drink Fanta and watch Albanian movies, or just remember the Albanian language.”



Ilir Skendaj

Obviously the languages, movies, songs, governments and education systems of Albania and the United States differ, but there are still a few things in life that transcend culture, one of which is family. It’s a universal truth that when a child leaves home, mom will miss him.

“Whenever I talk to my mom, she’s like, ‘Oh, Ilir, how are you doing? I kiss you, kiss you,’” he says, laughing. “You know how moms are.”

They’re the same across the globe. III

Christina Zhu knows what it takes To be a Christian

XIANGTAN, CHINA, IS AN OLD CITY with narrow streets traced by shops and swelling seven-floor apartment buildings. People don’t have cars. The economy is bad. But for 23-year-old Christina Zhu, it is home — a home she first left eight years ago to attend a boarding school four hours away, a home she most recently left to study computer science at the University.

Christina’s life changed after hearing the soft midnight voice on the radio at the boarding school. She used to worship idols, but that voice transmitted from Hong Kong told Christina about God for the first time.

“I had heard nothing about Jesus Christ, never seen a Bible in my life,” she says.

The voice talked about salvation, Jesus dying so that people may become friends with God, about eternal life. For Christina, the new thoughts triggered only questions. “What’s eternal life? What’s Jesus?” I thought. And the voice said that the Bible is the Word from God. He always talked about the Bible, and I wondered, ‘What does the Bible look like — big, heavy, everybody can read it, made of bamboo?’ He talked about many books, and I thought, ‘How am I going to carry all these books?’ I had so many questions,” she says.

Christina decided she wanted to read God’s Word. She found a state church, which in China is the people’s legal window to religious “freedom,” a conglomeration of doctrinal interpretations of Christianity. As it turned out, she couldn’t understand the dialect in which the service was conducted, but she did find a Bible.

Propelled by her questions, Christina rose each morning at 6 and read three chapters, starting with Genesis, and finishing a year and a half later with Revelation. “During this time I didn’t meet a preacher or have friends who were Christians, so I had to do it by myself. I decided I wanted to become a Christian,” she says.

A surprise invitation from a girl at school led Christina to attend a Sunday party to practice her English. She soon discovered that the “Sunday party” was actually a gathering of Christians involved with the underground church. Christina studied the Bible with them, and after hearing Milo Hadwin (’61) preach, she was baptized.

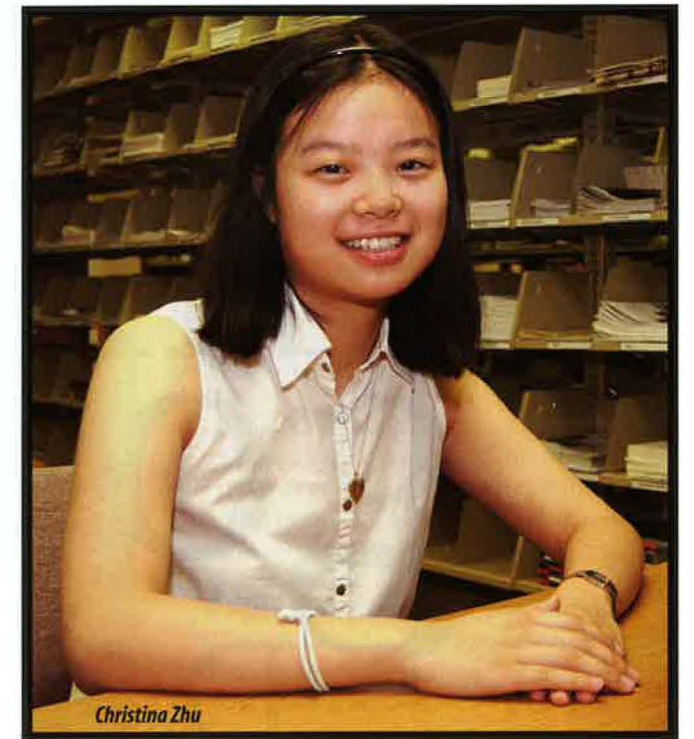
FUELED WITH A NEW FAITH, she returned to her family. She broke the family idols and burned the books. There would be no more trips to pagan temples for Christina Zhu.

“I said, ‘Mom, you cannot have these because there is a true living God, and these are handmade things. They are not real gods, and our God is upset with this.’ My mom said, ‘Oh, these are expensive; you shouldn’t break them.’”

Her dad, who is agnostic, thought she was crazy and worried that her new religion would hurt her chance for a good job, a good future.

An undeterred Christina continued to talk about God to her mother, who was baptized last year at age 61.

Both Christina and her mother have experienced verbal persecution because of their faith, and Christina has been pricked



Christina Zhu

by barbs of criticism from her teachers and classmates in China.

“I felt so lonely, I had no friends, and I said, ‘God, if one day I can be at a place to just have a brother and sister, a fellowship, I want to tell people how you have changed my life. I would tell people I was not a good person, and I worshipped idols and other pagan things, and how I know it is the blood of Jesus that has changed my life.’”

When Hadwin told Christina about the University, she understood the answer to her prayer. “I’d never been to a Christian school before, and I couldn’t even imagine. So I asked Milo what it would look like. He said the people go to chapel every morning, and they have a Bible class, and that most people are Christians and believe the same truths in God.”

In August of 2000, the goodbyes commenced, and Christina departed from the traditions, the red lanterns of the Chinese New Year, the crowded streets of Xiangtan, her family, her country. She left without any idea of where Arkansas was. She thought she would probably have to ride a bike from Little Rock to Searcy, but it didn’t matter because she was going to a Christian school. After three days of travel, Christina arrived at the Little Rock Airport and saw a student holding a poster with her name on it. She wouldn’t need to ride a bike to Searcy after all.

It’s been two years since Christina’s first minutes in America. She’s done some adjusting, not all of it easy. She misses China, and she would like to go back to talk to her father about God. But for now, Harding is home. “I couldn’t think of another place in this world that I could go for school. I think this is the best place for me, and I just love the people here.”

The people, the professors are Christina’s new family, and as she bravely points out, “The bond of Christ is closer than the blood of a people, of a culture.” III

Basketball athlete rebounding his goal DURING

by APRIL MOUSER

photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

BISON BASKETBALL GAMES, Stephen Marx is content to sit on the sidelines. Though this University junior from Clarksville, Texas, once dreamed of making shots as a player on the basketball court, these days he's focused on calling the shots as a coach.

When an injury left him without the use of his legs at age 15, this gifted high school athlete gradually shifted modes to coach mentality. It was something he had planned for anyway — albeit later in life — after the theoretical professional career ended.

Today Marx is in his fifth year of coaching a Little Rock, Ark., team in the junior wheelchair basketball program. This year they placed third in the national championship held in February in Birmingham, Ala. His team is composed of boys 12 and under, who shoot at an 8 1/2-foot goal.

"It is not the Special Olympics," he emphasizes. "It is very competitive. They have tryouts and practices. These kids work really hard."

Marx knows about the competitive nature of wheelchair basketball first-hand. He used to play for the Rollin' Razorbacks, a highly competitive Division I wheelchair basketball team. The team earned a spot in the 2002 Summer Olympics in Sydney, but Marx decided he needed to focus on school ... and his players.

From A to Z

Rather than dwelling on his own disability, he'd much rather talk about these children, who view him as a big brother. "They've been through a lot more than most people their age," he says.

Unlike Marx, whose injuries were sustained later in life, most of these children were born with conditions such as cerebral palsy or spina bifida, and have never known any other lifestyle.

"I'm like an encyclopedia for them," he says. "They ask me questions about driving, dating, college, being on your own. Their moms tend to baby them."

All are issues Marx has confronted since his accident: He lives alone off campus, drives, tries to understand the dating game, and has dealt with the protective parent.

"When I was at home, my mom tried to do everything for me, especially right after the accident," he says. "But she eventually got the picture."

However, dating is one issue that has not been resolved as easily. Marx says the challenge it presents is "one of the serious downsides" of being in a wheelchair.

"You know for a fact that there are people you can't date now," he says. "There are some things you just can't do anymore — things like walking and holding hands, climbing Bee Rock, or jumping off cliffs at Heber Springs." The irony is that he has always been attracted to active women who pursued such activities.

"The whole situation baffles me," he says. "You get taken out of an equation because of something you have no control over." But, as he also admits, it's a sentiment that is echoed universally by many men and women, able-bodied and those who use wheelchairs.



Stephen Marx

Though it may baffle him, it doesn't deter him. Marx says he's always had a competitive drive, which extends to all aspects of his life, from dating to sports. Basketball feeds this drive. Neither of his parents was sports driven, so initially he began playing basketball to prove to them that a contact sport was not going to kill him. After his accident, he began playing wheelchair basketball to prove that he could still do it.

The Accident

One day after school Marx was home with a friend who was looking at one of his dad's guns, a World War II boot Derringer that had been jammed for about 30 years. As the friend was putting the gun back into its case, it went off.

The bullet passed through Marx's aorta, esophagus and diaphragm before becoming lodged in the T-10 vertebra. He awoke after more than eight hours of surgery. As he once told a local reporter, "I remember being thrilled when I woke up. My dad is a pathologist, and I was glad I wasn't one of his patients right then."

Such is the optimism with which he has approached life since

that fateful day. "You can either lie there and be depressed, or you can do something," he says.

As anyone who has spent any amount of time around Marx will tell you, he has chosen the latter. "He is a great person kids look to as an example of hard work and determination," said Jeff Morgan, men's basketball coach. Marx has spent the last two summers helping at Morgan's youth basketball camps.

A System of Support

Teresa McLeod, disability specialist and counselor for Student Support Services, says she has noticed gains Marx has made in his time at the University. "Stephen is his own advocate," she said. "He doesn't need me like he did his freshman year. He has really great communication skills with his teachers."

McLeod describes her role as that of a liaison between faculty and students. "I'm there to make sure students get adequate accommodations in any class," she explains. That may mean arranging for tutors in certain subjects or making the location of the class accessible.

When Marx first arrived at the University in 1997, the Student Support Services office was on the third floor of the Administration Building, a building that has no elevator.

"Stephen named me 'Mother Teresa,'" McLeod explains. "He would yell up the stairs to get my attention, and we would meet in the lobby or in Harold Alexander's office, which was on the ground floor." Now the offices are located in the Lee Building, but the nickname stuck.

"We should all take lessons from Stephen," she says. "He never says, 'Look what's happened to me.'"

"He has a good sense of humor, and he's not shy about sharing his past or revealing his insecurities. He has great people skills and a lot of empathy. He'll be really good with youth."

Now, as he looks toward a career in coaching upon graduation in May 2003 — and he's adamant about coaching able-bodied players — he wants to prove to everyone that he can do it. He knows he may meet some resistance. "I get the looks when I tell people who don't know me that I'm going to coach."

But that doesn't bother him, and he's confident that he will eventually gain his players' respect. "If you're in a position to be a coach, the players have to listen to you — they don't have much of a choice. Then, they see it working. If you know what you're talking about, players pick up on it." And, as he points out, "I can get out there and shoot with them."

This determination to stay in the game — both figuratively and literally — has convinced McLeod and Morgan and many others on the University campus that he'll go far in whichever direction he chooses.

"My friends tell me they forget I'm in a wheelchair," he says. "If people can do that, it's harder to be looked at as if you're handicapped. And really, I'm not. I can do pretty much anything that anyone else does." ■

*Barbara Bush
imparts wisdom
gleaned from
roles as*

first lady, first mom

by APRIL MOUSER

photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

FOR FORMER FIRST LADY and current “first mom” Barbara Bush, an invitation to the University was a long time coming. Her son, George W., was on campus in 1988, campaigning for his soon-to-be-president father, George, who spoke here in 1997. ★ “I’m honored that you invited me to be part of your lecture series,” Barbara Bush told the capacity crowd gathered in Benson Auditorium on April 11. “When I told George where I was going, he told me that he had already visited your beautiful campus, and he said he loved it and

I should accept the invitation.”

Though she was invited to campus to speak based on her own credentials, she did make several references to her husband and son, the “Presidents Bush,” or “President Bushes,” a nomenclature that has yet to be determined.

“As a mother, I would give anything not to have to see the president deal with the awful crises in the world and serve at this challenging time in our history,” she said of George W.’s role. “But as an American, I could not be happier to have

this able, decent, wise man in the White House.”

She spent the rest of the evening imparting some of the lessons she has learned in her 76 years, which encompass 57 years of marriage, six children, 14 grandchildren, five wars, three dress sizes, two governors, two parachute jumps, and now, two presidents.

Several of the lessons touched on the importance of family, and for Bush, who helped found the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, literacy and family values are

interlinked. “The one thing that really worries me is the American family,” she said. “Each one of us in this room — students, everybody — has to make sure that you don’t forget your family. You don’t forget to tell them you love them, you don’t forget to read to them, you don’t forget to hug them.”

Family literacy has been her number one cause for more than 20 years. She said the foundation — for which she serves as honorary chair — has given \$10 million to 305 liter-

acy programs in 44 states, including two in Arkansas. “If more people could read, write and comprehend, so many of our social problems could be solved,” she said.

When a student in the audience asked what she could do to promote literacy, Bush told her she could volunteer in local programs. “I don’t campaign for my foundation,” she said. “I campaign for local literacy programs and help them raise money. I encourage business-people to spend one hour a day mentoring. We all have time.”

Addressing the question-and-answer session following her speech, Barbara Bush tells the audience her favorite first lady is Lady Bird Johnson.



As Bush also pointed out, time is something University students have on their side; they just need to take advantage of it by making the right decisions. “Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time,” she said. “Deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories — starting right now.” ■

During the reception hosted in her honor at President and Mrs. Burks’ home preceding her speech, Barbara Bush enjoys some light-hearted conversation with Aramark catering director Terrie Smith.



Barbara's 10 LIFE LESSONS

1. Learn not to take life too seriously or things too personally.
2. Never ask someone how they feel if he or she is over 70 years of age.
3. When your grandchildren come to visit, don't ever lend your car to them, and be careful of criticizing their clothes.
4. Remind yourself of what's really important in life and what's not.
5. You usually get out of life what you put into it.
6. Don't forget to have fun.
7. Take an active part in your community.
8. Don't forget to spend quality time with your children.
9. Don't forget to read to your children and grandchildren.
10. Don't be afraid of adversity in your personal life.



Senior Maegan Rogers hangs clothing at the Good Samaritan House.

day of outreach

ON FEBRUARY 20,

more than 2,000 students, faculty and staff participated in a community-wide day of outreach. All classes for the day were shortened and held in the morning, leaving the afternoon free for service.

Participants served the city of Searcy through numerous projects, including washing school buses, reading to children in elementary schools, landscaping along the city bike trail, and raking leaves at the homes of elderly residents.

The idea for the Day of Outreach came from members of the Student Association, but the project's main coordinator was senior Kim Hobbs.

Photographer Jeff Montgomery takes us on a tour of the many, and varied, activities of the day. III



Freshman Delaine Odom rakes leaves at the Group Home.

"My **feelings** concerning the Day of Outreach are probably best represented in 1 Peter 4:10 when Peter says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to **serve** others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (NIV). On Feb. 20, I observed a lot of people **fulfilling** these words and doing things for others that they may not necessarily have been able to do for themselves."

— Dr. Dennis Matlock,
assistant professor of biochemistry



Freshman Corbin Wilhelmi, junior Jonathan Stormont and sophomore Morgan Trotter scrub bus windows for Searcy schools.



Senior chemistry major Tommy Nix shows McRae Elementary students how to make slime.

Sophomore Renee Lewis helps paint the hallway to the multipurpose room at the Sunshine School.

"The **Day of Outreach** was the most rewarding experience I have ever had. I was overwhelmed by the **support** of students, faculty and administrators; many helped in ways that were **out of the ordinary** for them."

— Kim Hobbs,
Day of Outreach coordinator

day of outreach



Students carry logs and fallen branches away as part of tornado cleanup at Honeyhill Loop near Searcy.

"Many prayed, and God worked to make it more **successful** than any of us imagined. I know that we **collected** almost twice as much food as we had planned to for the food drive. That just shows **God's ability** to do so much more than all we ask and imagine."

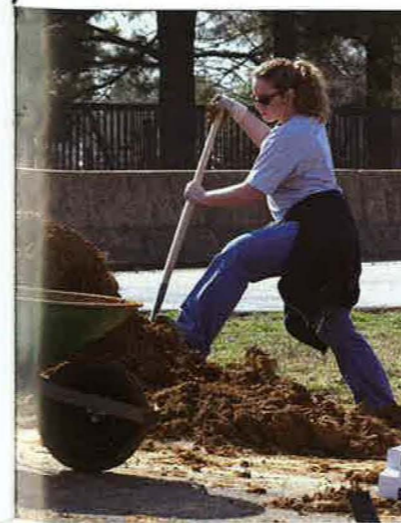
—Jordan Collier,
senior



Early childhood development major Lauren Duncan plays "duck, duck, goose" with first graders at McRae Elementary.

"I keep hearing stories from different people in town, especially the elderly, about how much they appreciated the **servant attitudes** of the students. I feel sure that all of the planning and hard work was not wasted, and that Harding made an **impact** on the community of Searcy."

—Becky Pratt,
instructor of English



At Byrd Haven nursing home, junior Rebekka Brazle and senior Rebecca Terrill wash windows.

Breaking ground, senior Julie Williams helps plant trees along the bike trail near Park Avenue.

DR. LARRY LONG

A Student-tailored Style

by JAMIE LOCKWOOD

photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

WHEN LARRY LONG arrived as a student at Abilene Christian University, he had in mind three career choices: accounting, for the money; coaching, because he liked sports; and English, because two influential high school English teachers had sparked his interest in literature.

His energy group leader at freshmen orientation tipped the scales in favor of English, her major, but she recommended not certifying to teach because those certified inevitably are forced to teach students to write. Long knew he didn't want to do that.

Ironically though, Long has been teaching students how to write since his debut at the head of the classroom as a teaching assistant during

graduate work at Ohio State University. An instructor at Harding since 1976 and voted distinguished professor in 1982, 1987 and 1997, he has had a varied course load through the years — from general education literature classes; to studies of specific authors, genres and time periods; to sections of honors communication courses. However, advanced composition is the one course Long manages to continue teaching despite added responsibilities from a promotion in June 2001 to associate vice president for academic affairs.

If you were to ask him, though, he would say with a smile, "I teach students — not literature, not writing."

During Long's graduate studies, he was required to develop a philosophy of teaching. It was then that he decided he would need to do whatever it takes as a professor to get the material across to his students. He knew he wouldn't be able to generalize the information — he would have to be all things to all people.

"If you're teaching to the class, it's easy," says Long. "But when you're teaching student one, two, three, four, five — that's the challenge. Finding the vehicle, the method for getting the message

During his advanced composition class, Dr. Larry Long and his students analyze the verbs used in an essay.

across to the student is the point at which the passion for teaching must manifest itself. My passion comes from the student sitting out there."

How far will he go to help the student get the message? "Admittedly, there's a little bit of performance involved in teaching," says Long, who willingly exits his comfort zone to communicate the message — to teach — because he knows "a really good and effective college professor has a passion for the discipline and for the communication of that discipline." So Long spends many hours contemplating how to facilitate an individual's understanding of a specific concept or strategy.

For each course, each group's dynamic, and down to each individual student, the message varies.

For students in his literature classes, Long strives to foster both an appreciation for the readings and the ability to connect literature to ideas.

In his advanced composition courses, he aims to assist students to be more effective communicators. "My ideal setting for advanced comp is 10 of us in a circle, peer revising a paper, trying to help one person be a better writer, and having the student respond to the suggestions. I'm happy, if at the end of the semester, everyone goes away as an adequate communicator," he says.

His tedious attention to detail and unflagging efforts do not go unnoticed by his

students. "He really wants everybody to succeed," says Gretchen Harris, a senior English major. "It's not just the class he wants to do well; he wants each person to do his or her best individually. He gives a lot of individual attention, and he's very available to his students."

Long has refined his intuitively student-oriented teaching style through the years, but the fundamental principle of his teaching remains the integration of faith, living and learning. He has helped with College Bowl and hosts a Wednesday night home Bible study for students each week. He encourages his literature students to read a broad range of works and come back and place the ideas within the context of Christian principles. His advanced composition students are exposed daily to his view of writing as a way to understand, achieve and communicate what is true — and they see that there is an inherent value in that skill for Christianity.

Says Long, "I tell my advanced composition classes: 'John chapter 1 tells us that Jesus is God's Word made flesh, and [in class] we're playing around with words. There's a spiritual dimension to it: Communicate what is true without distorting what is true.'"

It's wise instruction from a professor who never intended to teach writing in the first place. ■

Submit your alumni news to "Connections," Harding University Office of Alumni Relations, Box 10768, Searcy, AR 72149-0001; or by e-mail to alumni-news@harding.edu. To subscribe to the weekly e-mail listserv Alumni Digest, send message to subscribe, including your name and class year, to alumni-list@harding.edu. You may post messages to the Digest at the same address.

'42 **Platinum Circle Reunion at Homecoming 2002**

'48 Joanna Thurston Roper's husband, Don, died Dec. 26, 2001. She is a retired professor of English. (2518 Thomas Circle, Clinton, OK 73601)

'52 **Golden Circle Reunion at Homecoming 2002**

'57 **Reunion at Homecoming 2002**

'58 Don Humphrey works in ministry and evangelism with the Oakhurst Church of Christ. Don

is also an author, publisher and world traveler who hosts several tours each year. His wife, Sandra (Herrington, '63), is editor of *Christian Woman* magazine. She is a nationally-known speaker for women's events and has also authored books for adults and children. They have six children. (40494 Stagecoach Road, Oakhurst, CA 93644)

'61 Jerry Hill and his wife, Vern (Pasley, '58), have completed 30 years with Timothy Hill Children's Ranch, a group home for boys. They are continuing to work full time, strengthening the endowment. They have two sons. (50 Wildwood Trail, Riverhead, NY 11901)

Robert H. Jones was named chairman of the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology for 2002-03. He will also serve as secretary of the organization. Jones is a professor of surgery at the Duke Clinical Research Institute. He is married to Cathy (Peters, '67). (Duke University Medical Institute, Box 2986, Durham, NC 27710)

'62 **Reunion at Homecoming 2002**

Faye Woodham Hall is a first-grade teacher for the Southern Kern Unified School District. She recently served as a speaker for the Quartz Hill Church of Christ Ladies Day. (45453 N. Genoa, Lancaster, CA 93534)

'64 Sandy Childers Chavis is

an education specialist for the Pine Bluff School District. She and her husband, Philip, have two children. (2201 Richmond Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71603)

'65 Jerry Hollis is a seventh- and eighth-grade literature teacher at Jefferson Academy in Broomfield, Colo. He and his wife, Becky, have three children. (8255 Iris St., Arvada, CO 80005)

'67 **Reunion at Homecoming 2002**

'68 Lew Bell has been promoted to corporate director of human resources for H Power Corp. He is married to Reta (Lloyd, '67). (11439 Bloomfield Drive, Charlotte, NC 28277)

James Garner retired from Delta Airlines after 32 years of service. He and his wife, Sandra, have four children. (183 Highway 279, Fayette, GA 30214)

Mike O'Neal was named the fifth president of Oklahoma Christian University on Jan. 18. He currently serves as vice chancellor of Pepperdine University. He earned his juris doctorate from Stanford University and served on the Harding faculty from 1974-1976 as an assistant professor of



business administration and as a planned giving officer. A CPA, he also has worked with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand, Touche, Ross & Co. and Ernst & Ernst. Mike and his wife, Nancy (Lavender, '75), have two children. (24721 Laurel Ridge Drive, Malibu, CA 90265)

'69 Bobby Beene Ponder's husband, Joel, died Feb. 19, 2001. She is a teacher for Lordsburg schools and has two sons. (P.O. Box 532, Lordsburg, NM 88045)

David Ramsey is a professor of general business and director of the

ALUMNI PROFILE

Randy ('74) and Tricia (Hester, '77) Lillard

Loving the little children

JAMAL LILLARD learned one of the most important truths about

human beings at an early age: Regardless of external appearance, we are essentially the same inside. He knows this because although he is "brown," the couple he calls mom and dad — Randy and Tricia Lillard — are "apricot."

The Lillards, who have been foster parents for 18 children throughout the past 11 years, brought 6-year-old Jamal into their Bartlett, Tenn., home when he was four months old. His adoption became final in October 2001, as did that of his fraternal twin, Jamier, who came into the care of Charles and Gail Bradley, also of Bartlett.

"Because of our friendship, we were asked to foster the twins so they could be in close contact since there was not a foster family that could take both of them at the time," Tricia said.

"Jamal and Jamier have a typical brother relationship," she says. "They always want to play together, but occasionally fuss and fight when they

do — just like brothers."

Though alternate arrangements had to be made for their care when they were born, Jamal and Jamier do not lack for family today. Randy and Tricia have two older children — Jared ('01) of North Little Rock, Ark., and 18-year-old Callie — and Jamal calls the Bradleys "Mama Gail and Charles."

"We are like one big extended family," says Tricia. Though they have no contact with Jamal's birth mother, the Lillards do keep in touch with his grandmother.

And the family continues to grow. For the last year and a half, the Lillards have been caring for 21-month-old Tekia, working with her birth mother with the hope that she will eventually be able to return to her. Also, Jamal is now an uncle to Jared and wife, Shelby's (Whittington, '00), newborn son, Hunter.

Besides the occasional stare, Tricia says they have not encountered race-related problems. "It is becoming more common to see multiracial families, especially in Memphis," she

says. Before Jamal's adoption was final, African-American families expressed interest in the boys. But one of those couples saw the boys interact with the Lillards and the Bradleys and wondered if



Randy, Jamal and Tricia Lillard

it was a good idea to sever those ties, regardless of color. Said Randy, "Their take was, 'They're too attached to you guys to make a move.'"

Randy says that the bonds they inevitably form with the foster children in their care makes handing over a child for adoption bittersweet. But providing a temporary home for children is a service that desperately needs more volunteers. In October 2001, in recognition of their years of service, the Lillards were voted foster family of the year by AGAPE Child and Family

Services, a Christian organization serving Memphis and the Mid-South region.

The biggest challenge, according to Tricia, has been essentially starting over with their family due to the addition of young

Tekia. "It is sometimes hard to juggle the responsibilities of small children while trying to be grandparents and keep up with Callie's activities," she

says. "Jamal is very active, so we have had to learn different parenting techniques and are still learning every day."

The teaching and learning are what parenting is all about. And — as any parent will say — the Lillards believe the love of a child makes it all worthwhile. "That huge smile, those arms that wrap around your neck as you hear 'I love you,' hearing him say, 'Mom' or 'Dad,' knowing that he is safe when he might not have been without us ... those are the joys." ■

— April Mouser

Drive, Redding, CA 96002)

To Dale ('91) and Nancy Hearn, twin sons, Christopher Reed and Clayton David, Nov. 23, 2001. (6312 Fox Trail, Dallas, TX 75248)

To Patrick ('91) and Sarah (Folkerts, '93) McGaha, a son, Michael Connor, Nov. 25, 2001. Patrick is an assistant professor and head baseball coach at College of the Ozarks, and Sarah is a homemaker. (1611 E. Bingham, Ozark, MO 65721)

To Brian and Marie (Allison, '98) Jeffries, a son, Brian Jr., Nov. 28, 2001. (4901 E. Libby St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254)

To Joe and Nikki (Bledsoe, '94) DeLong, a son, Joseph Michael Jr., Dec. 5, 2001. (3270 Cumberland Court, Kissimmee, FL 34746)

To Jeff and Jane Ann (Gregory, '93) Terwilliger, a daughter, Katie Brooke, Dec. 5, 2001. (26 Trelon Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223)

To Toby and Jenni (Smith, '95) Logsdon, a daughter, Hannah Melissa, Dec. 6, 2001. (7 Elbe St., Fort Bragg, NC 28307)

To Patrick and Rebecca (Wimpy, '92) Sutton, a son, Joshua Jay, Dec. 7, 2001. (1929 Oakbluff Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007)

To John ('89) and Alice (Gill, '89) Griffith, a son, Timothy Winston, Dec. 8, 2001. (110 Belle Glen Drive, Nashville, TN 37221)

To Bryon ('93) and Elizabeth Barnhill, a son, Thomas Michael, Dec. 10, 2001. (9505 Lost Trails Drive, Waco, TX 76712)

To Jonathan ('94) and Angie (Phillips, '94) Hobby, a daughter, Sarah, Dec. 10, 2001. (100 CR 713, Jonesboro, AR 72401)

To Chris ('88) and Betsy (Talbot, '87) Lacy, a son, Grey Roberts, Dec. 10, 2001. (20 Spivey Chase Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236)

To Rick ('90) and April (Cantrell, '91) Butler, a daughter, Addison Leigh, Dec. 11, 2001. (Harding University, Box 10864, Searcy, AR 72149)

To Kell and Karla (Fite, '91) Morris, a son, Kaleb, Dec. 13, 2001. (112 Sugar Maple Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120)

To Carlos ('97) and Denia Hernandez, a son, Carlos Donari, Dec. 15, 2001. Carlos is administrator of the Trujillo Christian School. (Apartado 26, Trujillo, Colon, Honduras 32101)

To Thomas ('95) and Kimberlee

(Watne, '96) Tandy, a daughter, Elizabeth Grace, Dec. 16, 2001. (1408 W. Second Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66044)

To Russ and Stacia (Morris, '93) Beatty, a daughter, Carley Dawn, Dec. 21, 2001. (150 Duncan Drive, Padukah, KY 42003)

To Chris and Mandi (Forbess, '97) King, a daughter, Elizabeth Eden, Dec. 22, 2001. (1808 S. 11th St., Rogers, AR 72756)

To Barry ('97) and Lorrie Phillips, a son, Cooper James, Dec. 25, 2001, by adoption. Barry is an underwriter with State Farm Life Insurance. (951 Chelsea Way, Lake Wales, FL 33853)

To John Mark and Charice (Turner, '95) Curtis, a son, Zachary Lincoln, Dec. 26, 2001. (704 High Eagle Drive, Arlington, TX 76001)

To Duane ('90) and Kelly (Fanning, '89) Stubblefield, a son, Owen Gregory, Dec. 27, 2001. (7105 Briley Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180)

To Eric and Taran (Menge, '91) Kohl, a daughter, Abby Lane, Dec. 28, 2001. (12611 Chriswood Drive, Cypress, TX 77429)

To Duane and Amy (Hawkins, '93) Jones, a son, Ethan Michael, Dec. 30, 2001. (118 Canterbury St., Bethalto, IL 62010)

To Scott ('96) and Mavene (Mays, '95) Thibodeaux, a daughter, Sophie Lee, Dec. 31, 2001. Scott is youth and family minister for the Duncanville Church of Christ. (1417 Vanderbilt, E602, Fort Worth, TX 76120)

To Rich ('94) and Heather (Troutwine, '96) Little, a son, William Thomas, Jan. 2. (2158 Blacksmith Drive, Wheaton, IL 60187)

To Zack ('95) and Angie (Baskett, '94) Wesley, a daughter, Jenna Reese, Jan. 3. (3005 Tilden St., Houston, TX 77025)

To Mark and Jennifer (Johnson, '95) Curtis, twins, Madeline Grace and Duke Alan, Jan. 7. (6239 S.W. Arbor Grove Drive, Corvallis, OR 97333)

To Jason ('93) and Suzannah (Lepper, '94) Foster, a daughter, Evelyn Rose, Jan. 10. (6528 Old Carriage Way, Alexandria, VA 22315)

To James ('96) and Becky (Carroll, '96) Clark, a daughter, Emma Elizabeth Ann, Jan. 23. (2131 Rocky Mill Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044)

To Mike ('91) and Diane (Roof, '92) May, a son, David Michael

III, Jan. 29. Diane received her master's in early childhood special education in December 2001. (243 Maria Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106)

To Todd and Jennifer (Chesser, '95) Newman, a son, Michael Scott, Feb. 2. (420 Lakeside Drive, Irving, TX 75062)

To Jeffrey ('91) and Karen (Miller, '94) Felzien, a daughter, Menolly Brooke, March 3. (320 Eastlawne Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48307)

Deaths

Lamar Plunket ('43), 79, died June 5, 2001. He is survived by four children, Trudie, Bonnie Barnett ('69), Joseph and Rodney ('90).

Geraldine Young Holland ('47), 76, died July 7, 2001. She served for four years with her husband as a missionary to Japan. She retired from Pepperdine University as an administrative assistant in 1992. She is survived by her husband, Harold ('45); three sons, Robert, Kenneth and John; a daughter, Luanne ('82); and eight grandchildren. (6421 S. 112th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133)

Mary D. Goins Reilly ('57), 66, died July 14, 2001, from cancer. She is survived by two sons, John and Tom; a daughter, Kathy Roznos; and five sisters, Doris Reeves, Louise Richardson, Lois Richardson, Jane Howard ('60) and Lydia Brown ('62).

David MacDougall ('60), 62, died July 16, 2001. He was in retail management for 41 years. He is survived by his wife, Glenda (McHaney, '61); two sons, David and William; three daughters, Mary Knapp, Lori Botkin and Shannon Mullenax; and five grandchildren. (308 Chestnut, Warren, AR 71671)

Juanice Dill Niestadt ('59), 65, died Aug. 8, 2001. She served as an editor for the *Osceola Sentinel and Tribune* newspaper and was a volunteer with the American Cancer Society. She is survived by her husband, John ('59); sons, Jonathan ('87) and Jeremy ('88); a daughter, Jennifer Bennett; and nine grandchildren. (131 N. Park, Osceola, IA 50213)

Delbert Lewis ('69), 54, died from heart failure Dec. 1, 2001. He was a retired disability consultant for the state of Arkansas.

Dot Baker Watson ('48), 79, died Dec. 12, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Max; three daughters, Louanne ('77), Melanie and Sarah; and a son, Steven. (3203 Beverly Road, Austin, TX 78703)

Ryan Howard ('84), 53, died Dec. 17, 2001, from an acute infection of the heart. He was a licensed

Dara Cossey, 23, a sophomore majoring in graphic design, died Oct. 6, 2001, from liver failure. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brady

Cossey. (P.O. Box 1091, Cabot, AR 72023)

Nyal Royse, former director of graduate studies and education faculty member, died Oct. 28, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 60 years, Loretta; and is survived by four daughters, Nancy Hendricks ('67), Melceena Moubray, Lois Alexander and Binnie Willis; and nine grandchildren. (15810 N.E. 35th St., Vancouver, WA 98682)

Robert Gibson ('36), 87, died Nov. 1, 2001, from complications with Alzheimer's disease. A naval veteran of World War II, he was the owner/operator of Fort Smith Refrigeration Co. for 47 years. A past president of the Fort Smith Rotary Club, he served on the board of directors of the Southern Christian Home in Morrilton, Ark., for 30 years. He is survived by his daughters, Kathy Lasater and Ann Romano ('74), and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Perrian.

Gene Mowrer ('51), 74, died Nov. 17, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Betty (Rhodes, '49); and three sons, Michael, David and Rickey. (867 Paint Rock Ferry Road, Kingston, TN 37763)

Roger "Jerry" Hughes ('63), 62, died from renal failure Nov. 22, 2001. He was a science teacher. He is survived by his mother, Loretta Hughes; a brother, James ('57); two daughters, Shelly Keller ('93) and Cheryl Clark ('96); and two sons, Shane and Chad, a senior at Harding. (519 S. York St., Denver, CO 80209)

Denis Dutka ('66), 66, died Dec. 10, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Martha, and son, Duane. (4313 Rebecca Cove, Olive Branch, MS 38654)

Gertrude Dykes, 93, died Sept. 28, 2001. She was the widow of John L. Dykes, manager of the Harding Bookstore, and served as assistant manager until her retirement. She also founded Camp Wyldewood with her husband. She is survived by a daughter, Latina ('64), and a son, Norman ('57).

marriage and family therapist. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and children Joseph and Rachel. (13604 Avenida Grande, San Diego, CA 92129)

David Goins ('65), 58, died Dec. 29, 2001, from cancer. He was an excavating contractor. He is survived by his wife, Judy; two sons, Steve and David; three daughters, Leah Douglas ('94), Beverly Tripp and Rebecca; five sisters, Doris Reeves, Louise Richardson, Lois Richardson, Jane Howard ('60) and Lydia Brown ('62), and four grandchildren.

Sherry Watson Mercieca ('72), 51, died Dec. 29, 2001. She earned her bachelor's in English and music and her master's in counseling psychology from Alabama A&M University. She was the founder and director of the Huntsville Feminist Chorus. She is survived by her husband, Charles; a daughter, Juliette; and a son, Alexander. (2013 Orba Drive, Huntsville, AL 35811)

William Glyde Poplin ('28), 96, died Jan. 8. A minister for 76 years, he hosted a radio broadcast, "The Truth in Love," for 40 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Stella (Marshall, '28). He is survived by three children, Helen

Mackey ('50), Arlene Johnston and Bill Poplin.

Kristin Altman, 20, a junior majoring in professional sales, died Jan. 16 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She is survived by her parents, Dane ('77) and Carole ('77) (Winther, '80); and one sister, Dana, a freshman at Harding. (3225 Charring Cross, Plano, TX 75025)

Michael Niswander ('77), 49, died Jan. 24. He was a nurse anesthetist at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, Ark. He is survived by his wife, Heidi, and a son, Kane. (12307 Willow Lane, Scott, AR 72142)

Doris Jean Abney Turner ('48), 74, died Jan. 25. She is survived by two brothers, Robert ('52) and Gary ('69) Abney; two sons, William and Robert; and two grandchildren.

Russell Showalter ('48), 81, died Jan. 27. He was financial aid director at Harding from 1967-1988. He was a former president of the Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administration and

was also a former Searcy City Council member. He is survived by his wife, Jean (Kent), and two sons, Phil ('91) and Marc ('78). (1605 E. Market, Searcy, AR 72143)

Cora Kerr Blue ('42), 87, died Jan. 28. She is survived by her husband, Troy ('42); two sons, Glen ('70) and Leon ('72); a daughter, Anne Rouse ('65); and seven grandchildren. (133 Cloverdale, Searcy, AR 72143)

Ruby Parrott Janes ('34), 88, died Feb. 10. She was a dorm manager at Harding from 1963-1983. She is survived by two daughters, Mary Lee Wilkerson ('64) and Deborah Work ('69), and five grandchildren.

James Earl McLeod ('75), 49, died March 13 in Tallahassee, Fla. He taught in middle schools in Arkansas and Florida and at North Florida Community College. He most recently worked with Pride of Florida. He is survived by one brother, Don.

Jeanna Slatton Smith ('78), 45, died March 18. She is survived by her husband, Claude; a daughter,

Nicole, a junior at Harding; her mother, Clara Haddock Slatton ('50); and two brothers, Ronnie ('76) and David ('91). (69 Mohawk Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Connie Ford ('41), 84, died March 21. She was a retired librarian for the Union Electric Co.

Caroline Ruth Hamm Cauthern ('61), 64, died from cancer March 24. She taught 17 years at Haltom High School in Fort Worth, Texas, after teaching at the university level in Fort Worth and New York. She is survived by her husband, Buster; three daughters, Becky Evans, Barbara Rushing and Joan Patton; a son, Wayne; and 12 grandchildren. (RR1, Box 67, Graham, TX 76450)

Nita Gray Cooper ('58), 64, died March 26. She is survived by her husband, Burl ('59), and a son, Cameron ('01). (295 Burl Cooper Road, Romance, AR 72136)

Alan Neale Pryor ('84), 40, died April 8, from cancer. He was a business professor at Drexel University. He is survived by his wife, Kerrin; three children, Lindsey, Dylan and Nikole; his parents, Neale ('56) and Treva (Terrell, '86); and a sister, Lori Sloan ('86). (458 Virginia Ave., Paoli, PA 19301)

EVENTS

MAY

29 Summer classes begin, Graduate School of Religion; (901) 761-1353

JUNE

3 Summer I begins, main campus; (501) 279-4407
 9-14 National Leadership Forum, American Studies Institute; (501) 279-4497
 13-14 Summer Experience I; 800-477-4407
 15-20 Uplift I, Institute for Church & Family; (501) 279-4660
 20-23 Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre, "Bell, Book and Candle," communication department; (501) 279-4445
 22-27 Uplift II, Institute for Church & Family; (501) 279-4660
 24-28 Kids Kollege, American Studies Institute; (501) 279-4497
 28-7/12 Honors Symposium, Session A; (501) 279-4478

JULY

1 Summer II begins, main campus; (501) 279-4407
 4-6 Uplift Family Getaway, Institute for Church & Family; (501) 279-4660
 5-19 Honors Symposium, Session B; (501) 279-4478
 11-12 Summer Experience II; 800-477-4407

11-14 Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre, "Ten Little Indians," communication department; (501) 279-4445
 12-26 Honors Symposium, Session C; (501) 279-4478
 27 Summer commencement exercises, main campus, Benson Auditorium, 10 a.m.

AUGUST

1-4 Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre, "You Can't Take it With You," communication department; (501) 279-4445
 11-14 Tahkodah Music Camp, music department; (501) 279-4343
 14-17 Marching Band Camp, music department; (501) 279-4343
 15-19 Student Impact
 19 Registration for fall classes, main campus; (501) 279-4403
 20 Fall classes begin, main campus
 27 Arkansas Ministers and Wives Day, Institute for Church & Family; (501) 279-4660

SEPTEMBER

29-10/2 Lectureship, Institute for Church & Family; (501) 279-4660

OCTOBER

4-6 Family Weekend, Office of Alumni Relations; (501) 279-4276
 24-26 Homecoming, Office of Alumni Relations; (501) 279-4276

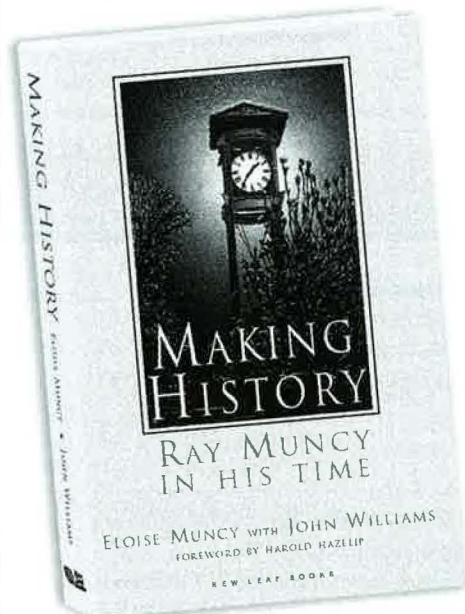


Distinguished history professor, author, preacher: Ray Muncy made his mark

MEASURED SIMPLY IN LENGTH OF SERVICE, Ray Muncy's 30 years on the Harding faculty were not that unusual. Many have served longer. ■ But when the senior class of 1994 raised funds to honor the late history professor with the clock tower along the busy plaza between the Student Center and Benson Auditorium, they made a statement about the impact of those 30 years. Today, most close observers of Harding would agree that Muncy belongs in the first rank of memorable and influential teachers in the school's history.

And now comes a book that gives readers a close look at this man's life. Muncy's widow, Eloise, has written a biography of her husband with the help of Dr. John Williams, associate professor of English. Titled *Making History: Ray Muncy in His Time*, the volume was issued in April by New Leaf Books, a Christian publishing house headed by church historian Leonard Allen.

Muncy, whose scrupulous scholarship produced three books of history during his Harding career, would be humbled by



the attention inherent in such a project, but he would also be proud of the careful work that went into recreating the story of his life. A seeker of truth and a lover of language, he would admire this readable, very human history — even though it's his own.

Actually, it's more than Ray Muncy's life. It's also a story about churches of Christ in the heart of the 20th century — Muncy preached full time for many years in West Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana before coming to Harding, and continued to preach at country congregations around Searcy. He also served as an elder at Col-

lege Church. The book addresses social and doctrinal themes throughout; for example, in his early career, Muncy had to deal with racial discrimination and even unwittingly found himself hired by — and serving for several years — a congregation at odds with his doctrinal views.

It's the story, too, of Harding in the last third of the century, starting with the Muncys' 1964 arrival in a sleepy little Searcy that was about to experience growing pains along with the college. Ten years later, as an adopted native son, Muncy was commissioned by the city to write its history for the bicentennial celebration of 1976. His book, *Searcy, Arkansas: A Frontier Town Grows Up with America*, brought attention and pride to a community that still loves and respects him.

From the start, students recognized Muncy as a fascinating but demanding teacher, and his achievement of Distinguished Professor status in 1988 formalized the reputation. You walked into one of his history classes to find the chalkboard already filled with names and terms to be covered in that day's lecture. You listened to a man full of passion for his subject, a scholar who loved learning as much as teaching, who strove for the same excellence in his work that he expected of his students. You might have been in class the day he made it through all but one of the historical names on the board, a name no one recognized. Then Muncy proudly announced that this famous person was his first grandchild, newly born.

Yes, he had a sense of humor, with a quick mind and a great, hearty laugh that rumbled out for both students and friends. He loved telling of the time he heard two students approach his closed office door and, not realizing he was inside, scan the grades posted there. When he heard one of them gasp and blurt out, "That dirty dog!" he couldn't help responding with a vigorous bark and then listened to the frantically retreating footsteps.

As much as his colleagues loved him, we

also could find him intimidating. If one of us fell into step with Muncy on the way to chapel, we'd better be ready to talk about books, because he'd usually ask, "What have you been reading?" Ready for the question, a colleague once lent Muncy a scholarly volume he thought might keep him busy for a while, only to have him return it just a day later, already finished with it and ready to discuss.

I think we all recognized him as the best scholar on campus. His doctoral dissertation on marriage in utopian communities, published by a scholarly press, caused enough of a stir to merit a paperback edition and gave him a reputation in wider history and sociology circles. Muncy never lost the hunger for learning. His interest in communal societies led him to field research in an Israeli kibbutz, and one year he even audited organic chemistry — by reputation one of the University's most challenging courses — because he thought he should know more about the subject.

Such a breadth of interests made Muncy a natural leader for the liberal arts at the University. Especially in his later years, few faculty meetings went by without his making an impassioned statement about preserving the integrity of the general education program against the inroads of specialized studies. He believed especially in the humanities, and he and Eloise enjoyed two stints at the University's campus in Florence, Italy.

Perhaps more than anything, *Making History* is a story of faith and love through one family's remarkable struggles and triumphs.

Readers will probably be moved most by the parts of Muncy's life they didn't know much about — his impoverished childhood in the coal-mining hills of West Virginia; the days of courtship with Eloise at Freed-Hardeman College; the years as a young preacher, husband and father; and yes, the heartbreaking personal crises that beset the Muncy family.

Eloise has said that although she loved the man she married, she loved even more the man he became. Thanks to her and Williams, the many friends and admirers of Ray Muncy can now trace his journey and discover new reasons to be thankful they knew him. ■ — *Dennis Organ*

Editor's note: You may purchase *Making History* by calling the University Bookstore at 1-800-477-4351.

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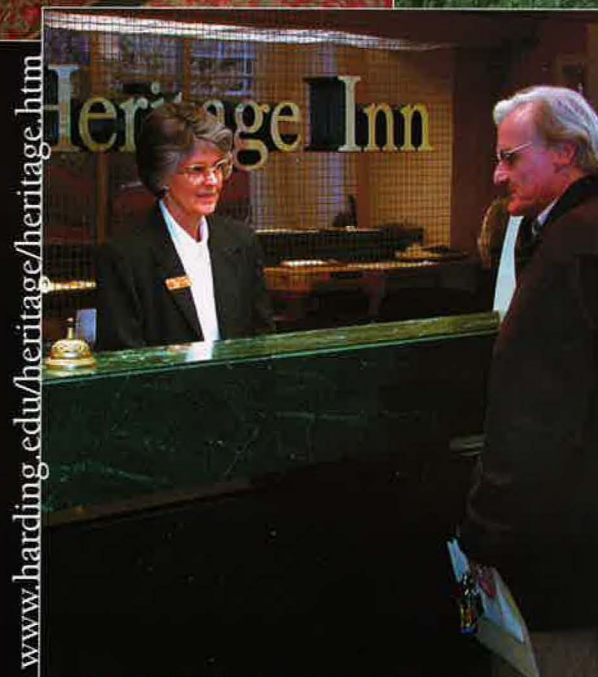
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Sophomore Dara Derbigny and senior Michael Woodall join with the University Chorus to perform "America the Beautiful: A Festival Finale" during the American Studies Institute's lecture series presentation by Barbara Bush. For more on Bush's lecture, see page 16.