

Fall 10-1-2006

## Harding Magazine Fall 2006 (vol. 14, no. 3)

Harding University

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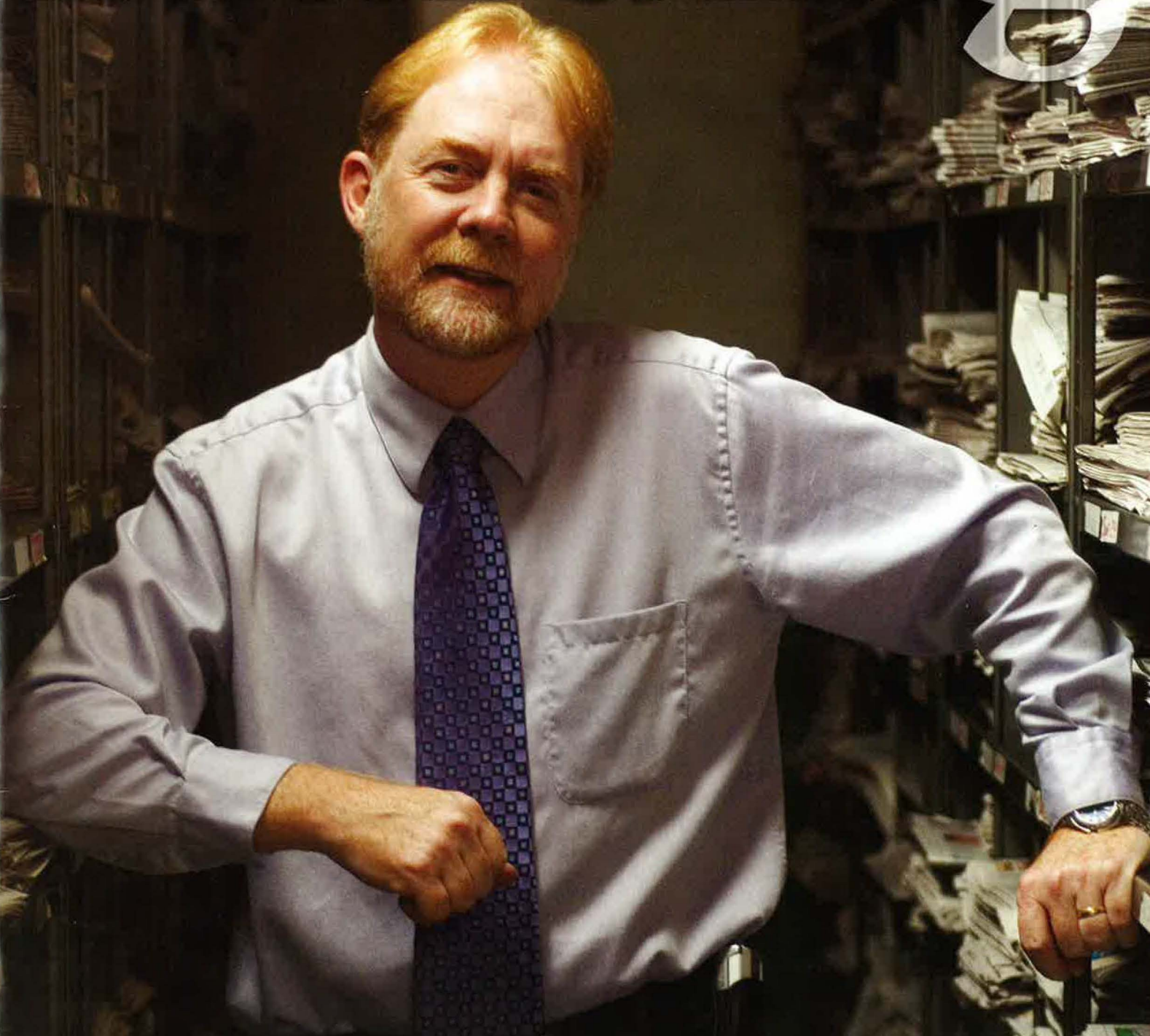
Harding University. (2006). Harding Magazine Fall 2006 (vol. 14, no. 3). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/humagazines/19>

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# Harding

FALL  
2006



U covering the past

V.14  
#3  
Fall '06

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# International success

By DAVID B. BURKS



I WAS THRILLED TO JOIN DR. NICKY BOYD, WALTON SCHOLARS director, on a trip to Nicaragua and El Salvador in July for a Walton Scholars Alumni Reunion. We were joined by Dr. Rick Niece, president of the University of the Ozarks, and Dr. Chip Pollard, president of John Brown University, who are partners with us in this program. Don Soderquist, former senior vice chairman of Wal-Mart, was the keynote speaker and Walton family representative. As I met new students, alumni and some of their parents, I was reminded of just how special this program is to the University.

We were in Central America to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Walton Scholarship Program. (Page 2) To date, 273 scholars have graduated from the University, and more than 96 percent have kept their commitment to then return to their home country. An amazing success story for international education, I do not know another like it anywhere in the United States.

I couldn't help but reflect on my first meeting with the late Sam Walton in 1986. I was talking to him about the possibility of endowing our American Studies Institute, but his love and interest at that time was to help educate young people in Mexico and Central America. The result was the Walton International Scholarship Program. Walton's dream was that these students would receive a high-quality, Christian education and then return home as leaders in many different fields and thus make a difference.

All three universities are required to stay in touch with graduates by keeping up with their job status and evaluating the impact they are making in their countries. I am amazed at what these alumni are doing and believe it is only a glimpse of what can happen in the coming decades.

**Walton's foresight in creating this program and providing full scholarships for students who could not otherwise attend college has been a remarkable success story in and of itself.**

I remember talking with Maria Valeria Bendaña ('94), who is now starting her own business after working several years for BellSouth Nicaragua in a managerial position. She said, "Being a recipient of the Walton Scholarship has certainly been a blessing in my life; thanks to the Walton family, I had the opportunity to spend four years in the United States at Harding University, where I made the best friends I have ever had, both Americans and Central Americans. I am actively involved in the Walton Scholar Nicaraguan Committee and try to help both in the recruiting process of high-potential candidates and in the job-hunting process of Walton alumni. I am just trying to give back some of what I received as a Walton Scholar."

The University is indeed grateful for the Walton Scholarship Program. We are appreciative of the late Sam Walton; his wife, Helen; and members of the Walton family who continue to make this program possible. They are indeed investing in the lives of these young people and in the future of Mexico and Central America. This is just one of the ways in which Walton and his family have truly made a difference, not only in the United States, but also around the world. ❧

*David B. Burks*

# Harding

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Harding is published in January, May and October by the Public Relations Office 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 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, Ark.; (501) 279-4316; fax: (501) 279-4154.

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## ON THE COVER

In an interview with Dr. Dennis Organ, Jerry Mitchell provides insight into why he was selected a Pulitzer prize finalist. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.





KATV sportscaster Paul Eells interviews tennis coach David Elliott April 4. Elliott reached his 1,000th career win after the Lady Bisons defeated Christian Brothers University 9-0. (Page 8)

## FEATURES

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### 18 The Tour de France and Switzerland to boot

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### 22 How well do you know campus?

University edifices leave an impression on alumni young and old. Use our clues and your sharp eyes to identify these 10 landmarks.

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## Dean selected for College of Pharmacy

A DEAN HAS BEEN HIRED FOR the University's developing College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, former assistant dean for administration and clinical associate professor at Mercer



Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace

University Southern School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, began in August.

"I am excited about our opportunity to have her expertise, leadership and commitment to Christian education applied to our new pharmacy program," said Dr. Larry Long, vice president for Academic Affairs. "I am confident that she will contribute greatly to our mission."

Hixson-Wallace holds the doctor of pharmacy degree from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy, where she had worked in various capacities since 1992. Her positions included director of the Office of Continuing Education and assistant director for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. She had served as clinical pharmacist at DeKalb Medical Center since 1994.

Hiring a dean was one of the first steps in the preliminary application for accreditation, which the University plans to complete in time to start a class in fall 2007. Long and President David B. Burks have met with a representative of the Accreditation Council on Pharmaceutical Education, the agency through which the College of Pharmacy will seek accreditation. The four-year degree

program will lead to a doctorate of pharmacy.

Hixson-Wallace currently holds office in the Physician Assistant Studies facility, but the College of Pharmacy will lease space from White County Medical Center's South Building. She expects to enroll 40 students in the first class, add 50 the second year, and eventually operate at full capacity with 60 students per class.

## New seal revealed

AFTER MUCH DEBATE AND several revisions, the University seal has been transformed to ensure it accurately reflects and reinforces Harding's current status.

Gone are the terms "truth," "knowledge" and "freedom," which have been replaced with key words used in current advertising and publications. According to President David B. Burks, "The [new] seal incorporates a new typeface and the use of 'faith,' 'learning' and 'living' — our official mission statement."

A Scripture reference to Matthew 28:19 serves as a reminder of the ultimate goal that unifies the academic community. The globe ties in not only to the verse, but also represents the University's emphasis on global education.

Harding's founding year, 1924, replaced "Searcy, Arkansas," at the bottom of the seal and is framed with laurel branches, a well-known symbol of collegiality.

In addition to being displayed in the Heritage lobby, the seal will be used on official documents such as transcripts, diplomas and presidential correspondence.



## Walton Scholars celebrate 20th anniversary

THE 20TH REUNION OF THE Walton International Scholarship Program was held in July in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

President David B. Burks attended with Dr. Nicky Boyd, director of the University's Walton Scholarship Program. The reunion took place as two conferences, one July 20 in San Salvador, El Salvador, and one July 22 in Managua, Nicaragua.

Don Soderquist, retired Wal-Mart senior vice chairman, was the keynote speaker at the seminars, addressing attendees on business ethics and servant leadership. Joel Chavez, a senior Walton Scholar from San Salvador, attended and was inspired by Soderquist's speech. "The way he speaks and acts shows that he is a leader," said Chavez. "I will continue to attend the reunions in the future to learn more about life

and how to treat people."

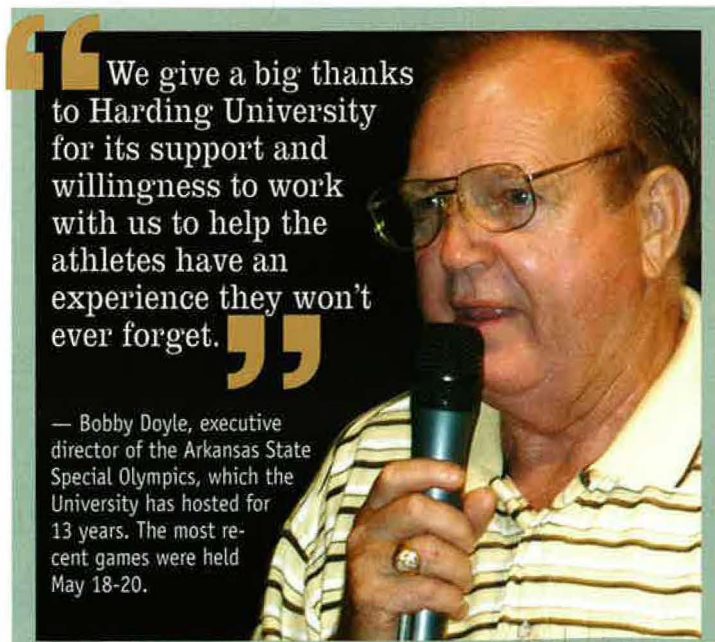
About 250 people attended each of the conferences. "There was a good turnout," said Boyd. "Our students and alumni really enjoy getting to see each other."

Those in attendance represented Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama in addition to the host countries. The University of the Ozarks and John Brown University, which partner with the Walton Scholarship Program, were also represented.

These reunions help Walton Scholars stay in touch with one another and the universities from which they graduate. Boyd said that being active in the University's alumni association helps Walton Scholars make contacts and find jobs.

"The scholarship and Harding University experience provided different professional and personal tools for my entire life," said Biannca Castroneira ('02) of El Salvador.

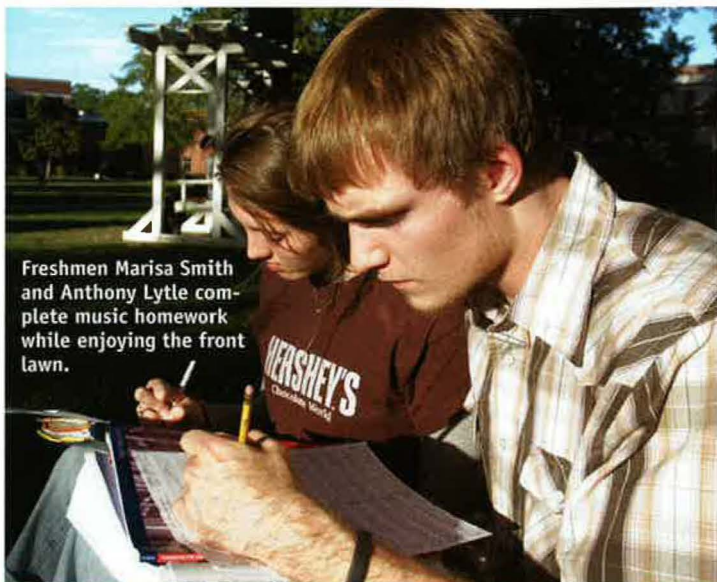
The reunions rotate among Mexico and Central American countries to help make it easier for alumni to attend. All current Walton Scholars and program alumni are invited.



"We give a big thanks to Harding University for its support and willingness to work with us to help the athletes have an experience they won't ever forget."

— Bobby Doyle, executive director of the Arkansas State Special Olympics, which the University has hosted for 13 years. The most recent games were held May 18-20.





Freshmen Marisa Smith and Anthony Lytle complete music homework while enjoying the front lawn.

## Enrollment surpasses 6,000

At 6,108, ENROLLMENT SET a new high for the 20th consecutive year, increasing 2.2 percent over last year's total of 5,975.

Fueled by a 10.5 percent growth in graduate enrollment, the figure is also bolstered by a strong retention rate of 80.8 percent.

"This is a manageable growth rate," says President David B. Burks of the record enrollment. "It falls within the parameters set by the board of trustees. Our undergraduate numbers did not quite reach the level that we thought they would. However, we are pleased with a 2.2 percent overall increase."

Undergraduate enrollment is 4,048, with 1,101 of those being new students. The student body represents 49 states and 47 foreign countries. With 16 freshman National Merit Finalists, the University expects to be among the top 125 schools in the country in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars.

"Harding remains a university of choice," says Dr. Jim Carr, executive vice president. "Students from literally all over the world are choosing to be here."

The total number of graduate students jumped from 1,864 to 2,060, as business and education graduate offerings continue to gain popularity. There are 1,591 students in various graduate education programs, and 160 students in the MBA program. The MBA program is offered on the Searcy campus and at the North Little Rock Professional Center, while graduate education programs are offered in Searcy, North Little Rock and Bentonville, at the Northwest Arkansas Professional Center.

Adding diversity to the student body are 230 international students.

The number also includes 143 students studying overseas at International Program sites in Brisbane, Australia; Viña del Mar, Chile; Athens, Greece; and Florence, Italy.

The Honors College continues to draw with 768 participants, a figure that contains 19 percent of the first-time-in-college students.

"Applications for next year are already pouring in," says Carr. "We expect a record number of applications for fall 2007 and strongly encourage students interested to visit Harding and apply as soon as possible."

## University continues to rank among the best

TWO ANNUAL COLLEGE GUIDES selected the University for inclusion this fall.

The Princeton Review has included the University in its top 146 listing of schools receiving the Best Southeastern College designation.

Aimed at providing prospective students with a complete picture of what life is like at the University, the ranking is based on statistical and student opinion-based narrative information.

The survey asked 80 questions about academics, campus life, and the student body, as well as the students themselves. The narrative profile includes extensive and candid feedback from surveyed students regarding the University.

A geographically and culturally diverse student body, friendly people, and emphasis on spirituality were some of the descriptions provided by participants.

For the 13th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Harding among the South's best universities in its annual *America's Best Colleges* issue. At 24th, the University is the highest-ranked Arkansas school in this category.

The report also named Harding one of the "great values" among universities in the South.

To determine the rankings, the magazine first evaluated and then compiled an overall score for approximately 600 academic institutions across the nation. Areas examined included academic reputation, student retention rates, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratios, student selectivity and alumni giving.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. **Marty Spears** has been named assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. He will continue directing the Office of Institutional Research, Testing and Outcomes Assessment.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

#### Department of Art and Design

**Maggie Hlasta**, a senior art major from Doylestown, Pa., won first place in cover design at the Brass Ring Awards Design Competition held April 1 at Oklahoma Christian University.

#### Department of Communication

**Justin Ardrey**, a senior interactive media major from Newport, Ark., won third place in the 3-D design category and an Award of Excellence in the miscellaneous design category at the Brass Ring Awards Design Competition held April 1 at Oklahoma Christian University.

#### Department of English

**Kathy Dillion**, assistant professor of English, successfully defended her dissertation in May and received the Ph.D. in heritage studies with an emphasis in literature from Arkansas State University. The title of her dissertation was "Friends Watching 'Friends': American Television in Egypt."

### COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND RELIGION

Dr. **Howard Norton**, professor and assistant dean for church relations, was honored at an appreciation dinner May 3 at the Pepperdine University Lectureship. He and his wife, Jane, received the Distinguished Christian Service Award.

Dr. **Bill Richardson**, associate professor and director of the Master of Ministry program, has been named interim director of the School of Biblical Studies.

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Dr. **Mark Davis** has been named the new associate dean, Dr. **Jimmy Behel** is graduate academic affairs director for the college, and Dr. **Allen Frazier** is serving as the new chair of management.

**Rhonda Bell**, assistant professor, received the doctor of business administration degree in August from Argosy University. Her dissertation was titled "Spirituality and Job Satisfaction: A Correlation Study Among Nurses." >>





Dr. Monte Cox congratulates honorees David and Linda Smith during the HUT dedication May 6.

## Global Village expands

IN MAY, HARDING UNIVERSITY at Tahkodah saw the fulfillment of a two-decade project with the dedication of the David E. and Linda S. Smith Conference Center.

The early '90s changed the face of missions at the University as faculty members Dr. Monte Cox and Jerry Myhan set out to close a gap in missionary training. They saw a need for practical ways to respond to the chronic poverty both had encountered in the mission field.

Beginning in 1994, Cox and Myhan taught the first Development Ministry course at Heifer International's Global Village in Perryville, Ark. However, their goal was to establish a facility on University property that would offer hands-on training for Christian service around the world.

Construction of the Missionary Training Village near Floral, Ark., was completed in 2002, with students housed at nearby Camp Tahkodah. The conference center became functional in May 2005, allowing the entire Development Ministry course to be taught on site. The facility contains classrooms, a kitchen and a "comfort zone" to house guests.

The idea for the center was conceived in fall of 1999, and the Smiths, along with many

other generous donors and volunteers, helped bring this dream to fruition. Active in missions for years, they both served as charter members of the center's advisory council.

The Smiths are members of Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark., and its missions committee, of which David is chair. He also directs the Haiti Christian development project.

To book visits to the village, call (501) 279-5138 or e-mail [hut@harding.edu](mailto:hut@harding.edu).

## Log in for Bible — en Español

AS PART OF ITS OUTREACH efforts, the University has expanded its online Bible program to include a Spanish-language course.

Introduction to the Bible, offered in English and Spanish, began Aug. 24 and runs through Nov. 1. The Spanish version is led by Gustavo Prato, who has taught survey Bible courses in Spanish at the University for several years.

The online courses began in fall 2005 with 49 students enrolled from seven states, South Korea and the Dominican Republic. Interest has also been shown from individuals in Australia, England, Nigeria, Poland and Thailand.

For more information, call (501) 279-4660 or e-mail [onlinebible@harding.edu](mailto:onlinebible@harding.edu).

## Marcus Barnett: A cheerful heart

EARLY RISER MARCUS BARNETT has been working for a couple of hours before most college students manage to roll out of bed. But even though he's often busy before the sun comes up, "I enjoy getting up and coming to work every day," he says.

A supervisor for Facility Services, Barnett has worked behind the scenes at the University since 1985, performing all those jobs you just expect to get done. He and his crew are responsible for campus transfer, waste management, apartment management, athletic facilities, Benson Auditorium, and setup for a host of special projects such as graduation, Homecoming, Parents Weekend and convocation.

While carrying out his duties, he's always ready to laugh and encourage those with whom he comes in contact on campus. Much of his philosophy stems from such verses as "A cheerful heart is good medicine (Proverbs 17:22a). He also believes that employees need to know when they've done something well, not just when they mess up. "I always encourage my workers," he says.

For him, the greatest satisfaction from his job comes from "knowing that you've contributed ... that you've done something for somebody that day. Serving — that's what it's all about."

But like every job, challenges abound. "School is routine, but the work really starts coming in the summer," he explains. While teachers and students are absent during the warm summer months, he and his crew are busily preparing the campus for the late-August onslaught. During move-in weekend, they work longer days — including Saturday and Sunday after church — removing truckload after truckload of cardboard boxes from residence halls. And that's just one project.

On weekends, you may find him at a car show or fixing one. "I enjoy taking an old car and making it look good," he says. But closest to his heart, he explains, is simply being with other Christians — any day of the week. He and his wife, Jeanne, are active members of Covenant Fellowship Church of Christ in Searcy where, he says, "I look forward to Sunday mornings."

So wherever and whenever you run into him, be it on campus, at church or in the community, count on receiving a smile and kind word.

— Jennifer L. Marcussen



Marcus Barnett



## American Studies offers four-star lineup

CABLE TELEVISION AND RADIO talk show host Sean Hannity began the 2006-07 American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series Sept. 21.

Hannity, co-host of "Hannity & Colmes" on FOX News and host of "The Sean Hannity Show" on ABC Radio Network, addressed current events and broadcast both shows from campus.



Sean Hannity

Don Soderquist, a driving force behind the rise of Wal-Mart, continues the series Nov. 9. He was vice chairman and chief operating officer, and ultimately senior vice chairman, as Wal-Mart grew



Don Soderquist

to the largest company in the world. Soderquist became known as the "Keeper of the Culture" after Sam Walton died. He firmly believes that business ethics are not a luxury, but an essential element in creating a high-performance organization; he also knows that the responsibility for creating an ethical organization belongs to its senior leaders.

In spring 2005, Soderquist's book titled *The Wal-Mart Way* was published. A year later, he completed his second book, *Live, Learn, Lead — To Make a Difference*.

Speaking Feb. 27, 2007, is Judge Janice Rogers Brown, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2005. After earning her law degree, she served as a deputy in the Office of Legislative

Counsel for the State of California; as a deputy attorney general in the California Attorney General's Office; and as deputy secretary and general counsel for California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.



Judge Janice Rogers Brown

She then entered private practice as a senior associate at the Sacramento law firm of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor. In 1991, Brown returned to government service as the legal affairs secretary to California Gov. Pete Wilson. From 1994 to 1996, she served as an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, and from 1996 to 2005, as an associate justice of the California Supreme Court.

Vicente Fox concludes the series April 26, 2007. When elected president of Mexico in 2000, he broke the stranglehold that the ruling party had held on the country for seven decades. A charismatic reformer, Fox played a vital role in Mexico's democratization and strengthened economy. During his tenure, he controlled inflation and interest rates and achieved the lowest unemployment rate in all of Latin America.



Vicente Fox

As president, Fox began to fight the long-standing corruption within the federal government. He limited his power to the constitutional limits and granted more power to state and municipal governments. In the international framework, he gave priority to subjects such as international commerce, economic integra-

tion, migratory policies and human rights, as well as fighting drug trafficking. In 2001, the National Endowment for Democracy granted him the Democracy Award and called him a "hero of democracy."

Presentations begin at 7:30 p.m. in Benson Auditorium. Tickets are not required, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (501) 279-4497.

## Entrepreneurs profit at Governor's Cup

BUSINESS PARTNERS CHRIS Cochran and Matthew Swindle have yet to start up a company, but their model for one has already earned a profit. In April, the University students took first place in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup, Arkansas' premier statewide business plan competition.

Cochran, a junior accounting major from Searcy, and Swindle, a senior economics major from Paragould, Ark., won the undergraduate division for Precision Agsense, an agricultural crop support service developed around new and emerging technologies. The plan empowers farmers to cut costs, conserve chemicals, and treat their fields with a level of precision never before possible.

According to Cochran, Precision Agsense provides a service to farmers that allows them to treat fields with variable rates of application when crop-dusting. He explained that the technology for such a service is generally too expensive for a family operated farm, but this service will be affordable.

For their plan, Cochran and Swindle received a \$20,000 prize, which was presented April 12 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION** *continued*  
Bryan Burks, dean and assistant professor, received the doctor of business administration degree in August from Nova Southeastern University. His dissertation was on "The Impact of Ethics Education and Religiosity on the Cognitive Moral Development of Senior Accounting and Business Students in Higher Education."

Burks also presented a paper, "The Impact of Religiosity on the Cognitive Moral Development of Senior Business Students," at the Christian Scholars Conference June 30 at Rochester College.

Allen Frazier, assistant professor, received the Ph.D. in April from Capella University after completing his dissertation, "Perceptions of Leadership in Financial Services: An Investigation Into the Ethical Components of Transformational Leadership."

After presenting a report of its year-long campus and community outreach projects to a panel of business leaders at the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Kansas City, Mo., May 21-23, the University Economics Team emerged a SIFE USA Top 20 National Finalist.

The 2005-06 Economics Team comprised Lana Gilbert of Memphis, Tenn., (co-captain); Matt Summitt of Paragould, Ark., (co-captain); Chris Cochran of Searcy; Elisa Garcia of San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Stewart Riggs of Destin, Fla.; Tara Skelley of Germantown, Tenn.; Kathryn Stewart of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Matthew Swindle of Paragould, Ark.

Members of the University's chapter of FBLA-Phi Beta Lambda, a national intercollegiate business organization, won awards in their respective events at the national competition in Nashville, Tenn., June 24-27.

Jonathan Guin of Tuscaloosa, Ala., placed sixth in economics; Allen Mauldin of Lufkin, Texas, won fifth in business law; Matthew Swindle of Paragould, Ark., took second in impromptu speaking; and Luke Underwood of Searcy placed ninth in finance.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Beth Wilson, professor and chair, received the National Alumni Achievement Award from the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at the 2006 National Leadership Meeting in Nashville, Tenn., July 13. She was one of two recipients. >>





## New registrar just in time for fall

JANICE HURD BEGAN AS REGISTRAR Aug. 21 — the day fall classes commenced.

Hurd had been serving as dean of enrollment services and registrar at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, Ark. Prior to that position, she was registrar at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She began her career in higher education as registration coordinator at Arkansas State University.



Janice Hurd

"The registrar is a central position on campus, one that works closely with other offices and deals with several different audiences, including students and alumni," said President David Burks. "I believe Janice will fit this role well."

Hurd holds the bachelor of science degree from the University and the master's in public administration from Arkansas State University.

"I am confident Janice will use her wealth of knowledge and experience to further Harding's mission as registrar," said Keith Cronk, CIO and vice president of Information Systems and Technology, to whom Hurd reports.

Ron Finley, registrar for the past 18 years, announced his retirement in May.

## 'The Voice of Harding University'

KVHU-FM 95.3 IS OFFICIALLY on the air.

The station, which began transmitting Aug. 18, radiates 25,000 watts from a 500-foot tower located near Judsonia in

White County. The signal reaches approximately 50 miles to include the cities of Little Rock, Conway and Batesville. It can also be heard worldwide via the Internet from links at [www.harding.edu](http://www.harding.edu).

KVHU's daytime format from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. is classic hits, which are defined as popular standards from the

### [ BEHIND THE BRICK ]

## The rest of the story: Keller Hall

WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED a university building being named for a woman whose formal education ended after sixth grade? May Keller never conceived of the idea; yet on Oct. 29, 1971, it happened to her.

Born in 1906 to farmers in Dardenelle, Ark., Keller lived the majority of her life in Hayti, Mo., (that's hay-tie) located near the state's southeastern tip. From an early age, she worked in the fields and helped raise her younger siblings — education was not an option.

As a young teenager, she was sent to care for an ailing grandmother and her father's bachelor brother, Albert. Her grandmother died shortly thereafter, but May stayed with her uncle for the next 40-plus years, until Albert's death at 86. They led a hard life, composed of backbreaking labor and few material possessions.

While neither grew up in church, each was baptized at Hayti Church of Christ after listening to radio sermons and studying the Bible. Albert was 84, and May, 58, when they became Christians. Both remained faithful until their deaths, in 1964 and 1993, respectively.

May inherited Albert's estate, which included more than 500 acres of rich farmland. As a woman who did not own a store-bought dress until her late 60s and grew or raised everything that she ate, she had no clue what to do with this ample wealth, but wanted to help others.

Enter G.S. and Marjorie Edwards, in-laws of Dr. Harry Olree, who was then chair of the kinesiology

department. The Edwards were members of the Hayti church, and knowing of May's desire to contribute to Christian education, wrote President Ganus and suggested a representative come meet with her.

Thus began her lasting friendship with many on campus, which she would visit every fall for the rest of her able years. Her generosity helped fund many projects, but her faith and struggles inspired others to diligent service. For her perseverance, and that of her uncle, the new men's residence hall was named Albert and May Keller Hall in fall 1971.

Senior Vice President Floyd Daniel recalls that from that point on, May would always ask, "How are my boys?"

"She never had any children," he says. "But at Harding, she found a family."

Keller Hall, originally constructed in 1967, contained more than 42,000 square feet of living space and housed 210 male students. During summer 2006, the residence hall received a \$3.5 million renovation, including transforming the rooms into suites with private bathrooms. — Jennifer L. Marcussen



1940s through today, including classical, jazz, Broadway show tunes and movie soundtracks. From 9-11 p.m. and all day Sunday, the programming is a cappella Christian. Overnight, the station airs classic radio shows from the 1930s through the '50s, consisting of comedy, suspense, drama and variety.

KVHU is also the flagship station for Bison athletics.

Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, associate professor of communication, serves as general manager. He is excited about the training opportunities the station creates for students serving as announcers. "This forces them to rise to a higher level," he says.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## Summer research cutting-edge

FUNDING FROM THE ARKANSAS IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) allowed two professors to continue their research projects this summer.

Funded by the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program of the National Institute of Health in cooperation with University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, a \$18,563 grant enabled Dr. Ken Turley, associate professor of kinesiology and director of the Human Performance Laboratory, to continue a three-year study on the effect of caffeine on children, particularly during exercise.

Dr. Dennis Matlock, associate professor of biochemistry, received \$17,838 to continue last summer's project examining the function of nonstructural protein 3 in the genome of the hepatitis C virus.

Turley's study is the first to investigate the effects of caffeine on both cardiovascular and metabolic responses to exercise in healthy children.

The idea came to Turley when he drove past a soccer tournament.

"All these kids are drinking sodas and energy drinks, and I wondered what we knew about the effects of caffeine on kids, particularly during exercise," he says.

Results of the first study, published in the March issue of *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* by the American College of Sports Medicine, demonstrated that caffeine elevates children's blood pressure and lowers heart rate during exercise, but does not affect metabolism.

"We expected the increase in blood pressure," Turley says, "but the decrease in heart rate was surprising." He suspects it's the body's response to try to maintain a

normal blood pressure.

"Long-term caffeine intake has been associated with increased blood pressure in adolescents that increases the risk of hypertension," says Turley. "Although this study describes only an acute affect — the length of which is unknown — repeated exposure over days or weeks could contribute to possible long-term increases. Thus exposure to caffeine in young children should at best be limited, at least in children who are borderline hypertensive."

While the first study tested the effect of high doses of caffeine, Turley investigated the effect of low to medium doses with the research grant.

**If we can understand the way this one particular helicase works, our hope is that someone else can use that to eventually develop a vaccine for hepatitis C.**

— Dr. Dennis Matlock

"We just expanded what we've done," he explains. "To me, part of being an academician is not just teaching what the newest thing is, but figuring it out and presenting it."

The enzyme Matlock studied this summer was "inherently more difficult" than the one he examined in 2005. Using a new fluorescent technique, Matlock essentially changed the length of DNA molecules and watched the enzyme move — which is not normally possible — in an effort to characterize it.

He hopes his hepatitis C study will contribute to understanding and treatment of the disease, which infects more than 170 million people worldwide. But he also sees a much bigger picture, which he believes is part of the reason his research has received funding two years in a row.

"The fluorescent method we are developing can be utilized by investigators working with other enzymes that move along DNA," he says.

"If we can understand the way this one particular helicase works, our hope is that someone else can use that to eventually develop a vaccine for hepatitis C."

The grants encourage smaller schools such as the University to be involved in cutting-edge research at the undergraduate level. Matlock, called upon several times to discuss INBRE's involvement with the University, is pleased to have the opportunity to continue with the project. "It's been a huge blessing," he says.

Several students also received funding from INBRE for summer research — a \$3,200 stipend and \$2,000 living allowance. Justin Bland, a

graduate student in the master of science in education program from Germantown, Tenn., worked with Turley. Clint Langston, a senior biochemistry and molecular biology major from Searcy, assisted Matlock. Three others — Jonathan Blansett, a senior biochemistry and molecular biology major from Cabot, Ark.; Megan Easterly, a senior chemistry major from Stratford, Mo.; and Stephen Wagner, a senior electrical engineering major from San Jose, Calif. — collaborated with scientists at UAMS.

The University also received a \$22,000 grant from the organization for the purchase of an access grid platform, which will allow science faculty members and students to participate in state, national and international teleconferences.

Turley and Matlock presented their research at UAMS Aug. 3. Both have manuscripts in preparation, which they hope to publish within the next year.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

**Iris Castleberry**, a cashier in the Business Office; **Annette Davis**, office manager for Student Life; **Rodger Gilliam**, Harding Press shop foreman; and **Craig Russell**, director of Public Safety, were presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Awards during the annual recognition dinner held April 21.

All four received a \$2,000 check and a framed certificate commemorating the award.

## DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARDS

Dr. **Ross Cochran**, associate professor of Bible; Dr. **Dennis Matlock**, associate professor of biochemistry; Dr. **Ken Neller**, professor of Bible; and Dr. **Randy Willingham**, associate professor of Bible, received the 2006 Distinguished Teacher Awards at the annual recognition dinner held April 21.

Recipients of the Distinguished Teacher Award are determined by in-class teacher evaluations by students, as well as evaluations from their faculty colleagues. Each of the four honorees received a \$2,000 check and a framed certificate commemorating the award.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

In addition to his current role as dean, Dr. **Evert Huffard** has been named vice president for the Memphis, Tenn., campus.

**Mark Parker** was named assistant vice president. He will oversee enrollment management, resource management and communications.

Dr. **Jack Lewis**, professor emeritus, was awarded one of three inaugural Graduate School Medallions by Hebrew Union University-Jewish Institute of Religion in recognition of his commitment and dedication to a vibrant religious life in his faith community. The award was conferred at graduation ceremonies on the Cincinnati campus May 21.

**Don Meredith**, head librarian, was presented the Distinguished Christian Service Award by Pepperdine University May 2. The award acknowledges his service to the Harding Graduate School community and church leaders nationwide.

## STUDENT LIFE

Zach Neal has joined the staff as director of Campus Life. He will organize campus activities and supervise the social club program.





## First person with David Elliott

As told to SCOTT GOODE, sports information director

### On coming to Harding in 1965

My mother and father had gone here, as well as my uncles and cousins. I never considered going to any other place. I didn't even visit another college. I graduated from high school in Grand Prairie, Texas, and being a preacher's son, I had lived in many different places. But I was very familiar with Harding and with Searcy — that's where I wanted to be.

### On his collegiate tennis career

I started my tennis career in the eighth grade at Newport, Ark., under coach Bernis Duke, who went on to success at Oral Roberts University. I developed a liking for the game and had a little bit of success, winning a junior high state championship. Then I moved around a couple of times to places where tennis wasn't that big. But after my junior year, I thought that I would like to compete in college, so I started playing some. I was influenced by nationally ranked players Nancy and Cliff Richey, who lived in the Dallas area. I once got to hit balls with them, and that gave me some motivation. I came, tried out and played all four years, back in the old Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference days. We had a good run. Our highest national finish was my junior year when we finished ninth. For three years in a row, we were in the top 15 — country boys who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

### On career plans during college

I changed my major two or three times. I had more or less determined to go into education, but I did not have plans to coach until I got here and spent time around coach Ted Lloyd and others. I started working at track meets and athletic events, and eventually I thought maybe that was what I was best cut out to be. I kind of backed into it. Harding Academy offered me a job my senior year, and I jumped at it. I worked there five years.

### On being hired at the University

President Ganus and Dr. Harry Olree, who was head of the kinesiology department, asked me if I would like the job.

By that point I had begun to dream about the possibility of coaching at the University and taking on the tennis program.

### On his decision to stay at the University

I never gave serious consideration to leaving. I had an offer for probably the top high school job in the entire state of Texas. That high school had outstanding tennis players, and in fact, produced the number-one ranked doubles team in the world at that point, the Bryan brothers. I had an opportunity to go out there and coach through an indirect Harding contact. The school offered me the job, but the timing of it, as I recall, was so late in the year that I didn't even go look. I do remember what they offered me. It was six times what I was making at Harding. I look back at that, really, with no regrets.

### On balancing coaching and family

It takes special people. It takes a special wife. It takes special kids who understand the "full-timeness" of being a coach, especially at the college level. My family was always 100 percent supportive of whatever I had to do. If they questioned it, they did not let me know very often. It worked out, from my perspective, very well. My wife and I are proud of the way our three girls turned out. They were positively influenced by the athletes and teams.

### On success as a tennis coach

A lot of good fortune is the first thing I think about. The kind of tennis players that we have been able to get here are not the best in the world, but they are some of the finest people in the world. Also, I have had a very supportive staff and administration. I could not have done it without their support. Harding's commitment to whatever we do is: Let's do it right. I was highly competitive and motivated to win. I wanted to be the best I could be and develop the best program we could have. One advantage at Harding is that the typical student we get is a cut above those other coaches deal with.

### On his coaching style

Tennis is such an individualized sport. You have the opportunity to take each person where he or she is and define a program and practice regimen to maximize his or her potential. My philosophy goes back to my literature classes at Harding and the book, *Animal Farm*. All players are equal, but some are more equal than others. In essence, what we try to do is to treat each player as fairly and properly as we possibly can. That does not mean that everyone is treated the same because they are all different. This is one of the first things I tell my new players.



Coach Elliott gives pointers to Karina Gomes.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





## ROUNDUP

### Young baseball team sets school record

THE 2006 BASEBALL TEAM, under the direction of first-year head coach Dr. Patrick McGaha, compiled a 21-28 overall record.

The team set a school record with 89 stolen bases. Sophomore transfer Adam Darby led the team with 17, and sophomore Jon David Glenn was next with 15.

Junior team captain Devin Watts led the offense with a .309 batting average and 34 runs scored. Darby led the team in home runs (4) and runs batted in (30).

### Berryhill goes to Giron, Melton

ANDREW GIRON, A MEMBER OF THE TENNIS TEAM from San Salvador, El Salvador, and Synda Veitenheimer Melton, a member of the volleyball squad from Windthorst, Texas, were named the 2006 M.E. Berryhill Award winners.

Giron, a computer engineering major, was only the 11th player in Gulf South Conference men's tennis history to earn First Team All-Conference honors three times. He also earned CoSIDA Academic All-District and GSC Academic All-Conference honors.

Melton, a communication disorders major, helped lead the volleyball team to four consecutive GSC West Division titles and four appearances in the NCAA Tournament. She was a two-time First Team All-Conference honoree and twice made the GSC All-Tournament team. Academically, she earned all-conference and all-district honors.

### Women's golf sixth in inaugural year

DURING THE FIRST SEASON as an intercollegiate women's golf program, freshman Taren Massey fired a two-round 159 at the Gulf South Conference Tournament held at the Hot Springs (Ark.) Country Club. Her effort took 11th place overall and lifted head coach Andrew Baker's Lady Bisons to a sixth-place finish in the 10-team event.

The men's golf team, coached by Dr. Nicky Boyd, cut 47 strokes off its previous best score at the Gulf South Conference Tournament and finished ninth in the 15-team event.

### Lacrosse goes to nationals

THE LACROSSE TEAM finished the regular season 11-1. For the second-straight year, the team was invited to the Men's B Division Intercollegiate Associates National Championship where it lost the first game but won the next two.

Junior midfielder J.P. Allen was named to the MDIA All-America Third Team. Honorable Mention honors went to juniors Josh Gronvold and Joe Szostak.

### Bobrowski, Kosgei national track champions

JUNIOR PRZEMEK BOBROWSKI, a native of Poland, won the men's 1,500 meters in 4 minutes, 1.27 seconds to become the University's first national champion in the event at the 2006 NCAA II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Emporia, Kan. Although his fifth All-America honor, it was his first in an outdoor event.

Kenyan sophomore Julius Kosgei won the 10,000-meter national championship. He crossed the tape in 30:01.63 and earned his second outdoor All-America honor and his fourth overall. He later picked up his fifth honor with a second-place finish in the 5,000 meters.

Three Lady Bisons earned All-America honors at the meet. Sophomores Savita Chelimo and Gosia Drazkowska both finished fourth in their respective races. Chelimo, from Kenya, became the team's first All-America honoree in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, finishing in 11:05.50.

Poland native Drazkowska completed the 800 meters in 2:11.92 to pick up her second-straight All-America honor in the event.

Freshman Janee Jones became the first Lady Bison to earn All-America honors in the 3,000 meters. A native of Michigan, she placed eighth with a time of 10:10.41.

#### On 1,000 wins

It slipped up [on me]. Beginning a couple of years ago, I knew it was a possibility but really didn't think a whole lot about it. I guess the fact that very few coaches have stayed with it long enough to achieve [1,000 wins] meant something to me. Upon reflection, it meant more to me afterward than it actually did on that day. We have been fortunate enough to have students who want to produce and want to win as much as I do. I have taken coaching seriously. I have never thought one time that "This bunch isn't any good, and we'll just go through the motions this year." I have had some of the best successes with what I thought were my least talented teams. I have always had a burning desire to win — as long as I can do it fairly and ethically.

#### On recruiting

Your best recruiters are your former players. We have had players from around the world. They have great experiences at Harding and then bring one of their friends to play here.

#### On the challenges of coaching both sexes

Time is the biggest one — more and more involvement and more people to work with. As far as I am concerned, there is very little difference between coaching men and women in tennis. They are all athletes.

#### On pursuits outside of tennis

Teaching. Trying to balance teaching with coaching has been very difficult, particularly with a sport where your competitions conflict with your class schedule. Something that I was told when I first came here was that I was a teacher first and then a coach. I have tried to be involved with community and youth sports programs. Throughout the years, I coached baseball and softball rather extensively in city programs and taught hunter safety and other similar classes. **H**

*On April 4, Elliott became only the fourth collegiate tennis coach on record with more than 1,000 career wins.*

# HARDING

For the latest sports information, visit [www.hardingsports.com](http://www.hardingsports.com).





PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



# From her HEART & MIND

**My name** ... Beth Wilson

**Department** ... Family and Consumer Sciences

**Area of expertise** ... nutrition education and family life education, particularly eating disorders and domestic violence

**Teaching motto** ... challenge and support — teaching and learning is a team effort

**Greatest challenge** ... helping students recognize and maximize their talents and abilities

**First job** ... high school: secretarial assistant, Sweet Sue Poultry Co.; professionally: therapeutic dietitian, University of Virginia Hospital

**Favorite escape** ... reading a good murder mystery or driving through the countryside

**Vacation destination** ... New England

**Actress of choice** ... Julie Andrews

**Inspiration** ... the promise from Scripture that God will never leave me nor forsake me

**Finest moments** ... the day of my baptism; the day I married my husband, Ed; and the day my daughter, Joy, was born

**Goal for my students** ... to develop Christ-like hearts and be successful in their personal and professional lives

**Worst day** ... the day my sister, Bonnie, died at age 37 after a five-year battle with cancer

**Movie I watch over and over** ... *My Fair Lady*

**Last book I read** ... *It's Not About You, It's About God* by Rebecca Florence Osaigbovo

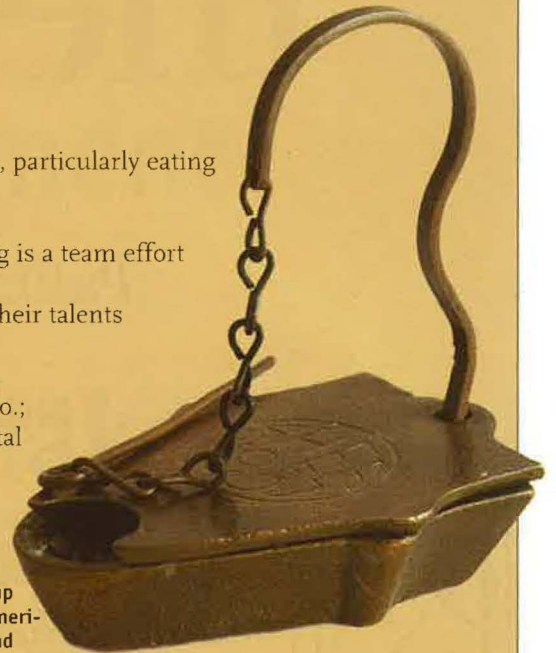
**If I weren't teaching** ... I would be a full-time volunteer with child and family service agencies and hospitals

**Favorite Bible character** ... David

**I knew I wanted to teach** ... in high school because of teachers who showed their concern for students and demonstrated their love of teaching

**Hobby** ... reading and volunteering in community agencies

The provider of light for all household industries during colonial days, the Betty Lamp serves as a symbol of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.





[COVER STORY]

# Unmasking the past

Pulitzer finalist  
Jerry Mitchell  
rights wrongs

**N**INE YEARS AGO THIS MAGAZINE FEATURED journalist Jerry Mitchell ('82), whose investigative reporting for the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss., had helped reopen old civil rights cases in that state. He had just been

portrayed in a major Hollywood movie, *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

Since then, as Mitchell has continued his remarkable work, the accolades have come in a steady stream.

He has won more than 20 national journalism awards for his stories that have led to the convictions of four Ku Klux Klansmen since 1994: Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers; Sam Bowers for ordering the 1966 killing of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer; Bobby Cherry for helping plant the bomb that killed four girls in a Birmingham, Ala., church in 1963; and, most recently, Edgar Ray Killen for orchestrating the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers — James Chaney, Andy Goodman and Mickey Schwerner.

This year he was one of three finalists for the most famous journalism prize of all, the Pulitzer, in the category of beat reporting. Although a Washington Post reporter won, Mitchell has clearly secured a place in the top ranks of his profession. Respect from his colleagues is typified by praise from noted writer David Halberstam, who introduced Mitchell in 2005 as recipient of Columbia University's John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism. Halberstam called him "the most distinguished reporter in the entire country, an ornament to the profession, . . . a reflection of what one reporter with a conscience can do."

I was adviser to the student newspaper, the Bison, when Mitchell (known to all of us as "Boo") served first as a columnist, then as news editor. Even then he never shied away from tough issues. >>





*Interview by DENNIS ORGAN, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities*

*Photos by JEFF MONTGOMERY*

# The First Amendment

"Congress shall make no law  
.....abridging the freedom of  
speech, or of the press..."

Bill of Rights  
U.S. Constitution



**You graduated from the University in 1982 with a degree in journalism. Describe yourself during your college days.**



You remember! And everybody can still see it in the annual. Orange suspenders. A black top hat. Bell-bottom jeans. I was crazy. I think my wife burned those jeans.

**Didn't you have buttons on your suspenders?**

Yes, lots of crazy buttons. It was during the time of the name change, and I had the words "Harding College" printed on a button. "College" was scratched out, and "University" written in crayon. For some reason, I thought that was hysterical.

**How did you see yourself then? As a nonconformist? A rebel?**

I guess I've always been a bit of a rebel or troublemaker, if you want to call me that. I've always been someone never satisfied with the status quo, particularly if there was a solution. When I was in grad school at Ohio State University in 1997, I took a personality test, and it told me I was a change agent. I had never thought of myself that way, but when I reflected back on my life, I realized it was accurate.

**I remember at Harding you wrote about cafeteria prices.**

Students, including me, were complaining that we didn't have enough money on our meal tickets to eat, so I wrote about the problem in my column, challenging anyone in the administration to eat on my meal ticket for a week. Reference li-

brarian Joe McReynolds took me up on it and very meticulously tried to make ends meet for a week. He couldn't. Not long after that, the administration started offering a second meal ticket that would enable students to make it through the week. It was no great exposé, but I guess it was effective.

**Did you view yourself as an investigative reporter at that time? A crusader?**

Crusader is probably more accurate, although I never would have thought of myself that way. Many of my satirical columns took on campus issues. After the administration banned students from wearing sandals, I wrote, "The next thing the administration will be telling us is that the apostles wore Nikes." Crusader? Maybe. Smart aleck. Definitely.

**If you didn't see yourself at the time as an investigative reporter, what did you see yourself as?**

I saw myself as a satirical writer. I remember growing up and memorizing Bill Cosby monologues. And when I got older, I loved all the old comedians — Charlie Chaplin, the Marx Brothers, Laurel and Hardy. They still make me laugh.

**Why satire?**

I always saw satire as a way to comment on what was going on, hopefully in a humorous way. It wasn't until I got older that I began to realize the connection between investigative reporting and satire — they're both aimed at pointing out problems.

**So how did you wind up in journalism?**

It dawned on me that if I was going to be

a writer, I had to get some kind of paycheck — journalism seemed like a way I could do that. I figured I'd work my way up, maybe become a columnist. But what I found out when I started working was that I was a much better reporter than a writer. I also found myself drawn to investigative reporting and learned I had an aptitude for it. I've been doing it ever since.

**How did you get involved in writing about these killings from long ago?**

It was a complete accident. In January 1989, I went to a press screening of the movie *Mississippi Burning* with two FBI agents who investigated the Ku Klux Klan's 1964 killings of three civil rights workers. When I realized those Klansmen had never been prosecuted for murder, I was outraged, and my journey began that night.

**And how long have you been at this?**

For 17 years now. I guess you could say I'm a tad obsessive.

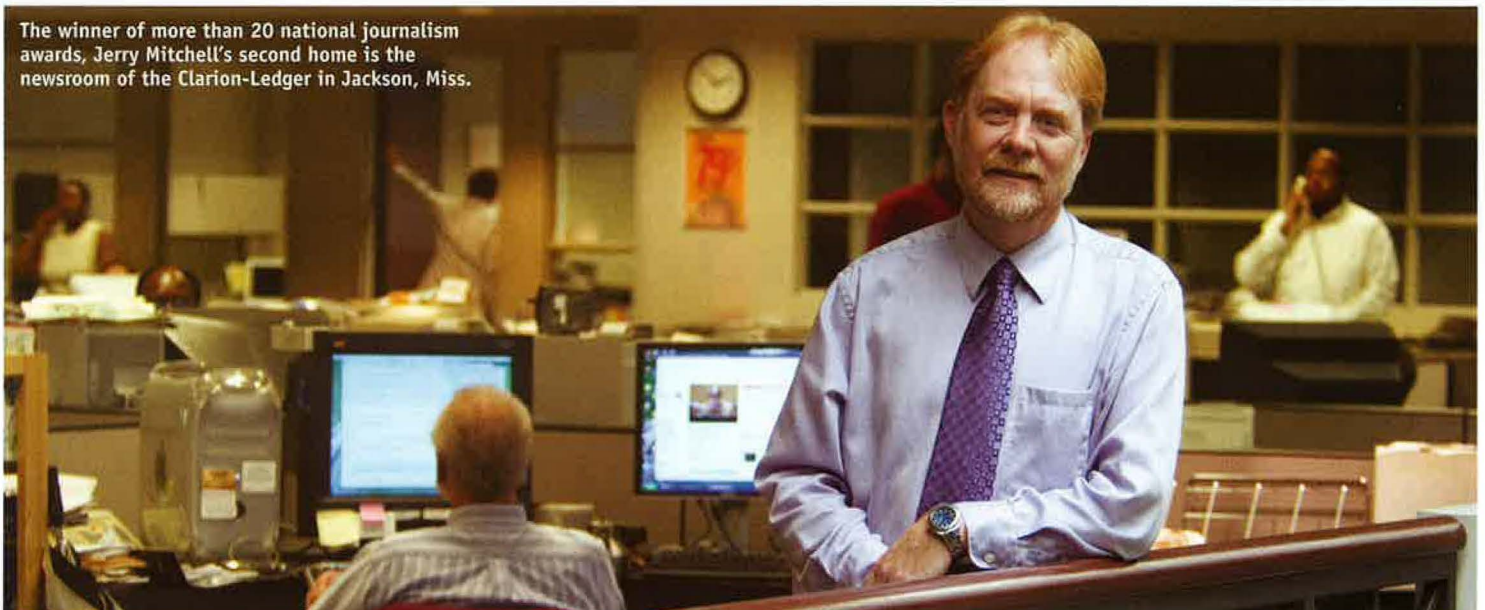
**But you don't seem like you have an obsessive personality. You're very laid back.**

Don't let that fool you. I'm obsessive. Ask my wife.

**Did some of these Klansmen threaten you?**

Yes, I had a Klansman named Byron De La Beckwith, who was the killer of Medgar Evers, tell me one night outside his house in Signal Mountain, Tenn., "If you write positive things about white Caucasian Christians, God will bless you. If you write negative things about white

The winner of more than 20 national journalism awards, Jerry Mitchell's second home is the newsroom of the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss.



TOP LEFT: PETTI JEAN FILE PHOTO



Jerry Mitchell's investigative reporting calls for relentless research and a desire to find the truth.



Caucasian Christians, God will punish you. If God does not do it directly, several individuals will do it for him.”

**So what did you do?**

I got out of there as quickly as I could. His wife had made me a sandwich. I think you can guess what I did with that sandwich.

**Tossed it away?**

Yes. Another time Beckwith announced across the courtroom, “When that boy dies, he’s going to Africa.”

**Were those your most serious threats?**

No, the most serious one came in 1998 when a white supremacist called and asked me if my reporting had helped put Beckwith away. I sheepishly said yes, and then he told me, “Did you think we were going to let you go unscathed?” He said he had pictures of my family and me and knew where we lived.

**That does sound serious. What did you do?**

I contacted the FBI, and they learned the guy lived in South Carolina. I figured, at least he had a long drive ahead of him.

**You can laugh about it now.**

I have to confess it wasn’t funny at the time. My wife was very, very concerned.

**You were portrayed in the 1996 movie *Ghosts of Mississippi* with Alec Baldwin.**

I’m the pesky reporter in the film. Or rather I’m portrayed as one.

**So are you pesky?**

Persistent, yes. Pesky, no.

**In identifying you as a finalist, the Pulitzer Web site cited your “relentless and masterly stories on the successful prosecution of a man accused of orchestrating the killing of three civil rights workers in 1964.” How does that feel?**

It’s very humbling. It’s like going to the Olympics and coming home with a silver or bronze medal.

**Did this case produce your best reporting?**

I’d like to think my work was that good, but the truth is that the Pulitzer Committee was probably recognizing me for the work I’ve done over the past two decades.

**So what story over the years has pleased you most?**

Seeing Clyde Kennard exonerated after 46 years. Kennard was a Korean War veteran who received the Bronze Star, but the African-American farmer was imprisoned in 1960 for a crime he never committed. He died several years later of cancer. In his last days, he forgave his enemies and said he’d be happy to die if it would “show this country where racism leads.” In 1991, I became convinced of his innocence when I first read documents that showed liquor had been planted inside Kennard’s car when he attempted to enroll at an all-white university. But I was unable to find the proof that Kennard was innocent of a second charge of burglary when he refused to give up his quest to attend the university. That proof finally came in 2005 when I talked with the key witness who testified against Kennard. That man admitted that Kennard was innocent. In a hearing last

spring, a judge threw out Kennard’s conviction.

**It seems we’re close to the end of the prosecutions of these old cases.**

I would agree. But there are a few more cases that authorities are examining, including the 1955 killing of Emmett Till. That case remains a long shot.

**What’s next? What will you do when all the bad guys get locked up?**

There are plenty more bad guys to go after. They may not be killers. They may be people swindling the poor.

**Do you have any other plans?**

I’m hoping to write a book one day on my adventures chasing these Klansmen.

**Sounds fun. I’m sure plenty of people will want to buy it.**

I’m hoping so.

**In the earlier *Harding* interview, you talked about how truth seeking and truth telling connect your vocation with your Christian walk. Have your experiences of the past few years refined or modified your views about how a Christian journalist serves in a secular press?**

My views remain the same as before. I think of journalists as truth seekers, and I think we as Christians should be truth seekers, too. I believe there is such a thing as truth, and we should pursue it. As it says in Psalm 25, “Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

**And finally, the question many of us want to know, how did you get the nickname “Boo”?**

When I was at *Harding*, I gave people lots of fake answers to this question: “I was born on Halloween”; “It’s short for Boo-Boo — I was a mistake”; and, my personal favorite, “I was named after Boo Radley,” the crazy guy in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The true story is I’m Jerry Jr., named after my father. Instead of calling me “Junior,” my parents opted for “Bubba” — a strange choice, given the fact I’m an only kid. Because I was a dumb kid, I said, “Boo.” The name stuck. Even now, after all these years of serious journalism, I still answer to it.

**So is it still OK to call you Boo?**

I wouldn’t have it any other way. **H**



# Taking it to the next degree

Compiled by JENNIFER L. MARCUSSEN

Photos by JEFF MONTGOMERY

THINK ALL GRADUATE students are alike — young, poor, sleep-deprived idealists who frequent libraries and coffee shops? Think again.

Today's students pursuing master's degrees are men and women of all ages, life stages and backgrounds. Some enter graduate school immediately after completing undergraduate work, but many are employed professionals who want to step up to the next level.

The University has designed its graduate programs to meet the needs of traditional and nontraditional students through such venues as weekend and evening classes and online courses. Satellite campuses in North Little Rock and Bentonville, Ark., and Memphis, Tenn., make graduate study more accessible.

Meet five individuals currently working toward higher degrees.

Who knows? You may find a program that's right for you. **H**

## MATT HEDSTROM, 38

Master of arts in teaching ▶ Northwest Arkansas Professional Center, Bentonville ▶ B.S.E., University of Arkansas ▶ former teacher/now director of energy management/ education, Bentonville Public Schools ▶ married with four children

**Why Harding?** "I have been a history teacher for the past 14 years, and I figured it was time that I started working on my master's. With this program so close to where I live, it was a very easy decision for me to make."

**Post graduation?** "My plans are to continue working in the Bentonville School District. My wife plans on starting at Harding as soon as I finish my degree."

## LATEEFAH FREE, 26

Physician assistant studies, Searcy ▶ B.S. in biology, Hampton University; M.S. in biology, Purdue University ▶ full-time student

**Why Harding?** "I believe people pursuing a career in health care should have an interest in the field, but more importantly, in helping people. As Christians, our perspective is different as our driving source is genuine care and compassion in treating our patients."

**Greatest challenge?** "The amount of information to learn in such a small time frame. When we [first-year students] arrived at Harding, [second-year] Kevin Poteat told us he studied four and five hours a night, and we did not take him seriously. But now that is exactly what we are doing."





**DANA REECE, 47**

Master of business administration ▶ North Little Rock Professional Center ▶ B.A. in psychology, Ouachita Baptist University; J.D., University of Arkansas-Little Rock ▶ attorney at law

**Motivation?** First, I had no business background and wanted to expand my level of knowledge about business and finance. Second, I wanted to obtain my MBA as preparation for the future and to expand my options. Third, I decided to pursue the degree because the opportunity presented itself, and the timing was right."

**Why Harding?** "I wanted to enter an MBA program in a Christian environment with people who were professional, yet compassionate and kind."

**CURT SPARKS, 51**

Master of arts in Bible, Graduate School of Religion, Memphis, Tenn. ▶ B.A. in Bible, Harding ▶ preaching minister, Sycamore View Church of Christ ▶ married with two children

**Why go back?** "I have spent more than 20 years in ministry and felt like this program would bless me for a long time to come."

**On time management:** "The greatest challenge has been balancing a full-time ministry with a congregation the size of Sycamore, family time, and study time. The reading requirements plus research for the papers have kept me busy. But the insights and freshness into Scripture have been such a blessing."

**BONNIE THOMAS, 23**

Marriage and family therapy, Searcy ▶ B.S. in child and family sciences, Harding ▶ full-time student ▶ married

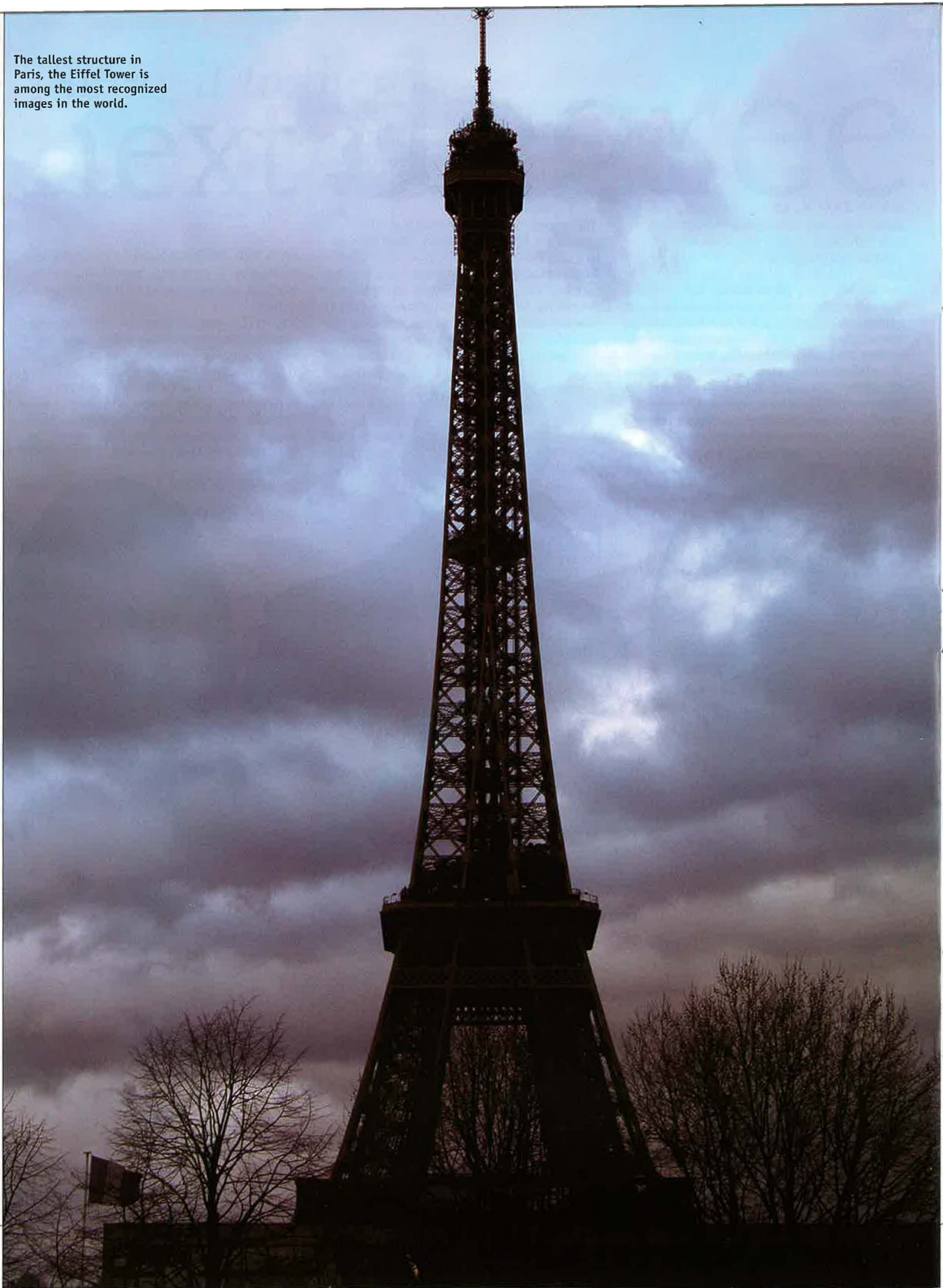
**Why MFT?** "I wanted a career that would allow me to help others improve their lives and relationships while simultaneously challenging me to do the same. This program does more than teach you how to be a good therapist; it teaches you about yourself."

**Future plans?** "I'd like to work with adolescent girls in a residential care facility. I'm also interested in working in an outpatient clinic. I plan on applying to [work as a therapist at] a variety of treatment programs."





The tallest structure in Paris, the Eiffel Tower is among the most recognized images in the world.







Ellen Wrye and Lacey Clarke share their pictures with junior high school students at recess in Toulouse. Along with several other HUFs students, Wrye and Clarke spent the day observing classrooms teaching such subjects as history, French and English.

# TOUR DE *The* FRANCE

*and* SWITZERLAND *to boot*

By ROBERT MCCREADY, *associate professor of French*

“PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?” ■ For 23 University students this past spring, their answer had to be a firm “oui.” ■ Unlike other international programs, Harding University in France/Switzerland was specifically targeted as a language experience. All participants had taken French and were asked repeatedly to put those skills into practice — during class field trips, church services and daily Bible classes. ■ The students were accompanied by me and my wife, Silva; our three children, Rebecca, Rachel and Alexander; and graduate assistants Tim and Stephanie Nance. My family and I lived in France for almost 20 years, serving as missionaries after I studied at the University of Geneva. Here is my first-hand account of the program’s inaugural semester. >>



## Starting from Switzerland

After 15 hours of flight, we were greeted at Geneva's airport by missionaries Doyle ('62) and Barbara ('58) Kee. During our two-week stay, we interacted with Swiss Christians several times. The church's young people hosted a dinner in our honor at the building the day following our arrival, and we were later asked to sing at the funeral of one member's father.

As tourists, we enjoyed skiing in both the French and Swiss Alps and visiting the Gruyère cheese factory. From the Reformation Wall to the "Jet d'Eau" fountain to St. Peter's Cathedral where John Calvin preached to the International Red Cross, we tasted the ambiance of the city.

Members of the Professional French class had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a session of the United Nations in the interpreting booths followed by a visit with the senior French-English interpreter. Those interested in medicine toured units of Geneva Cantonal Hospital, guided by church member Philippe Pahud.

Both experiences proved beneficial. Christy Duncan, a French education major from Toledo, Ohio, says, "My favorite place was Geneva, because I enjoyed going to the Red Cross and the U.N. Also, my ability to speak French changed dramatically from the time I arrived to the time we left [for] France."

Even the personnel at our residence made us feel most welcome. As we departed, they commented on the exemplary behavior of our students and their hope to see us in the future. The feeling was mutual.

## Crossing into France

Next we embarked on a five-day trip leading to Toulouse, France. We saw Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Western Europe; several Roman ruins, including the ancient aqueduct at

the Pont du Gard, the theatre in Orange, and the amphitheatre in Nîmes; and the papal palace at Avignon, where from 1305 to 1378 seven popes were housed. We also visited the best-known walled city and fortress from the Middle Ages in Carcassonne, where the movie "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" was filmed.

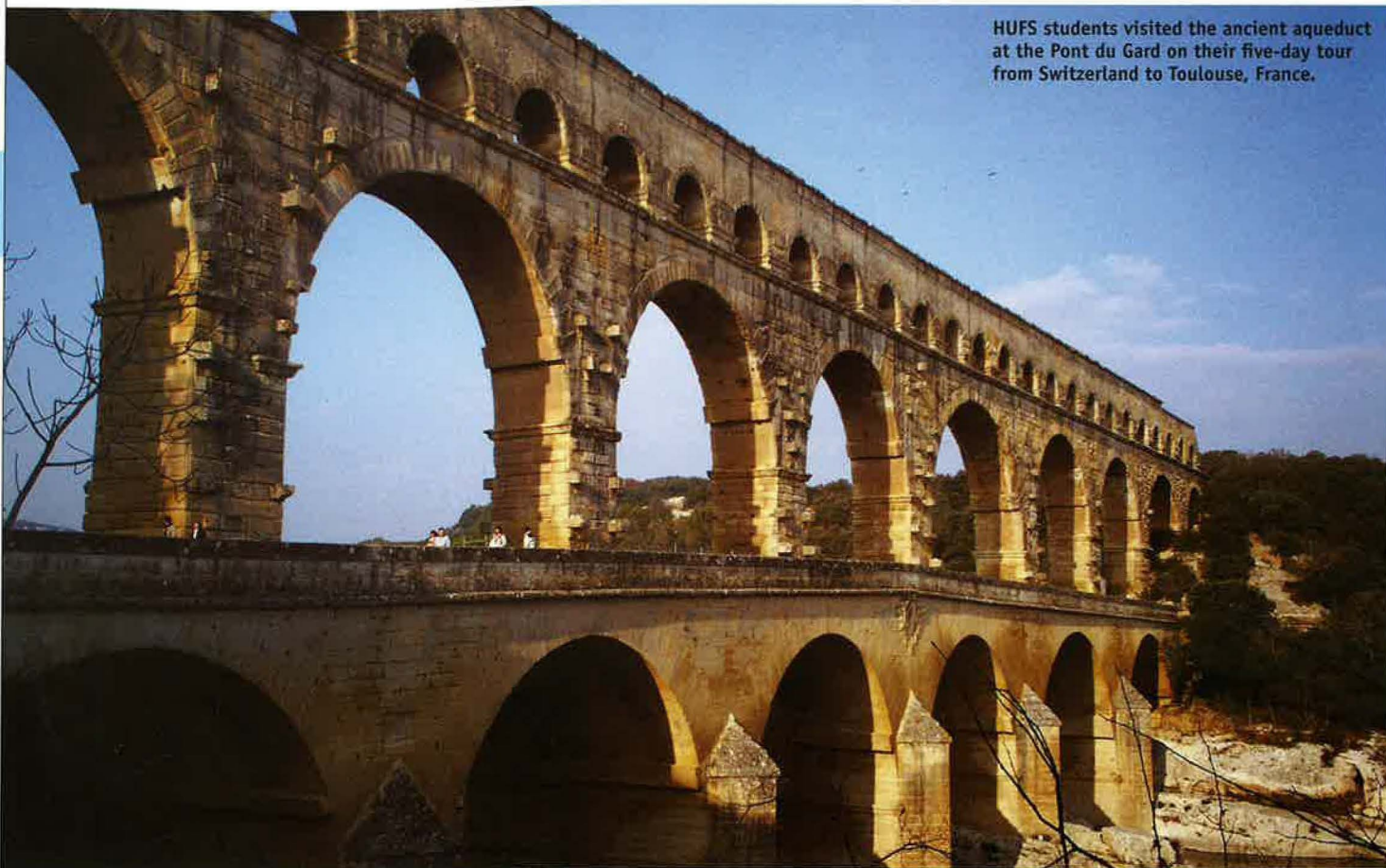
Our first leg would not have been complete without stopping to cool our feet in the Mediterranean along the French Riviera. So much western civilization can be explored without ever leaving the confines of France!

As we approached Toulouse, our quiet bus driver asked the guide for the microphone. He proceeded to tell us that in 37 years of chauffeuring, he had never met as fine a group and was impressed by the students' respect for him and for one another, their wiping their feet before getting on the bus, and their joy in singing devotional songs. He will retire in two years and expressed his wish to do so with Harding students as his last group.

## Settling in Toulouse

The home of violets, pink roofs and aviation — particularly Airbus — served as our home for the next six weeks. Located in the southwestern part of France, it is the nation's fastest-growing city. Last year alone, the city's population increased by more than 9 percent.

The name of our residence was HomeHotel, and thanks to the freedom given us by the personnel, it lived up to its name. After much red tape, our group was allowed to observe the assembly of an Airbus 380, the double-decker plane. From the theater to sightseeing to a five-course meal in a fine restaurant, we soaked up the atmosphere. We also checked out sports venues, attending professional basketball and football games — that's soccer for Americans.



HUFS students visited the ancient aqueduct at the Pont du Gard on their five-day tour from Switzerland to Toulouse, France.

PHOTO BY ROBERT MCCREADY



But the greatest excitement came at a professional rugby match between Paris and Toulouse, two recent European champions. Packed in the city's largest stadium, the crowd never died down. Throughout the match, the spectators cried out, "Qui ne saute pas n'est pas Toulousain!" Translation: "Whoever doesn't jump up and down is not really from Toulouse." Without hesitation, our students got into the act just like the diehard fans.

Although much of our time was spent in daily classes, we took Humanities field trips to the library, museums and other facilities. A day in a local business and another in a local junior high school provided experience for students in the Professional French class.

## On to Paris

You can't live in France for a semester and not go to Paris, the country's cultural center. On our way, we spent nine days touring the central and northwest regions, which included the caves of Lascaux with their prehistoric paintings, a porcelain factory in Limoges, castles in the Loire Valley, Mont Saint-Michel near the English Channel, and the home of Impressionist Claude Monet at Giverny.

We spent the most memorable day during this portion of the journey with a British guide who specialized in the history of D-Day along the beaches of Normandy. He helped us relive the events of June 6, 1944, as we moved from the town church where the first American paratroopers landed to the Utah and Omaha beaches and finally, to the cemetery where many U.S. soldiers are buried.

Once in Paris, famous sites abounded. Places the students had learned about in their French Culture class flashed before their eyes: the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Sacré-Coeur Basilica, Notre Dame, the Sorbonne, Père Lachaise Cemetery, Sainte-Chapelle, Les Invalides with Napoleon's tomb, and more.

To supplement our Humanities class, we explored the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay with its Impressionist paintings, and Musée Rodin and its famous sculptures — most notably, "The Thinker." Two evenings during our stay, we attended the opera — all the students dressed to the hilt — and a Corneille play at the Comédie-Française. Thus literature class took on a new dimension.

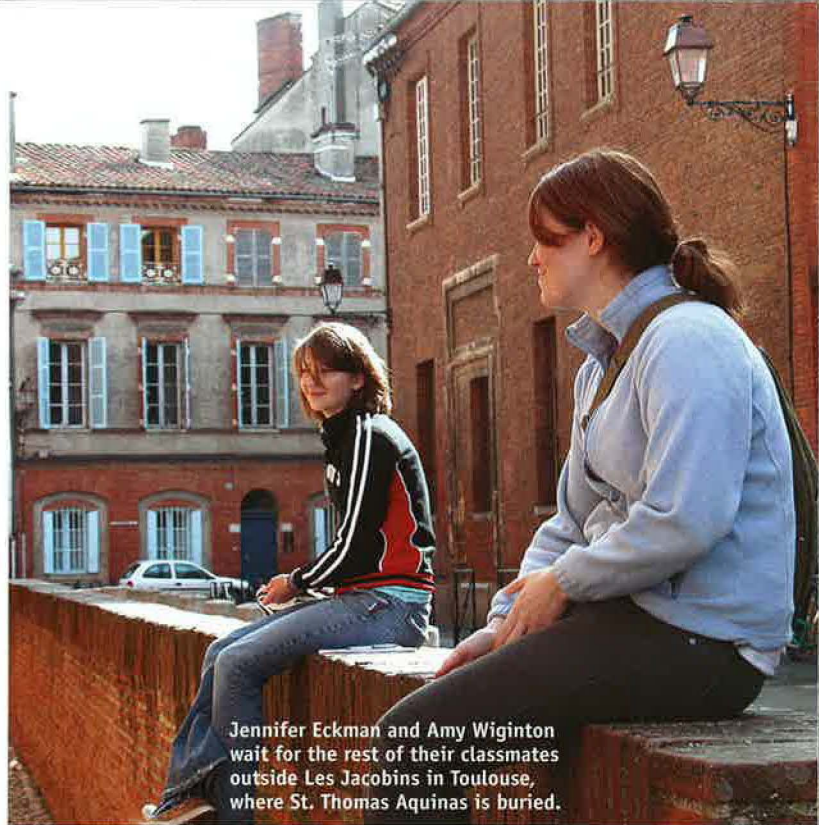
On our last Sunday, the Déodat congregation invited us to share a meal. The students then took their final exams, bringing the academic portion of the semester to a close.

## Spiritual aspects of the journey

We witnessed two extremes among congregations during our stay: worshipping in Geneva with the largest congregation in French-speaking Europe and being with believers in Toulouse, where the church is quite small and many Christians are scattered and thus isolated.

So, to establish a sense of spiritual family, every Sunday in Toulouse we shared a meal with church members at our hotel following services. One member, Myriam Dufrenne, says of those times, "It was like being in paradise."

The few Christian youths throughout the country seldom have opportunities to interact with other young believers. They are often led to believe that they are weird and alone because of their convictions in a society where most discredit the existence of God. For them, interacting with our students was a breath of fresh air, and they were very impressed by the friendliness and desire of University students to integrate into French culture.



Jennifer Eckman and Amy Wiginton wait for the rest of their classmates outside Les Jacobins in Toulouse, where St. Thomas Aquinas is buried.

Too many times they have seen Americans who are reluctant to socialize with them. The results of these positive encounters have led two young women, Sarah Roy and Vanessa Sonzogni, to enroll at the University this school year.

## The finish line

Despite whirlwind travel around the country, we still had a couple of days to visit Strasbourg, situated on the German border. Home of press inventor Johann Gutenberg and the European Parliament, Strasbourg exhibits both French and German influence, as the Alsace region — of which Strasbourg is capital — has been passed back and forth depending on which nation won the last war.

France is approximately the size of Texas, but due to its geographical location and historical past, it houses an incredible wealth of European civilization and culture. And of course, it gives students a chance to hone their French-speaking abilities.

Amy Wiginton, a French education major from Cincinnati, says, "When we first arrived in Europe, I was afraid to speak French because I thought I would be judged. However, after spending several weeks in the country, it was a lot easier. [The French] were genuinely nice, and I was able to open up and share with the local people."

Nursing major and French minor Kellie Schmalzried from Conneautville, Pa., also lauds the merits of the semester. "French majors should be required to attend [this] program if they really want to master their language skills."

Thanks to Amy, Kellie, and 21 other University students, the France/Switzerland program has become a reality. Our group T-shirts read, "HUFFS: J'y étais au début!" Translated it means, "HUFFS: I was there at the beginning."

We were there, but not passively. Instead we strove to put into practice the football slogan printed on the other side of the shirts: "Qui ne saute pas n'est pas Toulousain!" In only three months, we learned to fit in and be Toulousain and Genevois and Parisien — assuring the success of a language-intense and culturally rich experience in French-speaking Europe. **H**



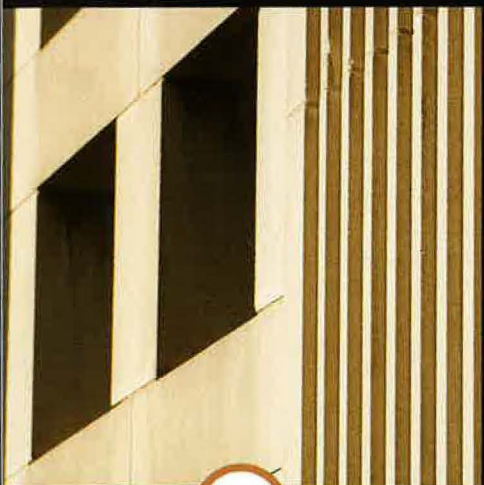
# How well do you know campus?

By JENNIFER L. MARCUSSEN

Photos by JEFF MONTGOMERY

**E**VERY ALUMNUS HAS A VERSION OF THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS imprinted on his or her own mind. Like photographs, each shot varies in contrast, brightness, angle and focus. For some, the image may be growing fuzzy; for others, it is still being developed. Current students have more to fit into the frame, but the overall point-of-reference is the same.

So get out your old photo album and memories, match the clues to the landmarks, and see how well you know the University. **H**



1

Chancellor Ganus still keeps an office here.



2

Provides eternal and present direction.



3

Grandmother and granddaughter alike may have spent an afternoon on these balconies.



Its legend surpasses its stature.

4



Once a crumbling home,  
now a symbol of learning.

5



Heed the warning.  
Your grades will thank you.

6

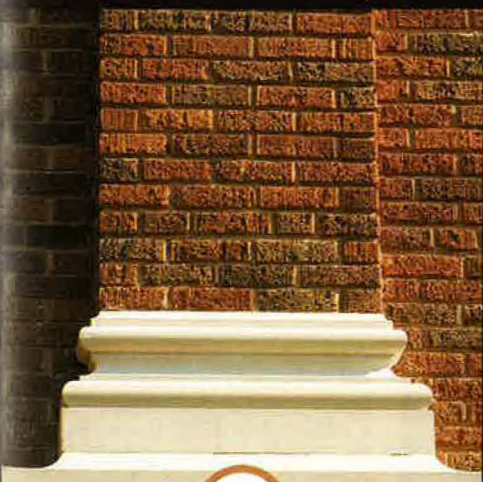


These stones have welcomed  
every student who has set foot  
on the Searcy campus.

7



- 1. Administration Building (1952)
- 2. McInTeer Center for World Missions (1994)
- 3. Pattie Cobb Residence Hall (1919)
- 4. Bell Tower (1953)
- 5. Sears Honors Center (1950)
- 6. Muncy Clock (1994)
- 7. Gateway from original Galloway campus (1927)
- 8. Olen Hendrix Building (1926)
- 9. Lily Pool (reconstructed in 2006)
- 10. Rhodes Field House (1949)



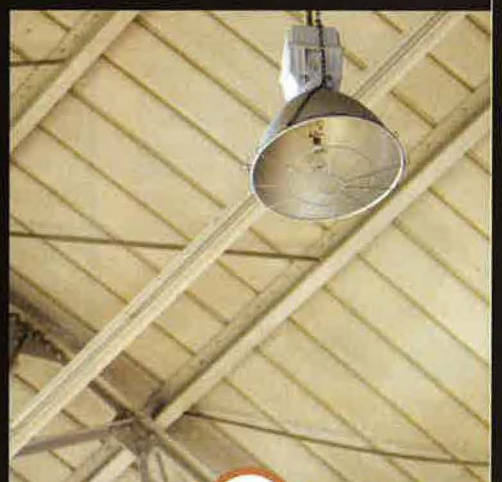
8

A former state senator's name  
adorns this building.



9

Ring ceremonies. Enough said.



10

Once an airplane hangar,  
now home to the Rowdies.



# Connections

Send your alumni news to "Connections," Harding University Office of Alumni Relations, Box 10768, Searcy, AR 72149-0768; or e-mail [alumninews@harding.edu](mailto:alumninews@harding.edu). To subscribe to the weekly e-mail listserv *Alumni Digest*, send message, including your name and class year, to [alumni-list@harding.edu](mailto:alumni-list@harding.edu). You may post messages to the *Digest* at the same address.

## 1960

**Jim Brown** has published a new book titled *The Foster Twins in the Mystery at Red Bud Cove*. He and his wife, **Ina Linn** ('63), have a daughter, **Tracy Foster** ('89). The Foster twins in the book are modeled after Tracy's daughters. (3 Plantation Drive W., Heber Springs, AR 72543)

## 1964

**Arthur and Jacqueline Thayer Williams** were in their stilt home in Gulfport, Miss., as the waters of Hurricane Katrina flooded it. After renovating and selling their house, they retired to Tennessee. They have two sons. (4330 Kinneys Road, Springfield, TN 37172)

## 1969

**Carl Collins** retired from Reynolds School District in 2001. He then taught in the education department at Concordia University. He and his wife, Kathy, are now teachers at Morrison Christian Academy in Taichung, Taiwan. Carl teaches high school science, and Kathy teaches ESL students at the elementary level. (Morrison Christian Academy, 136-1, Shui Nan Road, Taichung, Taiwan ROC 406)

**Karin Robbins** was awarded the Middle School Physical Education Educator of the Year for 2005

from the Vermont Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and was named to *Who's Who*

*Among America's Teachers* for 2005. She teaches at Riverside Middle School. In her spare time, Karin has coached cheerleading, ski team and tennis. She also teaches driver education and is active in her church. (37 Meadow Drive, Springfield, VT 05156)

## 1970

**Karen Westerman Close** com-

pleted a master's in pastoral counseling and a master's in



Christian education from Columbia International University in South Carolina in May 2004. She works for Columbia in

the graduate teacher education division. She is also a part-time counselor at Lexington Church of Christ and adjunct professor at Western Christian College in Saskatchewan, Canada, teaching in the areas of youth, marriage and family. She and her husband, Jack, have three children and seven grandchildren. (208 Faskin Lane, Lexington, SC 29072)

## 1972

**Nancy McCluggage Cook** completed her doctorate in educational leadership from Argosy University in Sarasota, Fla., in March. She is principal for East Coweta Middle School in Senoia, Ga. She and her husband, **Thomas** ('73), have two children. (208 Everhill, Peachtree City, GA 30269)

## 1974

**Connie Rogers Walton** received her doctorate from the University of Mississippi in May. She successfully defended her dissertation, "The Effectiveness of Using a Student Monitoring System to Improve a School District's State Test Scores." She is a special edu-

cation teacher at Corinth High School and a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She has three children. (1307 E. Clover Lane, Corinth, MS 38834)

## 1975

**Donna Arnold Thompson** has been awarded the Certified Residential Specialist designation by



the Council of Residential Specialists. She is a sales associate with Crye-Leike Realtors and a member of the Northwest Mississippi Association of Realtors. She and her husband, **Wesley** ('87), have five children. (5388 Meadow Pointe Drive, Southaven, MS 38672)

## 1978

**Bill Patton** is president of First State Bank. His wife, Martha, is a part-time dental hygienist. They have two children. (5 Lee Circle, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 1979

**Beth Garner Brown** has recently published a book, *Parenting Is Rocket Science*, designed for parenting classes and for individual parent use. Her husband, **Eldon** ('76), is director of operations at WCSC-TV. They have two daughters. (6173 County Line Road, Ravenel, SC 29470)

**Virginia "Ginny" Raulston Ross** received Teacher of the Year at High Springs Community School for 2005-06. (7621 S.W. Ninth Place, Gainesville, FL 32607)

## 1980

**Dawn Zoller Hodges** is dean of the Marietta campus of Chattahoochee Technical College in Marietta, Ga. (55 Spivey Road, Newnan, GA 30263)

## 1983

**Lesia Davis Weeks** completed her master's in teaching from Harding in 2005. She teaches at Central Arkansas Christian School, and her husband, **Charles** ('82), is a self-employed building contractor. They have four children. (14004 Shepard Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223)

## 1984

**Karen Hodnett Cherry** completed her master's in education in May from Walden University. She is a fourth-grade teacher at Greater

## PROFILE: REBA SORRELLS 1941

### A point of light

MAY 9 HAS HELD SIGNIFICANCE for Reba Sorrells for decades — it marks her wedding day to her late husband, Cleo, in 1942. The date gained additional meaning when Sorrells was named the Daily Point of Life for May 9, 2006, becoming the first person from Tyler, Texas, to win the prestigious national award for volunteerism.



Reba Sorrells

The former educator received the honor for her efforts with World Bible School, a Bible correspondence course aimed at Third World and impoverished communities. She and Cleo began work with the school in 1980. After Cleo's death, Reba continued teaching, and in her mind, the recognition is also a tribute to him.

Although she has corresponded with more than 2,500 students from around the globe, her efforts exceed grading lessons and writing letters. She has helped establish a library in one African preaching school and is known for sending Bibles and other books by the box load.

Closer to home is her work with Boles Children's Home, where for 27 years she taught and later served as principal. In addition to her paid position, for 19 years she and Cleo spent weekends driving around Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana collecting groceries for the home. This act of service garnered her the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award by the One-Star Foundation in June.

Generosity from others during her youth — especially in attending Harding — instilled in her the desire to serve. "Other people helped me," she says. "I don't know how someone as poor as I was ended up with so many blessings."

And at 88, she stays committed to these ministries, following a philosophy appropriate for all ages: "If I see a job that needs to be done ... I just wade in and do it." **H**

— Jennifer L. Marcussen





Atlanta Christian School. Her husband, **John** ('85), is a financial manager at Bell South. They have two children. (4264 Patrick Trace, Norcross, GA 30092)

**Reid Simmons** is assistant vice president and loan officer at First State Bank. His wife, **Cheryl Brooker** ('89), is an art teacher at Westside Elementary. They have two daughters. (313 Billy Davis Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 1985

**Lisa Lee Ann Cox** serves as editorial director for Star Bible in Hurst, Texas. She completed her certificate in graphic communication from Tarrant County College in May. She received her doctorate in English from Texas Tech University. (6112 Abbott Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76180)

**E. Alan Rogers** has been promoted to IT manager, risk and reinsurance, at Nationwide Insurance. His wife, **Cara Dudley**, is secretary at Spring Road Church of Christ. They have two daughters. (3775 Kellen Drive, Columbus, OH 43230)

**Kerwin Smith** is director of large systems and disaster recovery at Brinks. He and his wife, **Kristie Fair**, have a son who is a freshman at Harding. (4406 Buck-Board Circle, Corinth, TX 76208)

## 1986

**Tania Houk Williams** received her doctorate of audiology in June 2005 from Pennsylvania School of Optometry and Audiology. She is practicing at Brentwood Hearing & Hearing Aid Center. Her husband, Michael, is assistant professor of Bible at Lipscomb University and education minister at Fourth Avenue Church of Christ. They have two children. (117 Lucinda Court, Franklin, TN 37064)

## 1988

**Jeffrey Johnson** has been promoted to advisory I/T architect at IBM. His wife, **Kelly Crawford** ('88), is a real estate consultant at Realty Executives. They have three children. (12922 King Circle, Cypress, TX 77429)

## 1989

**Andy Olree** had his new book, *The Choice Principle: The Biblical Case for Legal Toleration*, published by University Press of America. He is associate professor at Faulkner University's Jones School of Law. He and his wife,

**Kelley Brown** ('89), have two sons. (8518 Asheworth Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117)

## 1990

**John Paradis** has been promoted to director of claim operations at Fischbach LLC. (1530 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220)

**Franco Zengaro** received his doctorate from the University of Alabama in May and is assistant professor of health and human performance at Middle Tennessee State University. He and his wife, **Sally Copeland** ('83), have two children. (490 Fortress Blvd., #9D, Murfreesboro, TN 37128)

## 1991

**Gray Dillard** has been promoted to regional executive at Blue Cross Blue Shield. He and his wife, **Elizabeth Doyle**, have three children. (205 Sherri, Hot Springs, AR 71901)

**Ward Sandlin** was awarded the Air Medal by the Coast Guard for his performance during Hurricane Katrina rescue operations in New Orleans. He saved 161 lives in the days immediately following the disaster. He is an HH60J helicopter instructor pilot. He and his wife, **Mindy Raines**, have two children. (1365 Amber Glen, Mobile, AL 36695)

## 1992

**Trent Arnold** is children's and family minister at Robinson Avenue Church of Christ. He and his wife, Renee, have two daughters. (6608 Cutter Court, Springdale, AR 72764)

**Marianne Sassi Matthias** received her doctorate from Purdue University in May. She is assistant professor at Ball State University. She and her husband, Heath, have two daughters. (11678 Lake Forest Parkway, Carmel, IN 46033)

**Elizabeth Crockett Rose's** address was listed incorrectly in the last magazine. She and her husband, **Steve** ('93), have two children. (214 Fairway St., Bald Knob, AR 72010)

## 1993

**Mark Cornell** completed his master's degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife, **Brenda Vallette** ('92), have three children. (106 Freesia Drive, Dayton, OH 45431)

## 1995

**Caroline Brown Stefaniak** graduated from the University of Arkan-

sas at Little Rock law school in May. She and her husband, Greg, have moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., where she will work in the litigation group of a local law firm. (1001 N. Natchez Road, #F5, Chattanooga, TN 37405)

## 1996

**Cary Burnley** graduated from chiropractic school and is practicing at Garrett Chiropractic Clinic. His wife, Anna, is an adjunct professor at Northwest-Shoals Community College. They have a daughter. (461 Ridgecliff Drive, Florence, AL 35634)

**Jennifer Mayfield Heichel** completed her master's degree in social work from Ohio State University in June 2005. She is a family therapist at Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services. She married her husband, Rob Heichel, Aug. 21, 2004. (2305 Cotter Road, Mansfield, OH 44903)

## 1997

**Blane Covert** was named recipient of the 2002 Meyer Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence and the



2002 St. Vincent College Excellence in Teaching Award. He was voted "Favorite Teacher" by Pulaski Academy Class of 2003 and selected to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for 2004 and 2005. (9 Glasgow Court, Little Rock, AR 72211)

**Steven Swan** is a sports photographer for WBZ-TV, the CBS affiliate in Boston. His wife, **Alla Casey** ('96), is a page designer for the Cape Cod Times newspaper in Hyannis, Mass. (11 Brandeis Lane, Plymouth, MA 02360)

## 1999

**Kathy Keller Burnett** received her master of education degree in literacy, curriculum and instruction from Lesley University in Boston in May. She is a fourth-grade teacher at Arlington Christian School. Her husband, Trent, is a painter for Delta Airlines. They have a son. (175 Prescott Court, Newnan, GA 30265)

**Justin Lawson** is vice president at First State Bank. He and his wife, **Katie Cranford** ('00), have two sons. (404 Crain Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

**Kevin Pieckiel** has been promoted to information technology

manager at DMJM Harris. (705 Willow Lake Circle, #188, Virginia Beach, VA 23452)

**Zrinka Rukavina** graduated from DePaul University College of Law and is working as an associate at Hervas, Condon & Bersani P.C. (1430 N. Bosworth, #3, Chicago, IL 60622)

## 2000

**Joana Carlson** has been selected as a 2006-07 J. William Fulbright full grant recipient to China, where she will conduct research for her dissertation "'Horizontal Diplomacy' and U.S. Responses to Social Revolutions in China and Cuba." She is currently a university fellow and Ph.D. candidate in history at Florida State University. (731 W. Lafayette St., Tallahassee, FL 32304)

**Becky Ray** received her master's degree in elementary reading and literacy from Walden University and is a kindergarten teacher for Memphis City Schools. (2105 McGehee Cove, Memphis, TN 38133)

## 2001

**Zach Neal** is director of campus life at Harding. His wife, **Sara Jo Edens**, is a homemaker. They have two children. (380 S. Walker Road, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 2003

**Elizabeth Green** has been promoted to gift product manager at The Clever Factory. (5845 Nolensville Pike, #108, Nashville, TN 37211)

## 2004

**Keri Estes Gernand** received her master's degree in speech language pathology from Auburn University and is working as a speech language pathologist in the Columbia County School System. Her husband, Timothy, is a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. (136 Walden Glen Lane, Evans, GA 30809)

**Jacob Rotich** won the Statesman Capitol 10K April 2 in Austin, Texas. His wife, **Hellen Singoei** ('05), finished third among the women and 27th overall. Jacob is systems administrator and a coach at Brentwood Christian School, and Hellen coaches junior high track at the school and works with disabled children at a health care facility. (11701 Metric Blvd., #1421, Austin, TX 78758)

## 2005

**Jenn Lowrey Magbuhat** has been





promoted to manager at Nordstrom. Her husband, J.J., is also a manager at Nordstrom. (3400 Western Center Blvd., #2050, Fort Worth, TX 76137)

## Marriages

**Shannon Gump** ('00) to Joe Mason, April 9, 2005. Shannon is a critical care nurse at Huntington Hospital. (2650 N. Lake Ave., #12, Altadena, CA 91001)

**Michele Puckett** ('02) to Jake Marbet, May 20, 2005. Michele is an emergency room nurse at Maury Regional Hospital, and Jake is a police officer. (426 Bradford Circle, Columbia, TN 38401)

**Leslie Kukta** ('02) to Michael Rains, June 25, 2005. Leslie is a third-grade teacher with Searcy Public Schools, and Michael is youth minister at First Baptist Church in Judsonia. (P.O. Box 841, Judsonia, AR 72081)

**Jeff Fall** ('99) to Jaime Austin, July 2, 2005. Jeff is a senior flash developer at R/GA, an interactive advertising agency in New York City. (1322 Minerva, West Islip, NY 11795)

**Kelley Evans** ('83) to Chris Anderson, Aug. 11, 2005. Kelley is senior project manager corporate audit at EDS, and Chris is an electronics engineer at Texas Instruments. (1420 Callaway Drive, Plano, TX 75075)

**Brian Richardson** ('04) to **Brianne Hopkins** ('05), Dec. 30, 2005. Brian is a sales representative at IBM, and Brianne is a graduate student at University of Texas at Dallas. (113 Cimarron Trail, #2102, Irving, TX 75063)

**David Anfield** ('02) to **Ciara Gary** ('01), Feb. 25. David works in the information technology department at Harvard Business School, and Ciara is in the MBA program there. (12-2 Mead St., Allston, MA 02134)

**Fawnda Elliott** ('01) to Chad Messmer, March 20. They are both employed at Currey Ingram Academy. Fawnda teaches fifth grade, and Chad is a physical education teacher and coach. (370 Oakley Drive, #609, Nashville, TN 37211)

**Landon Horton** ('00) to Jill Henderson, April 29. Landon is an actuary at Towers Perrin, and Jill is a graphic designer at AT&T. (400 Tucson Court, Plano, TX 75023)

**Jeremy Hayes** ('00) to **Leanne Jett** ('01), May 13. (4310 Utah Ave., Nashville, TN 37209)

**Caleb Borchers** ('06) to **Fran Wallace** ('06), May 20. (6000 Sunnydale, Clarkston, MI 48346)

**Jeffrey Rimer** ('00) to Renee Scott, May 20. Jeffrey is an electrical engineer at General Motors, and Renee is employed at Bed Bath & Beyond. (29881 Quinkert, Roseville, MI 48066)

**Rabecca McLain** ('00) to Micah Holt, June 3. Rabecca is an intake and aftercare specialist at Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy, and Micah is zone coordinator at Aeon. (813 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, OK 74110)

**Amber Sawyer** ('00) to John Jackson, June 6. Amber received her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and is a postdoctoral research fellow in the area of tissue engineering at the National University of Singapore. (15A Jalan Aruan, Singapore, 229127)

**Sarah Pace** ('01) to Michael Chaffin, June 10. Sarah is a media producer at CNN, and Michael is assistant manager at Starbucks Coffee Co. (13076 Region Trace, Alpharetta, GA 30004)

**Brian Walton** ('04) to Amy Harvey, June 23. Brian is a business and family planning analyst at The Boeing Co., and Amy teaches eight-grade language arts at Brevard Public Schools. (3013 Dunhill, Cocoa, FL 32926)

**David Hudson** ('01) to **Lauren Duncan** ('05), July 8. David is a sixth-grade teacher at Delmar Middle School, and Lauren is a first-grade teacher at Delmar Elementary School. (900 Jones Terrace, Delmar, DE 19940)

## Births

To **Darren** ('95) and **Casey Wolfe** ('96) **Williams**, a daughter, Parker, May 24, 2004. They have two other children, Cooper and Avery. Darren is a pharmaceutical salesman, and Casey is a homemaker. (1727 Caraquet Drive, Spring, TX 77386)

To **Nathanael** ('05) and Mandy Jumper **Kitchens**, a daughter, Katrina, Aug. 26, 2004. (1632 Countryside Drive, Liberal, KS 67901)

To **Gene** ('87) and **June Chase** ('93) **Paul**, a son, Maddox, Dec. 25, 2004. They have two other children, McCartney and Maygan. Gene is a manager at American Airlines. (2809 Bremen Drive, Hurst, TX 76054)

To **Stephen** ('90) and **Rebecca Hubbard** ('90) **Batchelder**, a son, Adam, March 17, 2005. Stephen

is an attorney at Amerada Hess Corp. (603 Sweet Hollow Road, Bloomsbury, NJ 08804)

To **Jeff** ('94) and **Erin Chandler** ('97) **Conner**, a son, Winston David, March 30, 2005. They have two other children, Chandler and Emma. Jeff is in sales at Eisai Pharmaceuticals, and Erin is a homemaker. (2104 Boulder Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72404)

To **Bryan** ('96) and **Belinda Cain** ('97) **Livingston**, a daughter, Sydney Brooke, April 19, 2005. They also have a son, Dawson. Bryan is an auditor at NSF International, and Belinda is a reading specialist for the England School District. (P.O. Box 84, Keo, AR 72083)

To **Ken** ('05) and **Anissa Carlyle** ('93) **Falconer**, a son, Kenneth Ivan III, April 25, 2005. They also have twin daughters, Savannah and Scarlett. (301 1/2 S. Oak, California, MO 65018)

To **Danny** ('97) and **Amanda Burnside** ('97) **Wallace**, a son, Noah Ellis, May 26, 2005. Danny is in professional sales at McLeod USA, and Amanda is a registered nurse at Children's Urgent Care Clinic. (14118 Orchard Ave., Omaha, NE 68137)

To **Ray** ('00) and **Amy Jackson** ('00) **Shastid**, a son, Jacob Lee, June 3, 2005. They have another son, Colby. Ray is a police officer for the Bentonville Police Department and corporal in the U.S. Marine Corp., and Amy is a homemaker. (451 N. Firewood, Centerton, AR 72719)

To Bob and **Caron Nobles** ('99) **O'Korn**, a son, Joshua Robert, July 25, 2005. (947 Delfield Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102)

To **Robert** ('97) and **Cynthia Raterman** ('97) **Bader**, a son, Reuben Quinn, July 31, 2005. Robert is associate product manager at Tech Data, and Cynthia is a homemaker. (3042 Cherry Lane, Clearwater, FL 33759)

To Erin and **Alissa Lingua** ('98) **Roades**, a son, Isaac James, Aug. 17, 2005. They also have a daughter, Kalista. Erin is a high school science teacher for the Hazelwood School District, and Alissa is a preschool science teacher at O'Fallon Church of Christ. (12 Graybrooke Lane, Florissant, MO 63031)

To **Russ** ('99) and **Amy Srnka** ('97) **Turman**, a son, Jack, Sept. 8, 2005. They have another son, Cooper. (6225 Tarbet Cove, Memphis, TN 38119)

To **Josh** ('00) and **Amber Howard** ('99) **Hutchinson**, a daughter,

Sadie Kay, Sept. 12, 2005. They also have a son, Jefferson. Josh is director of government affairs at BioBased Technologies, and Amber is chief financial officer at Innovative Management Solutions. (5418 Braebourne, Rogers, AR 72758)

To Lance and **Kristin Casleton** ('00) **Lowrey**, a daughter, Addison Blair, Sept. 16, 2005. Lance is an agent for Allstate Insurance, and Kristin is a clinical counselor for Children's Hospital of Alabama. (302 High Ridge Court, Pelham, AL 35124)

To Michael and **Stacey Hammitt** ('99) **Leonard**, a daughter, Abbey Marie, Sept. 19, 2005. Michael is a recruiter for Wells Fargo, and Stacey is a recruiter for Motorola. (4825 Heber Springs Trail, Keller, TX 76248)

To Jeff and **Kelly Stirrup** ('91) **Ieler**, a daughter, Hope Summer, Sept. 21, 2005. They also have a son, Logan. (2915 Cornwall Lane, Geneva, IL 60134)

To David and **Anna Canarsky** ('99) **Handley**, a daughter, Eliana Rose, Sept. 26, 2005. They also have a son, Jonathan. David is assistant attorney general for the State of Nebraska, and Anna is a dental hygienist. (2910 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506)

To Mitch and **Michelle Morgan** ('96) **Rogers**, a daughter, Ryah Michelle, Oct. 16, 2005. They have another daughter, Renee. Mitch and Michelle own BITY Mold Supply. (421 Royal Crest, Richardson, TX 75081)

To **Joel** ('99) and **Brandy Segraves**, a daughter, Madison, Oct. 17, 2005. They also have a son, Conner. Joel is a history teacher for the Meridian School District, and Brandy is an X-ray technologist at Boise Orthopedic Clinic. (2792 N. Willowside Ave., Meridian, ID 83642)

To Robert and **Kimberly Ireland** ('98) **Williams**, a son, Aidan Glen, Oct. 21, 2005. They have another son, Ethan. (4 Wabash Cove, Maumelle, AR 72113)

To **Dustin** ('00) and **Carly Lewis** ('02) **Bartee**, a daughter, Shiloh Kate, Oct. 28, 2005. They are both employed as youth ministers at Bammel Church of Christ. (6927 White Tail Drive, Spring, TX 77379)

To Derek and **Ellen Gullick** ('93) **Evans**, a daughter, Ellicia Bernice, Nov. 21, 2005. They also have a son, Ethan. (6359 Mountain View Lane, Anacortes, WA 98221)

To **Jon** ('90) and **Holley Martin**



## ALMA MATTERS

### The heart of generosity

By LIZ HOWELL, *director of alumni relations*

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE — how often do you think you could be that person?

Many have made a difference in the world because of influences from their Harding experience. Some are well-known; others remain nameless. James A. Harding, J.N. Armstrong, Pattie Cobb, Florence Cathcart, Dr. George S. Benson and Lott R. Tucker Jr. are just a few easily recognized names. But you probably don't know Roberta Cohea ('50).



Liz Howell

What motivates a single schoolteacher from Ardmore, Okla., to live a frugal life and make sacrifices in order to help students at her beloved alma mater more than 50 years later? What touches the heart to act generously?

Cohea grew up during the Depression and was very careful with her money. When she gave to the University, she believed that she was investing in the future of the Lord's kingdom.

David Underwood ('78), regional director for advancement, remembers Cohea's first gift.

"When I received it, I called Miss Cohea to express my appreciation and asked her if I could stop by and see her when I was in Ardmore. As I entered her driveway, I was moved to see a very modest home. After my visit, I felt like I had met a modern day 'widow' who was giving sacrificially."

Because of former classmates turned lifelong friends like retired librarian Winnie Bell ('49), Cohea stayed in touch with the work

here. As a teacher, she loved children but had none of her own. After estate planning advice, she decided to leave her possessions to the University to help orphan students receive a Christian education. She died May 28.

On average, 14,461 people give up to \$100 to Harding each year. You won't see these names on residence halls or in prominent places, but these gifts are the heart and lifeblood of the University. Through donor generosity, tuition costs are kept lower, scholarships are funded, and more students have an opportunity to attend.

People who give to the University share at least four convictions:

1. They believe in the mission of developing Christian servants.
2. They want others to receive a quality education while enjoying the Harding experience.
3. They take action, whether large or small, to make a difference in the lives of others.
4. They believe in the power of one.

Exercising your heart through generosity offers many rewards. We are able to witness wonderful things that happen for others because of our gifts and the impact they can have on future generations of the Harding family.

Cohea also gave her vehicle to the University. When sick students need rides to a medical clinic, her car gets them there. Who would have thought that a 1989 Ford Crown Victoria could help so many people? One person, Roberta Cohea. **H**

('96) **Raley**, a daughter, Hannah Amarylis, Nov. 21, 2005. Jon is a chiropractor and an involvement minister at Airport Road Church of Christ. (209 Tiffot Court, Crestview, FL 32539)

To **Daniel** ('04) and **Cristina Glade** ('04) **Bradshaw**, a son, Benjamin Glade, Nov. 23, 2005. Daniel is a math teacher and football coach at Southeast High School, and Cristina is an administrative assistant at Westfield Corp. (3744 Parkridge Circle, Sarasota, FL 34243)

To **Joey** ('01) and **Emily Montandon** ('01) **Myers**, a daughter, Josey Elizabeth, Nov. 29, 2005. They have another daughter, Riley. Joey is proprietor of Myers Stairs, and Emily is a homemaker. (200

Chippewa Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

To **Micheal** ('93) and **Rebekah Harding** ('93) **Carpenter**, a son, Malcolm Cameron, Dec. 5, 2005. They also have two daughters, Evelyn and Cynthia. Michael is a sales representative at Heinz USA, and Rebekah is a homemaker. (3407 Wiley Road, Montgomery, AL 36106)

To **Randy** and **Shea Rinehart** ('99) **Holstead**, a daughter, Zoie Grace, Dec. 7, 2005. (1155 Pipes Road, Ruston, LA 71270)

To **Tad** ('89) and **Michelle Ford** ('00) **Morris**, twin sons, Connor Allen and Peyton Andrew, Dec. 12, 2005. (5117 Reddington Court, Dublin, OH 43017)

To **Robert** ('94) and **Elizabeth Pickens** ('94) **Galloway**, a daughter, Caroline Grace, Dec. 28, 2005. They also have two sons, Johnny and Luke. Robert is a radiologist, and Elizabeth is a homemaker. (7900 Wycombe Court, Westerville, OH 43081)

To **Darrell** ('03) and **Michelle Lanford**, a son, Phoenix D.G., Dec. 28, 2005. Darrell is youth minister at North Garland Church of Christ, and Michelle is a homemaker. (1001 Bluestem Road, Enid, OK 73703)

To **Travis** and **Dana Howard** ('94) **Hughes**, a daughter, Alayna Ruth, Jan. 11. They have three other children, Lacey, Austin and Ansley. (9480 C.R. 2470, Royse City, TX 75189)

To **Shannon** ('94) and **Tracy Harvey** ('94) **Simmons**, a daughter, Olivia Joy, Jan. 11. They have five other children, Meredith, Carter, Claire, Hunter and Sophie. Shannon received a master's in counseling and is working with a comprehensive mental health clinic, and Tracy is home schooling the children. (605 W. Hickory, Nevada, MO 64772)

To **Brandon** ('00) and **Kimberly Genton** ('00) **Shaw**, a daughter, Kylie Reese, Jan. 16. Brandon is finance manager at Cingular Wireless, and Kimberly is marketing manager at Rare Hospital-ity International. (1346 Dalesford Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30004)

To **Mitch** and **Shannon Armstrong** ('91) **Menefee**, a son, Josiah Jonathan, Jan. 17. They also have two daughters, Clarissa and Hannah. Mitch is manager at Tyson Foods, and Shannon home schools their children. (1844 M.L. Anderson Drive, Tenaha, TX 75974)

To **Elton** and **Melissa Robinson** ('99) **Bennett**, a son, Ahmad Kaylan, Jan. 18. Melissa is an economist at Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize. (4089 Mountain View Blvd., Belmopan, Belize)

To **Justin** ('02) and **Rebekah Chandler** ('03) **Gates**, a son, Hudson Jeffrey, Jan. 19. Justin is a trauma consultant at Synthes, and Rebekah is a homemaker. (2216 Pargoud Blvd., Monroe, LA 71201)

To **Ulises** and **Mamie Shuttlesworth** ('98) **Batres**, a daughter, Gabriela Michelle, Jan. 21. (2600 Westhollow Drive, #2333, Houston, TX 77082)

To **Archie** and **Mandy Hardin** ('93) **Chankin**, a son, Jackson Elliott, Jan. 23. They also have a daughter, Emma. They are missionaries. (B.P. 15, Dano, Burkina Faso, West Africa)

To **Jeff** and **Danna Stokes** ('98) **Ramsey**, a daughter, Madeline Claire, Jan. 25. They have another daughter, Sophie. (3409 Brentway Circle, Jonesboro, AR 72404)

To **Rodney** and **Lisa Noblitt** ('88) **Gruber**, a daughter, Alyssa Renee, Jan. 26. They have another daughter, Hailey. (251 W. Lake Circle, Madison, AL 35758)

To **Troy** ('95) and **Heide Smith**, a son, Hudson, Jan. 26. They also have two daughters, Mackenzie and Avery. Troy is vice president for sales and marketing at Cynacon/Ocusoft. (4934 Lawson Lake Lane, Richmond, TX 77469)

To **Brenden** and **Mandy Armstrong** ('97) **Bulat**, a daughter, Brenna





Leighann, Feb. 1. (4104 Pepperbush, Fort Worth, TX 76137)

To **David** ('01) and **Lacey Wheeler** ('01) **Arencibia**, a daughter, Gracey Paige, Feb. 2. David is an Ed.D. candidate and teaches and coaches at Irving-MacArthur High School, and Lacey is a licensed specialist in school psychology. (2036 Kingsbrook Trail, Fort Worth, TX 76120)

To **Mark** ('90) and **Marnie Rozell** ('92) **Moore**, a daughter, Rylee Louise, Feb. 10. They have three other children, Benjamin, Grady and Cooper. (6629 Reynard Drive, Springfield, VA 22152)

To **Terry** ('95) and **Leanne Simmons** ('94) **Ramos**, a son, Nicholas Scott, Feb. 10. They have another son, Zachary. (300 Symmes Road, Fairfield, OH 45014)

To Robert and **Beth Meeks** ('98) **Garza**, a daughter, Camilla Marguerite, Feb. 11. (422 Woodland Drive, Homewood, AL 35209)

To **Tom** ('96) and **Kathy Shappard** ('95) **Wright**, a daughter, Abby Lauren, Feb. 13. They have another daughter, Anna. Tom completed his master of business administration degree at Union University in December 2005 and is IT manager at International Paper, and Kathy is a homemaker. (3694 Haynes, Bartlett, TN 38133)

To **Jason** ('99) and **Jana Weaver** ('04) **Edens**, a daughter, Emma Lynn, Feb. 14. Jason is a detention officer for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and Jana is a management assistant at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. (29110 Red River Loop, Spring, TX 77386)

To John and **Raluca Eliescu** ('95) **Milinicik**, a daughter, Julie Rose, Feb. 14. They also have a son, Luke. (653 Ryan Drive, Allentown, PA 18103)

To **Shawn** ('96) and **Gloria Matthews** ('96) **Killeen**, a daughter, Hannah Nicole, Feb. 15, by adoption. (2218 E. Maryland Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120)

To **Trent** ('92) and **Robin Bendickson** ('93) **Baker**, a son, Levi Trenton, Feb. 21. They have three other children, Micah, Lydia and Caleb. Trent is youth minister at Heartlands Church, and Robin is a homemaker. (1142 N. 44th, Lincoln, NE 68503)

To **Dario** ('96) and **Sheila Walker** ('94) **Gonzalez**, a daughter, Isabel Fe, Feb. 22. They have another daughter, Sofia. Dario works with the Dallas Independent School District, and Sheila is a homemaker. (508 Farley St., Waxahatchia, TX 75165)

To **Matthew** ('97) and **Dallas Hill** ('99) **Henderson**, a daughter, Nora Elizabeth, Feb. 23. Matthew is a math teacher for Rogers Public Schools. (614 Topaz St., Lowell, AR 72745)

To **Glen** ('00) and **Holly Shelby** ('04) **Hall**, a daughter, Makenzie Shelby, March 8. They also have a son, Wesley. Glen works in sales at Retail Technologies. (13545 Daniels Drive, Mobile, AL 36695)

To **Matt** ('97) and **Julie Hall** ('97) **Swain**, a son, Grayson Matthew, March 10. They have two other sons, Jackson and Carson. (205 E. Vicksburg, Broken Arrow, OK 74011)

To **Travis** ('00) and **Shannon Handley** ('01) **Sayre**, a son, Noah Reese, March 14. They have another son, Nolan. Travis is an auditor at FCCI, and Shannon is a registered nurse at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. (3364 Earhart Way, Buford, GA 30519)

To **Leoncio** ('97) and **Amy Dozier** ('00) **Dominguez**, a daughter, Mariana Amélie, March 20. (219 Oriel Ave., Nashville, TN 37210)

To **Micah** ('01) and **Courtney Phillips** ('03) **Sexson**, a son, Noah James, March 21. They also have two daughters, Daphne and Kaylee. (2529 Ozark, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

To **Nathan** ('94) and **Jennifer Edmondson** ('95) **Mills**, a daughter, Alicea Jo, March 24. They also have two sons, Caleb and Jon David. (2942 Highway 157, Judsonia, AR 72081)

To Jimmy and **Carol Landerfelt** ('87) **Smith**, a son, Sean, April 3, by adoption. He was born May 27, 2004. Jimmy is in sales at Partner Management, and Carol is a school counselor at Centennial High School. (1287 Old Hillsboro Road, Franklin, TN 37069)

To Neal and **Diana Doss** ('94) **Benson**, a son, Nathan Bryan, April 5. They have another son, Jackson. Neal is director of purchasing at Classic Homes, and Diana is a development assistant at University School of Nashville. (948 Century Oak Drive, Nashville, TN 37211)

To Michael and **Julie Clements** ('01) **Johnson**, a daughter, Mikaylah Jayne, April 7. They have three other children, Misty, Melody and Michael. Julie teaches nursing assistant classes. (2329 Highway 81, Covington, GA 30016)

To Johnathan and **Stephanie Young** ('00) **Wildeboer**, a daugh-

ter, Effie Elizabeth, April 10. (28232 466th Ave., Lennox, SD 57203)

To Jason and **Loren Watts** ('98) **McDade**, a son, Austin Carter, April 12. (5120 Country View Lane, Memphis, TN 38134)

To **Regan** ('02) and **Quynh Nhu Ta** ('01) **Price**, a daughter, Jacqueline Rose Ta, April 12. Regan is finance and insurance manager at Monroe Mack. (303 Winkler Way, Monroe, LA 71203)

To J.D. and **Selenia Quintero** ('95) **Farber**, a daughter, Sophia Nicole, April 16. They have two other children, Solmarie and Jacob. Selenia is manager at Numenor Labs Inc. (9975 Wadsworth Parkway, #K2424, Westminster, CO 80021)

To **Jarod** ('03) and **Paige Tenery** ('03) **Varner**, a daughter, Allie Jane, April 17. Jarod is a management analyst with the Denton County Transportation Authority, and Paige is an elementary teacher for Carrollton-Farmer's Branch Independent School District. (300 E. 3040, #1412, Lewisville, TX 75067)

To **Norm** ('95) and Maggie Hedde **Conley**, a daughter, Evelyn "Evie" Margaret, April 18. Norm is a finish carpenter, and Maggie is a wedding photographer. (1346 Pequot Trail, Stonington, CT 06378)

To **Desmond** ('99) and Shalwa **Leslie**, a daughter, Xanthe, April 18. They have another daughter, Laney. Desmond is IT manager at Alliance Bank of Belize. (P.O. Box 1829, Belize City, Belize)

To Jes and **Mindy Schackmann** ('96) **Shearer**, a daughter, Emily Megan, April 21. They have another daughter, Amy. (5842 S. Maplewood Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135)

To **Jeremy** ('03) and Elizabeth **Wallace**, a daughter, MacKenzie Rece, April 22. (307 Sandy Circle, Woodstock, GA 30188)

To **Roger** ('88) and Melissa **Bradley**, a daughter, Alissa Sofia, April 26. They also have a son, Antoine. Roger is a technical officer/economist with Social Investment Fund, and Melissa is a teacher at Anglican Cathedral College. (140 Vista del Mar, Ladyville, Belize)

To **Kris** ('92) and **Jenny Adams** ('93) **Citty**, a son, Jack Henry, April 26. They have two other children, Kizzie and Jimmy. Kris is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Searcy Medical Center. (903 Sunnyside, Searcy, AR 72143)

To **Jeremy** ('01) and **Kylie Powell** ('03) **Cochran**, a daughter, Abigail Hope, April 28. Jeremy is the minister at Abilene Church of Christ. (120 Bell Farm Road, Statesville, NC 28625)

To **Joel** ('99) and **Stacy Little** ('99) **Means**, a son, Noah Michael, April 28. They also have a daughter, Emma. Joel is a graduate research assistant at Texas A&M University. (2516 Westwood Main, Bryan, TX 77807)

To **Joshua** ('02) and **Jenny Gantt** ('02) **Turner**, a daughter, Sydney Kate, April 30. (3035 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, GA 30096)

To **D. Neal** ('97) and **Natalie Sullivan** ('98) **Daugherty**, a son, Jackson Troy, May 4. They also have a daughter, Riley. (1424 Lomond Court, Allen, TX 75013)

To **Bryan** ('98) and **Rebekah Norman** ('98) **Rampey**, a daughter, Sabrina Brooke, May 7. (664.5 Highway 36 E., Searcy, AR 72143)

To **Trey** ('03) and **Christi Davis** ('97) **Thompson**, a daughter, Elyssa Clare, May 8. They have another daughter, Emma. (8710 Huntersfield Lane, La Porte, TX 77571)

To Todd and **Rebecca Henson** ('00) **Langer**, a daughter, Grace Anne, May 12. Todd is in sales at Zimmer Orthopaedics, and Rebecca is a chemistry teacher for Cherry Creek Schools. (23286 E. Lake Place, Aurora, CO 80015)

To **Scott** ('97) and **Tanya Wilson** ('97) **Biddle**, a daughter, Zephi Addison, May 18. Scott is a software developer at Acxiom Corp. (210 Aztec, Searcy, AR 72143)

To **Kevin** ('96) and **Jenny Evans** ('98) **Jensen**, a son, Isaac David, May 22. (1581 Sunset Way, Cowiche, WA 98923)

To **Jordan** ('99) and **Kim Gibbins** ('98) **Harr**, a son, Jackson Kyle, May 25. They also have a daughter, Kennedy. (198 English Hills Drive, Mooresville, NC 28115)

To **Cris** ('98) and **Kellie Milner**, a son, Parker Stone, May 26. (5313 Windypine Drive, Nashville, TN 37211)

To Mike and **Susan Parks** ('96) **Flowers**, a son, Matthew Duane, May 29. They also have a daughter, Elizabeth. (109 Welton Court, East Peoria, IL 61611)

To **Byron** ('92) and **Marcella Sullivan** ('95) **Gardner**, twins, a son, Keegan Mack, and a daughter, Tatum Eve, May 29. They have another daughter, Ellery. Byron is a market intelligence strategist at IBM, and Marcella is a home-





maker. (10524 Churchill Drive, Peoria, IL 61615)

To **Lathan** ('98) and **Kim Knight** ('98) **Watts**, a daughter, Ashton Grace, May 30. They have another daughter, McKenna. Lathan is a regional political manager at Associated Builders and Contractors, and Kim is an adjunct algebra instructor for the Dallas County Community College District. (1221 Longhorn Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067)

To **Payton** ('04) and **Kristy Holsombake** ('02) **Patterson**, a son, William James, May 31. Payton is a student at University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry, and Kristy is a financial adviser at Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. (1115 Castlemaine Drive, Birmingham, AL 35226)

To **David** ('00) and **Christy Hutson** ('99) **Lucich**, a son, Michael James, June 1. They are both employed by Bedford County Schools. David is a band director, and Christy is a speech pathologist. (103 Casper Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37128)

To **Zach** ('03) and **Ashley White** ('04) **Holcomb**, a daughter, Mary Cailynn, June 5. They also have a son, Michael. Zach is a science teacher with the West Memphis School District, and Ashley is a homemaker. (210 Whispering Wind Circle, Marion, AR 72364)

To **Jonathan** ('98) and **Corrie Brown** ('00) **Albright**, a son, Asher Jonathan, June 12. They also have a daughter, Ainsley. (119 Prospect Trail, North Little Rock, AR 72118)

To **Mark** ('99) and **Shauna Stobart** ('00) **Trainer**, a son, Jason, June 14. They have two other children, Mackenzie and Dylan. Mark has joined Baker & Daniels LLP in the labor and employment group after practicing trial law for almost four years in Cleveland. He is a 2002 graduate of the Indiana University School of Law. (499 E. Quail Ridge, Westfield, IN 46074)

To **Jeffrey** ('97) and Jennifer **Baker**, a daughter, Katherine Scout, June 26. They have another daughter, Betsy. Jeffrey is associate professor of law and clinical director of Faulkner University's Jones School of Law. (6413 Diane Court, Montgomery, AL 36117)

To Aaron and **Jennifer James** ('97) **Green**, a son, Parker York, June 28. They also have two daughters, Grace and Susannah.

## 2006 honorees beyond the ordinary

EACH YEAR, THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE PRESENTS AWARDS to individuals representing a variety of class years and academic colleges. These alumni have achieved a degree of excellence and recognition in their chosen fields; exemplify lives consistent with the ideals of the University; actively support the University; and strive to advance their service to the community, the church and God.



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

After completing medical school at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, Dr. **Tom Henderson** ('69) began a family practice with the Dexter Medical Group in Missouri that lasted until 2001. Since then, he has served as medical/executive director of Faith Family Medical Clinic in Nashville, Tenn. His wife, **Linda Bridges** ('69), who has served as a Bible class teacher for all ages, is a ladies day speaker and involved with prison ministry. The Hendersons have been President's Council members for 30 years.

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

**Robert Chambers** ('89) has worked with the Ranger Capital Group since 2001. He joined the organization as chief financial officer and was responsible for overseeing all corporate-level financial and operational aspects of the firm. In 2002, he assumed responsibility for Ranger's fund of hedge funds business, Ranger Advisors. Chambers serves on the board of directors of Mission Alive, a church-planting organization, and on the advisory board of the University's Center for World Missions.



### OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

#### College of Arts and Humanities

Retired communication professor Dr. **Jack Ryan** ('59) advised, directed and produced Spring Sing for 32 years. He is a member of the President's Council and the advisory council for Children's Homes of Paragould, Ark.

#### College of Bible and Religion

U.S. Army veteran **Virgil Jackson** ('95) spent nearly 25 years in the computer industry before completing his degree. A missionary in Vlorë, Albania, since 1995, he was part of church plants in Vlorë, Fier and Orikum, Albania. He also established and conducted a four-week Bible camp for five years in the Albanian mountains.

#### College of Business Administration

**Brian TréusDell** ('84) is chief executive officer of TréusDell Salon & Spa, three full-service day spas in San Antonio. He is also CEO of Huebner Real Estate Co., managing commercial properties. He received the President's Award for Rotary International and has led two Rotary group-study exchanges to Europe.

#### College of Education

**Howard Morris** ('79) has been assistant superintendent of Riverview School District in Searcy since 2000. A *Scholastic Coach* magazine's National High School Coaching Gold Award recipient and founder of White County Boys Basketball Camp, he serves on the Optimist Club Board of Directors and as a member of the President's Council.

#### College of Nursing

**Mark Priddy** ('85) holds positions as staff nurse anesthetist at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport and clinical instructor of nurse anesthesia for Texas Wesleyan University. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his direct supervision as a medical crew director with the Mississippi Air Guard contributed to the successful evacuation of more than 3,500 casualties.

#### College of Sciences

Dr. **Jim Carr** ('70), executive vice president of the University, is a member of the Arkansas Board of the Boy Scouts of America, chairman-elect of the Searcy regional Chamber of Commerce, and a director of First Arkansas Valley Bank. He is serving a four-year term on the National Security Education Board, to which he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. **H**



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: ENDOWMENT

Tax-wise giving

By TED HACKNEY, director of the Center for Charitable Estate Planning

ALUMNI DAVID ('76) AND BETSY ('83) WALKUP Waldron are people of vision. Their faith in God, along with their desire to advance the mission of Christian education, has inspired them to establish both a material and spiritual inheritance for their children.



Katie, Betsy, Orbie, Will and David Waldron

To achieve this goal, they created a charitable legacy by way of a donor-advised fund. This fund enables donors to make contributions to the University now and retain the option to distribute future earnings to other

qualified charitable organizations. As advisers to the fund, the Waldrons may provide written annual recommendations naming the organizations they wish to receive the grants, which may change from year to year.

This visionary approach to estate planning emphasizes responsibility and participation and allows the Waldron's children, Will and Katie, to be actively involved in charitable endeavors and in advancing Christian education. Not only can the children act as advisers after their parents' deaths, but they also can serve

with them while they are living.

The Waldron Family Foundation Fund of Harding University will provide for the future of the University and be a lifelong source of spiritual strength and encouragement for the family.

Donors may choose the areas in which to endow their gifts to Harding. If you choose a donor-advised fund, the University will acknowledge your gift in writing, invest it prudently, send you an annual investment report, use fund income in accordance with the fund agreement, and provide the amount given to and identity of gift recipients.

For information about creating a donor-advised fund at Harding, please call me at (800) 477-4312 or e-mail [endowment@harding.edu](mailto:endowment@harding.edu).

We would also be glad to send you "The Case for Endowment," which describes different endowment opportunities at the University, or assist you with year-end tax decisions and estate planning. **H**

*Ted Hackney is a 1979 alumnus who began working with the University in September.*

*Regional director Dan Campbell contributed to this article.*



Ted Hackney

awarded him the Fessor Boyce Award, named him a Lipscomb Legend, and inducted him into its Sports Hall of Fame. Harding honored him as Outstanding Alumnus for the College of Education in 1983. He was admired as a song leader and led singing workshops. He is survived by a son, Robert Neil Jr.; a daughter, Ann Vander Linden; two grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

**William Norman Arnold** ('34), 98, died Feb. 11 from bone cancer. After a brief minor league baseball career, he went to Louisiana in 1939 to work in the oil and gas industry. When time permitted, he nurtured his interest in art by traveling to New Orleans and visiting artists. Upon retirement he devoted himself entirely to painting. During 1966 and 1967, he attended the prestigious John McCrady School of Art in New Orleans. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Doris Hilton. (11026 Wakefield Drive S., St. Francisville, LA 70775)

**Ewell Word** ('38), 91, died Jan. 14. He is survived by his wife, Lorene; two sons, **David** ('74) and **Duran**; two brothers, **Dewey** ('41) and **Harry** ('54); and one grandson. (887 Highway 64 W., Beebe, AR 72012)

**Roberta J. Cohea** ('50), 77, died May 28. She taught school at Ringling and Fox and retired from teaching at Ardmore Public Schools in Oklahoma. She was a member of McLish Avenue Church of Christ.

**Mamie Jo Woody Hart** ('50), 77, died Dec. 24, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Harold "Red"** ('51), in 2003. She is survived by three daughters, Dianne Garrett, Connie Gaultney and Sandy Boyd; a sister, **Martha Bush** ('53); and five grandchildren.

**Anna Ramsey** ('62), 64, died Feb. 5 from cancer. She was retired from Arkansas Oklahoma Gas, where she was vice president of accounting. She was a member of Rena Road Church of Christ and the Arkansas Society of CPAs. She is survived by her sister, **Jean Barnard** ('67).

**Tina Deeter Edwards** ('63), 96, died Jan. 27 from Alzheimer's complications. She retired in 1971 after teaching 41 years in Arkansas public schools. She served as president of Kappa Iota Sorority, White County Retired Teachers Association, Bald Knob Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Bald Knob chapter of the AARP. She

Aaron is a chemical engineer with Schlumberger Oil Services, and Jennifer is a homemaker. (1301 Roanoke Drive, Graham, TX 76450)

To **Joel** ('03) and **Emily Richardson** ('03) **Hoggard**, a daughter, Isabel Katherine, June 30. (105 Richie St., Saraland, AL 36571)

To **Jimmy** ('92) and **Jill Limbrunner** ('93) **Knight**, a daughter, Jordan Rose, July 7, by adoption. She was born June 5. They also have a son, Jamie. (1724 Miller Farms, Germantown, TN 38138)

To **David** ('00) and **Lanny Hardman** ('99) **Duke**, a son, Elijah Dale, July 11. (CMU Qatar Office SMC 1070, 5032 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15289)

To Chad and **Beth Luallen** ('97) **Reagan**, a son, Michael Cameron Dutch, July 13. (135 Guinn Court, Bowling Green, KY 42101)

To **Nathan** ('02) and **Katie Fant** ('00) **Smith**, a son, Griffin James,

July 17. Nathan is a sales and service representative at GAF, and Katie coaches at Brentwood Christian School. (1411 Gracy Farms, #22, Austin, TX 78758)

To **Andrew** ('96) and **Dera Perry** ('97) **Shadel**, a daughter, Mary Alison, July 23. They have another daughter, Virginia. Andrew is territory account manager at National Manufacturing, and Dera is a homemaker. (1301 Standing Stone Circle, Columbia, TN 38401)

To **Wade** ('93) and **Julie Owen** ('91) **Osburn**, a son, Oliver, July 24. They have three other children, Ellis, Ivy and Owen. Wade is theological librarian at Freed-Hardeman University, and Katie home schools their children. (314 E. Third St., Henderson, TN 38340)

To Greg and **Shannon Starks** ('02) **Davis**, a son, Samuel Jack, July 30. (1 Lynnwood Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Passages

**Robert Neil** ('32), 96, died May 17. His career in education and ministry spanned 43 years. The chapel singing at Lipscomb University, where he taught from 1933-1943, was broadcast nationally over WLAC radio in the 1930s under his leadership. He served as principal at Clemmons Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn., before becoming principal at East High. There he began the worldwide No Smoke-No Drink Clubs. In 1963 he moved to the central office of Nashville City Schools. During the next 12 years, he held several supervisory positions and directed large federally funded projects, including Project Mid-Tenn and Project C.L.U.E. In 1975 he retired as deputy superintendent of Metro Schools. He was given Sertoma Club International's Service to Mankind Award. Lipscomb

LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WALDRON FAMILY, RIGHT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



EVENTS

OCTOBER

26-28

Homecoming

26-29

Bison Daze

27-28

President's Council meeting

NOVEMBER

9

ASI speaker Don Soderquist

Classical Lyceum,  
Andrea Anderson

18-26

Thanksgiving recess

DECEMBER

16

Fall graduation

17-Jan. 14

Winter recess

JANUARY

15

Winter Preview

Classes begin

29

Classical Lyceum,  
Megan McCorkle

FEBRUARY

19

Spring Preview

27

ASI speaker

Judge Janice Rogers Brown

MARCH

I

Classical Lyceum,  
Katona Twins

10-18

Spring recess

APRIL

6-8

Spring Sing/Youth Forum

7-8

President's Council meeting

19

Guest Lecturer  
Naomi Shihab Nye

For a complete list of events  
and contact information, go to  
[www.harding.edu/calendar](http://www.harding.edu/calendar).

taught Sunday school for 37 years in the Community of Christ Church. She is survived by her son, R. Dan; two grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

**Larry Nelson Saunders** ('63), 66, died Dec. 22, 2005. He began his teaching career at Huntsville (Ala.) High School. In 1967 he attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman, where he became certified in library media. He returned to Huntsville High as a library media specialist. He then began a media program at Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University. He later worked with Huntsville City Schools as media director of school libraries and director of the professional library for teachers. He was a member of Lincoln Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Sandra Church** ('62); his mother, Sara Saunders; two sons, Sid and Steve; a daughter, Sarah; and a brother, Louis. (Box 465, Meridianville, AL 35759)

**Joyce Bartow Davis** ('64), 63, died March 12. She was a math and science teacher and a retired professional writer with Gulf Oil and ExxonMobil. She was a certified master gardener and landscape designer. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, **Etlar** ('66); a son, Judah; and two sisters, Mrs. Thomas O'Day and Mrs. John Corey. (38 Slatestone Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77382)

**Jimmy W. Kee** ('66), 61, died May 11 from colon cancer. He earned his doctor of medicine from the University of Tennessee at Memphis in 1970. He received specialty board certifications from the American Board of Surgery in 1976 and from the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 1979. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-1980 and retired as lieutenant colonel. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. In 1980 he relocated to Jackson, Tenn., where he became the city's first plastic and reconstructive surgeon. In 1992 he formed the Clinic for Cranial and Facial Anomalies, a charitable program that benefits West Tennessee children. He also served as assistant clinical professor at the University of Tennessee Family Medicine program in Jackson and as a board member for the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce. He was on the staff of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, where he

served as chief of staff from 2000-2002. He served on the board of trustees of Jackson Christian School for 25 years and was board chairman nine years. In 1995 he and his wife were recognized for their contributions to the school when the elementary school building was built and dedicated in their honor. He was a member of North Jackson Church of Christ, serving as a deacon involved in missions. He and his late wife, **Lisa Lange** ('66), were married 38 years. He is survived by two sons, **Kevin** ('93) and **Jared** ('02); two daughters, **Laura White** ('98) and **Marisa Chandler** ('98); three brothers, **Donald** ('70), **Robert** ('72) and **Larry** ('81); a sister, **Linda Benedetto** ('68); and two grandchildren.

**Michael Kieffner** ('75), 53, died Jan. 29 from injuries sustained in an accident July 24, 2005. He was a doctor of chiropractic. He is survived by his wife, Pansy McRill; his father, J.W.; his mother, Fayrene; a son, Nathan; a daughter, Ashley Garner; and two grandsons. (20924 C.R. 428, Kennett, MO 63857)

**Thomas Ward Crafton** ('76), 58, died unexpectedly while on vacation June 26 in Mexico. He was associate vice president of information technology and deputy chief information officer in the Information Technology Division at the University of Memphis, where he also taught classes in the business college. He previously worked as the controller at Pepperdine University and was founder and president of his own software company, Thought.Velocity, for 20 years. He was awarded posthumously his doctorate from Capella University in August. He is survived by his mother, Billie Maxine Crafton; his daughter, Cherish; a brother, David; and a sister, **Betty Garnett** ('71). (Cherish, P.O. Box 40110, Memphis, TN 38174)

**Tonna Massey-Cervantes** ('78), 50, died April 7. She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Stephen; two daughters, Joy and Hope; and a brother, **James** ('76). (2838 Burning Hill, San Antonio, TX 78247)

**Karen Warren** ('80), 50, died May 9. She retired from the U.S. Postal Service on disability. She loved the church, cooking and helping the elderly. She is sur-

vived by her parents, **Will Ed** ('76) and **Michele Warren**; and a sister, **Donna Lake** ('86). (712 River Oaks Blvd., Searcy, AR 72143)

**Cheryl Woodruff Gardner** ('81), 53, died May 21. She served 18 years as office manager for the



American Studies Institute at the University. She is survived by her husband, **Bill** ('82); two daughters, **Melinda Hollis**

('97) and **Amber Lawson** ('05); two sisters, **Georgia Woodruff** ('77) and **Jill Pulley** ('80); and two granddaughters. (501 N. Cross, Searcy, AR 72143)

**Rance Fretland** ('84), 47, died May 24 after an extended illness. He served as a missionary in Haiti until political turmoil forced him to leave. He was a long-term employee of Snohomish County, Wash., working in management for the finance department. He is survived by his parents, Ron and Ruth Ann; a daughter, Amanda; two brothers, Randy and Roland; and a sister, Ronna DeLaVergne.

**Douglas Craig Bryant** ('85), 43, died May 29 while camping with his family. He recently sold Bryant's Eagle One Stop in Mount Judea and was preparing for a new career as an elementary physical education teacher and coach at Jasper School. He enjoyed camping, fishing and coaching Pee Wee basketball. He was a member of Mount Judea Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Tena; two sons, Logan and Payton; a brother, Stephan; and a sister, **Patti Fitzgerald** ('82). (P.O. Box 19, Mount Judea, AR 72655)

**Stacia Morris Beatty**, ('93), 35, died June 3 from heart failure. She was an investment banker at U.S. Bank for eight years and was a member of Lone Oak Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Russell; her parents, D. Wayne and Dee Morris; a son, Camryn; a daughter, Carley; a brother, Scott; and a sister, **Shel-lie Salza** ('98). (150 Duncan Drive, Paducah, KY 42003)

**Amy Nicole Brown**, 37, died Aug. 18. She was a junior nursing major at the University. She is survived by her parents, Johnny B. and Mildred Brown; her son, Malik; two daughters, Tkeyah Nevels and Katarra Holiday; her sister, Ashley Brown; and her grandmother, Bernice Smith.

LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CRAFTON FAMILY, RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDNER FAMILY



# Promoting the world of water

By CYNTHIA NOAH

## UNLIKE A TYPICAL FIRST DAY OF WORK, I HAD NO THREE-HOUR ORIENTATION

or introduction to everyone in the office. Instead, I began my summer as a communications intern for the New England Aquarium in Boston by getting lost in the financial district.

Arriving 30 minutes late to work, I introduced myself to my supervisor and was led immediately into the main building while being told — as we quickly rushed past hundreds of schoolchildren — that a film crew from a German animal show was gathering footage on the vocalizations of harbor seals. My job was to follow along and make sure no one ran into the three-member crew and answer questions posed by visitors.

As we shot at different locations around the aquarium, I learned about the exhibits, went behind the scenes 3 feet from harbor seals, and caught a 3-D IMAX film.

After nine hours of nonstop work, I had a glimpse of what was to become one of the most rewarding, challenging and memorable summers of my life.

I didn't need this internship. I completed my required internship during summer 2005, but I wanted to gain more experience in public relations, especially in writing. Having always loved aquariums, I thought that spending my final summer vacation in a big city would be exciting, so I applied. When I got the call from Boston, I was ecstatic.

The position would require me to write press releases and media advisories, work with the media, write for the internal newsletter, and complete a variety of tasks for the communications department. I accepted the offer and am so glad I did. What I saw, learned and did will help me with my career for years to come.

My boss and co-workers did not see me just as an intern. They treated me as a colleague and willingly taught me. Instead of giving me such simple tasks as organizing news clippings or mailing press kits, they challenged me to write press releases and media advisories that were sent to all the major news stations in the area, as well as the Boston Globe,

Boston Herald, Metro and Associated Press. I even served as the point person for a campaign that warned against touching seal pups resting on the beach and was quoted as the spokesperson for the aquarium in a local paper. I assisted the communications director when media came to shoot stories or when groups used the aquarium. By summer's end, I was leading photographers and cameramen around the aquarium, pointing out areas of interest, and heading whale watches.

The internship reinforced so many of the skills and concepts my professors at Harding have taught me, all very important in the world of communication.

One of the most important lessons I learned is the necessity of knowing the local media and how they work. In order for our stories to make the news, we had to call and send press releases at times that were best for each media outlet and write to pique an editor's interest. If you want media to attend a press event, hold it on a slow news day. Figuring out which days this applies to requires calls to several editors.

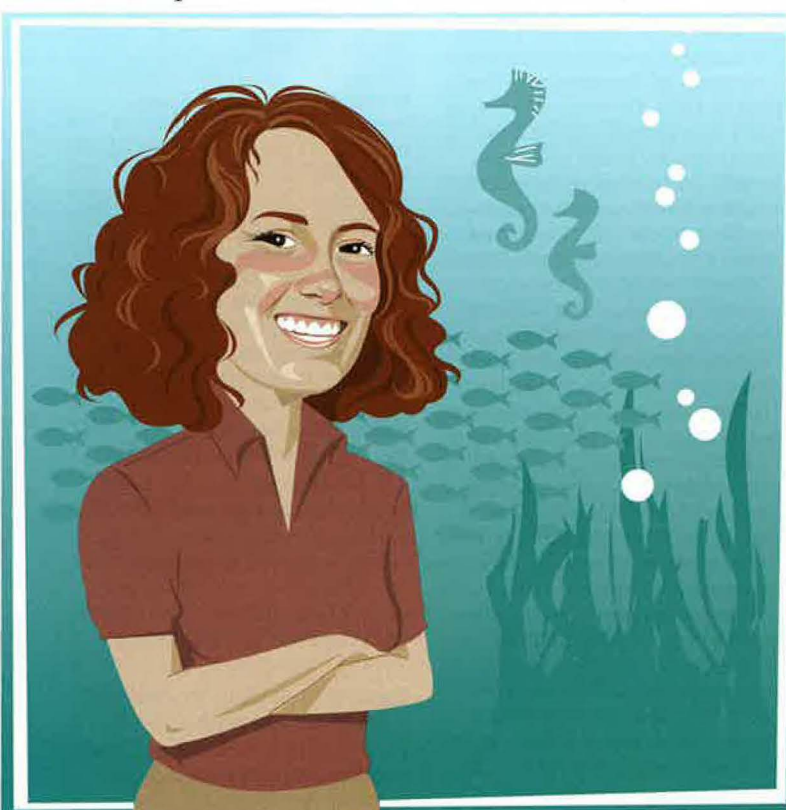
I also gained valuable life skills such as having confidence in my ability to get the job done. When you have a little bit of self-confidence, people do not notice the mistakes as much.

Working at the New England Aquarium was not just a great professional experience; the perks were great as well. Behind the scenes, I saw a rescued gray seal and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, held an endangered turtle, and went into the fur seals exhibit.

I participated in two whale watches and saw about 10 humpback whales. These incredible encounters will stay with me as I go into the job market.

I will graduate May 12, 2007, and I have no idea what I'm going to do or where I'm going to go. But this internship reinforced to me that I have chosen the right field. I may not work at an aquarium, but I love public relations. I am excited to see where it will lead me. **H**

Senior CYNTHIA NOAH is a public relations and theatre major from Madill, Okla.





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building will be featured in our next issue.



# CHOOSING YOUR PATH





# PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

The “college years” are four of the most impressionable ones in a young person’s life. This period is one of great transition — physical, emotional, financial and spiritual. From boy to man, from girl to woman, this time molds individuals into future spouses, parents and co-workers. Where and how your child spends these years will play a large role in the person he or she becomes.



Choosing the right college to attend is difficult: large or small student body, urban or rural community, public or private institution? Other factors that come into play include cost, distance from home, majors and degrees offered, and extracurricular activities available. A look at recent trends among secular institutions of higher learning reveals the ever-growing importance of Christian universities.

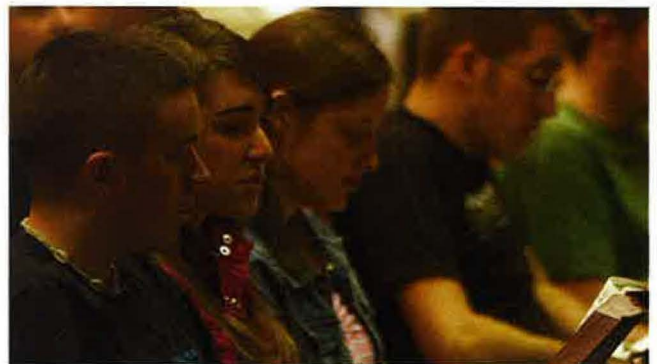
## DISTURBING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ College-age students, discovering independence, often abandon the faith of their parents in favor of inclusive, pluralistic beliefs.
- ▶ While academic excellence is the primary goal of many institutions, many universities have adopted a politically correct curriculum that discourages traditional values and eliminates citizenship education, making spiritual influence and faith-building emphasis difficult to find.

In our places of worship, [Americans] say their religion is not just for one day a week, but for all that we do. Yet in most of their education, Americans send the message that when it comes to the really important things in life — what one should think about other people, society, politics, economics, careers, the environment, ourselves, our moral values, and nature and destiny — Americans teach their young people to think about them as though God did not exist.

— *George Marsden, professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, in a speech to the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, July 9, 2001*

- ▶ Many colleges and universities founded on belief in God have removed the name from their mission statements and claim the pursuit of knowledge as their central objective. They work toward the pluralistic goal of becoming all things to all people, and political correctness and academic freedom guide the curricula.
- ▶ At secular schools, student behavior is not widely governed, with institutions assuming little or no oversight; coed dorms, alcohol and immoral activities are accepted, if not expected.





# ADVANTAGES OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Young people are searching for the truth. The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities' Jocelyn C. Green notes that a recent study by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute revealed the following: "Today's college students show a very high level of interest and involvement in spirituality and religion, are actively engaged in a spiritual quest, and have high expectations for the role their universities will play in their spiritual and emotional development" (2005).

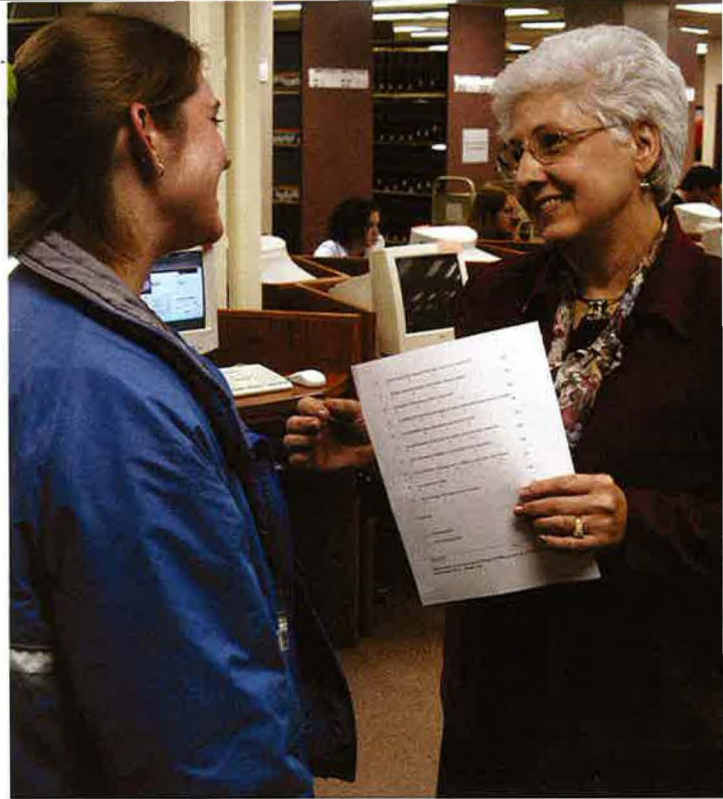
**FAITH-LED CAMPUSES:** The beliefs and convictions of college-age students can be shaky, making them vulnerable to peer pressure and the leadership of professors, whether it be good or bad influences. The loudest voice is the one heard. On secular university campuses, this voice is rarely one with a Christian perspective.

According to Dr. James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, "One of the primary reasons education changes people is that students admire and identify with those who tower over them in experience, training, maturity, intelligence and charisma. This makes a young man or woman an easy mark for older adults who want to reorder their basic beliefs and value systems."

Many individuals thrive academically and grow spiritually while attending a secular institution. Thousands of Christian professors teach at secular universities and view it as a mission field. Nonetheless, *nothing can replace the impact of an institution where God is praised daily, Bible classes are the norm, and purity of thought and action is stressed.*

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:** George Marsden, professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, delivered the following statement to a group of Christian educators: "The time has come to rethink the premise that the best education is secular and that religiously based education is automatically inferior. Religious colleges, instead of feeling that they are under pressure to become more like their secular counterparts, should take pride in the religious character of their education, attempting to strengthen it rather than weaken it" (*Baptist Standard*, 2001).

One way in which they succeed is through an emphasis on the liberal arts and the study of western civilization, areas secular universities often discard or deem unnecessary.



*Graduates of Christian colleges are well prepared for careers and continued studies in education, business, the sciences and the arts.*

**UNITY IN PURPOSE:** Today's universities have removed God and ushered in relativism. "While it's possible for young people to hold on to — and even share — their faith on a secular campus, they should be aware of the diverse and erroneous viewpoints they're likely to encounter in their classes and social interactions," says Dobson.

For example, one misunderstood concept is diversity, which once meant love and tolerance for people who are different from one another. However, Dobson concludes, it has essentially "become fractionalized into competing self-interest groups." *Christian schools promote unity between students and faculty, help establish a worldview rooted in faith, and provide training to assist students in defending their beliefs.*

**LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS:** Since many secular universities have turned to research as a primary means of funding, the quality of undergraduate instruction in some institutions has declined. Freshmen and sophomores often enroll in classes with hundreds of students taught by graduate assistants. However, *Christian colleges offer smaller classes in which students can develop closer relationships with peers and professors.* These classes also allow more discussion and personal interaction.



# HARDING:

## ENGAGING HEART & MIND

- ▶ The mission of the University is to integrate faith, learning and living. Academic excellence is a primary goal for Harding, but it must be within the context of God's truth in his revealed word. We believe that true academic freedom cannot be separated from Christianity.
- ▶ Under the Judeo-Christian concept of education, the University continues to emphasize the liberal arts tradition and believes that communication, critical-thinking, decision-making, leadership and people skills are building blocks for success. A Harding education can help students develop a faith of their own and a biblical perspective on morality, ethics, integrity, family, success and power.
- ▶ We thoroughly prepare students for church leadership. Every four-year student takes a minimum of eight Bible classes, starting with surveys of both the Old Testament and New Testament. Regardless of major, students leave the University better equipped to teach the Bible, serve, and assist in the growth of a local congregation.



- ▶ We believe in the necessity of global education through a Christian context and offer international programs in six locations. Our programs are distinguished by the following features: all majors are welcome; students are able to form close relationships with peers, professors, and a local congregation of the church of Christ; and chapel and Bible class are required elements.
- ▶ Citizenship is an important aspect of a complete education. Harding offers the American Studies Institute to supplement the academic training of students by promoting an understanding of the institutions and values of liberty and democracy.

- ▶ University faculty, staff, administration and students are mission minded, serving in the local community and throughout the world. More than 200 of the 656 missionaries listed in the University's Center for World Missions are alumni (Cox, 2004).
- ▶ Faculty members who are committed Christians and active members of the church of Christ take interest not only in a student's academic success, but also in his or her personal success. Smaller classes taught by well-qualified instructors give students tools for successful careers that can be approached through the lens of a Christian worldview.
- ▶ Harding is a good value, spiritually, academically and financially. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the University one of the South's best for 12 consecutive years. The report also names Harding one of the "best values" among universities in the South.

Why not receive a high-quality education where students are challenged to achieve academic excellence; grow in their personal relationship with God, Christian peers and mentors; and develop a servant-leadership lifestyle?

With more than 60 percent of today's youths among churches of Christ leaving the church after high school or during college (Henderson, 2003), the stakes are high.

## CHOOSE WISELY.

For more information about Harding, visit [www.harding.edu](http://www.harding.edu) or call the Office of Admissions Services at 1-800-477-4407.

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# WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

If you have  moved,  changed jobs,  been promoted,  married,  had a baby,  been honored, etc., the Office of Alumni Relations needs to know. This information may also be used in the "Connections" section of a later issue of this magazine.

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Degree and Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Date \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Your Position or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Position or Title \_\_\_\_\_

List Children's Names, Gender and Birth Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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— Nelson Henderson 1860



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