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# Harding

FALL  
2008

Places and faces  
around the globe

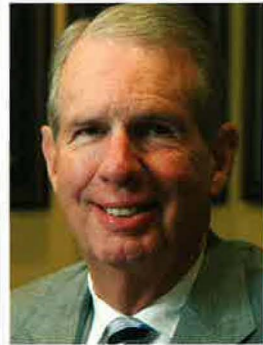
V. 16  
#3  
Fall '08

your president | Rite of passage

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# Spiritual goals

By DAVID B. BURKS



WE STRIVE FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO BE A BLESSING to others. The College of Bible and Religion takes this literally by holding a blessing ceremony twice a year for its graduates (Page 20). As the spring blessing ceremony came to a close, faculty, students and their families joined to sing, "Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings."

Serving the "King of kings" remains at the core of our University. Our board has asked this magazine to print the introduction to the five-year strategic plan (Page 24) because

the members want you to know our conviction that Harding remains a Christian university is as strong as ever. Love for God and for others is at the heart of our mission.

The start of the new school year is always exciting for me as we meet together and share goals relating to our mission. At the annual faculty/staff dinner before classes began, I related a specific goal for the College of Bible and Religion of which I would like to make you aware.

We want to add more students majoring in Bible because there is a great shortage in this area — particularly people planning to preach. We feel the University must step up and do more than we currently are.

During the course of the next five years, we would like to increase the number of Bible majors to 10 percent of our undergraduate enrollment. We will have to commit more resources to this task and realize this will be difficult to achieve. If we fail to do things differently than we have in the past, this will not happen. But we need more people who are the right people committed to preaching God's word.

To make this goal happen will require creativity. It will also need our best efforts. I am excited to see what takes place.

And just as 38 Bible majors received a blessing in May, the fruit of this goal will result in blessings to many. Please pray for its success. **H**

*David B. Burks*

# Harding

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## ON THE COVER

The double spiral staircase at the Vatican Museum in Vatican City is one of more than 20,000 images captured by Noah Darnell during his semester sojourn to the University's Greece campus.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NASA's Wallops Island (Va.) Rocket Launch Facility on the Barrier Islands is the site of a suborbital rocket launch containing experiments created in part by Dr. Ed Wilson and three undergraduate research fellowship students this summer. [Page 7]

## FEATURES

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President Burks answers questions about his goals, today's students, and one of his newest hobbies — playing the piano.

### 14 Places that changed me

In our cover feature, senior Noah Darnell captures everyday people and extraordinary places with his ever-present camera during his sojourn abroad. We asked him to share a few of his images and insights with you.

### 20 Blessing begins journey for Bible majors

The College of Bible and Religion gives a very personal gift the night before graduation — a blessing.

### 24 Introducing the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, the preface to the Strategic Plan confirms the University's commitment to retaining its Christian identity.

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Freshmen give their views on what's important to them in the upcoming presidential election.

PHOTO BY APRIL FATULA

## Yecke dean of graduate programs

DR. CHERI PIERSON YECKE joined the University July 1 as dean of graduate programs and associate professor of education. In her role as dean, she serves as coordinator of admissions, catalogs, marketing and core policies for all graduate programs.

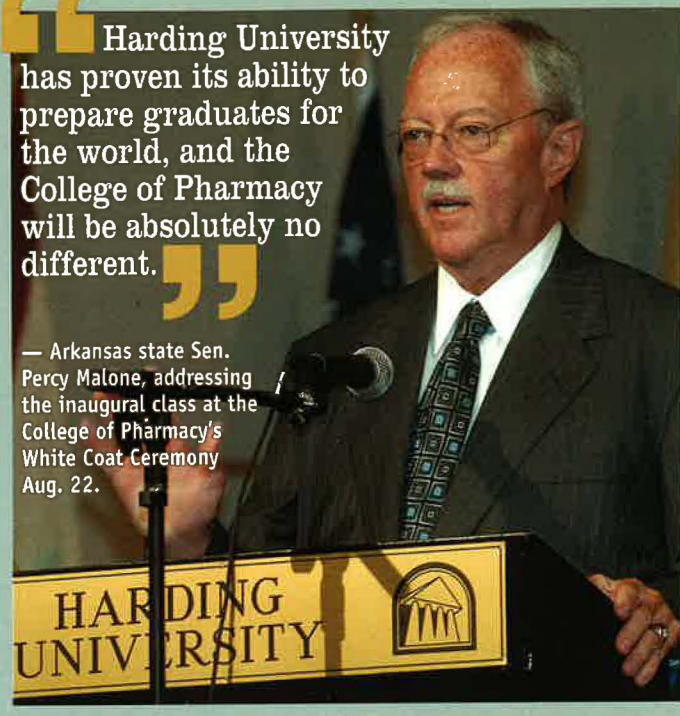
"We are pleased that Dr. Yecke has agreed to join our staff," said President David B. Burks. "Her wealth of experience and commitment to Christian education will strengthen our national and international presence at the graduate and undergraduate level."

Most recently, Yecke served as chancellor of K-12 education in Florida, where she worked for Gov. Jeb Bush. She has also served as commissioner of education in Minnesota, secretary of education in Virginia, and director of teacher quality at the U.S. Department of Education.

"Dr. Yecke's background shows that she is a skilled communicator and effective organizer," said Dr. Larry Long, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Her leadership abilities and wide experience

Harding University has proven its ability to prepare graduates for the world, and the College of Pharmacy will be absolutely no different."

— Arkansas state Sen. Percy Malone, addressing the inaugural class at the College of Pharmacy's White Coat Ceremony Aug. 22.



education, and I anticipate he will continue that tradition at the level of dean," he added.

Formerly housed within the College of Arts and Humanities, the new college offers 10 undergraduate majors and one graduate degree. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology. Six areas of study are available for students in mass communication: advertising, broadcast journalism, electronic media production, print journalism, public relations, and Web design and interactive media. The oral communication major — with the option for teacher licensure — sharpens the interpersonal, cross-cultural and technical skills necessary to use the voice as an effective tool. The theatre major integrates fine arts, humanities and performing arts into one experience.

## Communication evolves into college

EFFECTIVE WITH THE START of the fall semester, the Department of Communication has been redesignated as the University's eighth college. Dr. Mike James, department chair since 1993, is serving as dean.

The college houses the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the divisions of Mass Communication, Oral Communication and Theatre under the leadership of Dr. Rebecca O. Weaver, Dr. Jack Shock, Dr. Pat Garner and Robin Miller, respectively.

"This move aligns with the strategic goal of reshaping our organizational structure to match the growth and complexity of our academic programs," said Dr. Larry Long, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"Dr. James has been a strong and effective leader in the Department of Communi-

More than 325 students are currently pursuing a degree through the College.

The new college continues to be responsible for award-winning student publications — the Bison weekly student newspaper and *Petit Jean* yearbook; VideoWorks production company; KVHU radio; a cable TV station; the fall musical production and approximately 15 plays each year; Spring Sing; and a public speech-therapy clinic.

James, a distinguished professor of communication, has served on faculty since 1979. He holds the Ph.D. from Florida State University. He is a member of and contributor to the Broadcast Education Association. James was one of 30 faculty members selected as a 2007 faculty fellow for the National Association of Television Program Executives annual conference.

## Roy Sawyer: A lifetime of leadership

LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER and Sardis, Miss., resident Roy Henry Sawyer Jr., 83, died July 3.

He was a lifelong advocate of Christian education, although his own circumstances did not allow him to attend such an institution. Instead he joined the Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theatre, and later received an Army commission and rose to the rank of colonel in the Mississippi National Guard.

The war may have shifted his college plans, but his military training allowed him to earn a degree in naval sciences.

Following his military service, he returned to Sardis and began a farming equipment business with his brother. He was then asked to serve on the board of the Bank of Sardis, from which he retired in 1986 after 30 years as president. That same year, Mississippi Gov. Bill Allain appointed him commanding officer of the newly formed Mississippi State Guard. He retired a two-star general.

He joined the University Board of Trustees in 1966, serving as chairman from 1976-80.

He led the search committee for President Clifton L. Ganus Jr.'s successor and considered it one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.



In addition to his 42 years of dedication to the University, Sawyer's community service included membership on the board of Sunnybrook Children's Home and Sardis Chamber of Commerce. In 1977 he was appointed to a national committee in Washington, D.C., for Employer Support of Guard and Reserves and chaired the state committee of ESGAR for more than a decade.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marjorie West; a son, Roy H. III ('80); a daughter, Sheri Salley ('78); and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, John Edward.

## ASI offers restaurateur, Renaissance man

S. TRUETT CATHY, FOUNDER, chairman and chief executive officer of Chick-fil-A Inc., continues the American Studies Institute 2008-09 Distinguished Lecture Series Nov. 13.

What began in 1946 as an Atlanta diner called Dwarf Grill is now the second-largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the

United States based on annual sales.

Cathy's approach is largely driven by personal satisfaction and a sense of obligation to the community and its young people.

WinShape Foundation, which he founded with his wife, Jeanette, in 1984, annually awards 20 to 30 students with scholarships up to \$32,000.



Through its Leadership Scholarship Program, Chick-fil-A has given more than \$22 million in \$1,000 scholarships to Chick-fil-A employees since 1973.

All Chick-fil-A locations are closed on Sundays, without exception. When not managing his company, Cathy donates his time to community efforts and teaches a Sunday school class of 13-year-old boys, as he has done for nearly 50 years.

Award-winning actor, economist, writer, journalist and teacher Ben Stein will

speak Feb. 10, 2009. He holds a law degree from

Yale University, where he also worked part time as a poverty lawyer and as an activist and demonstrator for civil rights and decent treatment of the poor.

He has taught at American University, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Pepperdine University and served as speechwriter and lawyer for Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. In 1997, his hit quiz show, "Win Ben Stein's Money," began. The show has won six Emmy Awards, and Stein has won one for best game show host.

He has written and published 17 books, the latest of which is *How to Ruin Your Life*.

Dinesh D'Souza, the Robert and Karen Rishwain Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, began the series Sept. 23. The final spring speaker is yet to be announced.



Dr. Cheri Yecke serves on a chapel panel discussing sexual purity Sept. 10.

[6,510]

fall 2008 enrollment, a 2.8 percent increase from fall 2007's 6,332 >> 4,188, undergraduate enrollment, which rose .82 percent >> 2,322, graduate enrollment, a growth of 6.6 percent from 2,178 >> 82 percent, fall 2008 retention rate for first-time-in-college freshmen

## ADVANCEMENT

Steve Lake joined the University June 23 as a regional director.

## ASSOCIATED WOMEN FOR HARDING

The Associated Women for Christian Education Conference met on campus June 12-14 with representatives from Abilene Christian, Faulkner, Freed-Hardeman, Lipscomb, Lubbock Christian, Oklahoma Christian and Pepperdine universities and Rochester and York colleges.

A highlight of the weekend was Friday's Worthy Woman Luncheon, in which the Associated Women for Harding chapter presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to **Bessie Mae Ledbetter** ('46) Pryor.

Pryor, wife of the late Dr. Joe Pryor, has been an active member of AWH since its establishment in 1965.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

*Department of Art and Design*

**Beverly Austin**, assistant professor, won the grand prize — the Gold Kutak Purchase Award — in the 2008 Mid-Southern Watercolorists Annual Juried Exhibition for her painting titled "Hope of Ukraine." Dr. **John Keller**, professor and chair, received the Past Presidents' Award for "Cast Shadows: Florence, Italy."

*Department of English*

Dr. **Terry Engel**, assistant professor, presented a session titled "How to Read Like a Writer" at the 13th annual writer's conference sponsored by White County Creative Writers on the University campus Aug. 30.

*Department of Music*

Gov. Mike Beebe appointed Dr. **Patricia Cox**, professor, to the Arkansas Arts Advisory Council. She will serve through June 2012.

## COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND RELIGION

Dr. **Monte Cox**, associate professor, has been named dean. He had served as associate dean since 2005. Dr. **Dan Stockstill**, associate professor, has been promoted from assistant dean to associate dean. Dr. **Shawn Dagggett**, associate professor, will direct the Center for World Missions, a responsibility previously held by Cox.

*Marriage and Family Therapy/ Mental Health Counseling*

Dr. **Lew Moore**, professor and chair, was one of three U.S. presenters at the European Brief and Strategic Conference in Arezzo, Italy, Nov. 9, 2007. His topic was "Psychotherapy Intervention With an Individual." >>

## Exploring 'The Capital of the World'

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A PLACE where everyone knows your name. But, as a group of students recently discovered, New York City is a place where many people are happy to learn.

Dr. Jack Shock, professor of communication, led 10 print journalism and public relations students on a week-



Lester Holt talks production with Molly Morris ('08) and Hannah Ware.

long tour of the city May 13-19 as part of a new course titled "Study in Mass Communication." They met with professionals representing such organizations as the Clinton Foundation, NBC News, Securities and Exchange Commission, and The Heckscher Foundation for Children. From their home base in Times Square, they also became acquainted with the one-of-a-kind culture that is New York City.

Many of the professionals they met are alumni, including Amy Blankenship ('88) Sewell, president of Shop with Style, a company that provides information on creative gift ideas, hot new products, tips for entertaining, and shopping advice for millions of television viewers and newspaper, magazine and Web readers.

She encouraged the students to be open-minded.

"The job I do now didn't

really exist," she said. "I kind of created it. What you're going to do 10 years from now may not exist yet either."

The group also met Cara Hopper Pauls ('02), a graphic designer for BrandNow, a firm that has helped create new products and brands for such companies as Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and Procter & Gamble. Pauls, who grew up in Searcy, moved to New York soon after graduating.

While she cautioned that the city is not an environment in which everyone would be comfortable living, she believes that, overall, New York "is a very kind place." She added, "I would not have this job anywhere else in the world."

Lester Holt, co-anchor of "Today" weekend edition and anchor of "NBC Nightly News" weekend edition, met with the group in NBC studios after broadcasting "Today." He discussed how the medium of television is changing and explained his responsibility as a journalist.

"There is a strong moral bearing to my job as a reporter," he said. "What we do reflects our values. We have a tremendous impact. We change people's lives, for better or worse. You have a moral responsibility to the people you deal with. You have to bring some compassion to the job. I try to carry that respect through to anyone I interview, even if they have views I don't like or agree with."

Said Shock of the experience, "Sometimes in the city of 7 million people it might be easy to feel overwhelmed. I wanted my students to hear from people at various stages of their lives and careers in New York — from the 23-year-old who arrived fresh out of college to the 53-year-old at the top of his game. Career trajectories were the focus of this trip."

## [SPOTLIGHT]

### Understanding key for longtime dorm mom

IN HER 20TH YEAR as a residence life coordinator, Katrina Timms ('78) can sense early on how dorm life is going to go in a particular year or, at least, which residents may present particular challenges.

"It runs from, 'Mrs. Timms, I baked a quiche, come try a piece,' to calls asking, 'How do you bake a potato?'" she explains.

"When you get one of the latter, you think, 'It's going to be a long year.'"

She has served as RLC in Pryor Hall since it opened in 2002. She previously oversaw Shores Hall and West Apartments.

When Timms began, she and her husband, Tony ('79), had three children, and she wanted a job that allowed her to be at home with them. Those three children no longer live in the dorm, but that is all her fourth child, a 9-year-old son, has ever known.

Being able to stay home with her children has had some trade-offs. "My own children probably feel like every conversation in life they've had has been interrupted," Timms admits. "They've had to share me with a lot of people. But they're always proud when they hear someone say, 'Your Mom was my dorm mom.'"

Timms' advice to someone considering a job like hers is fairly straightforward: "You have to be willing to be inconvenienced all the time.

"Someone is always locked out; someone is always sick; someone is always hurting. You have to be gracious. You have to have a willingness to live in a glass house — to raise your family in public. It's very humbling and challenging."

Though the faces have changed over the last 19 years, the challenges remain. She says there is always something new. "I used to be afraid to open my door, thinking, 'I won't know what to do,'" she says. "I don't feel that way anymore. I've learned to deal with crises. Going to the ER is just something that you do.

"Coming from a family that was less than perfect helps me to understand people who come from 'life.' I at least understand, even if I don't know how to resolve the issue. Maybe that's the greatest need students face — just being understood." **H**



Katrina Timms visits with Bethany Cannon and Katie Parsons.

LEFT PHOTO BY APRIL FATULA, BOTTOM PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

## Go Green initiative unveiled

GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK and gold. On April 22, the University celebrated Earth Day by announcing an initiative to "Go Green."

The administration first tested the green waters with an open environmental forum. Thirteen students attended and eagerly addressed issues as broad as a campus-wide switch to a renewable energy source and as narrow as turning off continuously running LCD monitors at night.

Also as a preliminary step, the cafeteria observed Earth Day by going trayless. The responses were so positive that the cafeteria no longer offers trays. This simple action saves nearly a half-gallon of heated water per tray, reduces food waste by 25 to 30 percent per consumer, and helps prevent cleaning agents from polluting the water supply.

Additional environmentally friendly initiatives abound on campus. Danny DeRamus, director of Physical Resources, reports that since the installation of programmable thermostats, "The price of usage has stayed the same, even with the addition of buildings over the last several years."

New or recently renovated buildings such as the Ulrey Performing Arts Center and Center for Health Sciences are fitted with thermostats that can only be shifted two or three degrees at a time. This decreases the workload for air conditioning and heating units and has also cut down on maintenance calls.

The new Center for Health Sciences is the first building on campus to reap energy benefits from a motion detector-based lighting system.

Since its recent inception, the recycling program has

## Did you know?

The 630 colleges named "regional best" by Princeton Review represent only about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges. The University is one of 139 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Southeast" section on its Web site feature *2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region*.

Harding students surveyed by Princeton Review appreciate the incorporation of faith and ethical standards in the classroom, as well as faculty members who are "training students to be leaders in their professions."

When the University was included in *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings in 1994 for the first time, enrollment stood at just over 4,000. The University ranked 22nd this year, up from 25th last year.

expanded from three trial containers to 46 bins across campus. Every residence hall's trash room features paper, plastic and aluminum recycling bins.

Paper recycling is also available in nearly every office. An upsurge in the number of recycled goods on campus illustrates University participation. In May, 415 loads of recycled paper goods were picked up. By June, even though fewer people were on campus, that number had risen to 595. As students, faculty and staff become more acclimated to recycling procedures, every day will soon be green on campus.

## Experiencing politics

IT WASN'T THE BELTWAY, BUT this fall a student and faculty member were in the center of political action on the other side of the Mississippi.

Rachel Gardner, a junior electronic media production major from Indianapolis, and Dr. Mark Elrod, professor of political science, were selected for student and faculty leader positions for The Washington Center's Campaign 2008: The Democratic National Convention Academic Seminar in Denver Aug. 17-29.

The program was part of the organization's Presidential

Academic Seminar Series. The self-contained two-week seminar that began one week prior to the convention was taught as an academic course combining formal instruction, guest lectures, panels, tours, site visits and fieldwork.

Gardner decided to apply for the seminar for a variety of reasons. "I have always been interested in politics and had been actively following this year's highly competitive primary," she explained. "When the opportunity arose to not only follow, but witness in person this historic event, I could not resist. The deal was sweetened when I discovered I could receive a fieldwork placement within the media covering the event. I am considering pursuing a career in television news."

After Gardner was accepted, Elrod decided to apply. He was asked basic questions about his field of expertise — international relations — and whether he had the energy to work in a fast-paced program that required a lot of interaction with students.

In cooperation with The Washington Center Campaign staff, Elrod led a small-group discussion section comprising 10 to 15 students, including Gardner. He evaluated their academic and professional performance and oversaw their fieldwork placements.

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Glen Metheny** is the new director of business professional studies. He heads the Master of Business Administration degree program and continues to lead the Degree Completion Program.

### COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

*Division of Mass Communication*  
**Jim Miller**, instructor, defended his dissertation June 10 to receive the Ph.D. in communication and information from University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The title of his dissertation was "Just Another Day at the Office: An Investigation Into How Public College Administrators Balance the First Amendment Rights of the Student Press and the Broader Interests of Their Campuses."

**Dr. Jack Shock**, professor, spoke to more than 50 professional communicators at the Arkansas Hospital Association crisis communications workshop in Little Rock April 24. The title of his presentation was "Communicating During a Crisis."

### COLLEGE OF NURSING

**Karen Kelley**, assistant professor, was selected 2008 Arkansas Nurses' Association District 8 Nurse of the Year May 2.

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

An article by **Dr. Gene Wright**, assistant professor, was published in the April 2008 issue of *Journal of Addictions and Offender Counseling*. The title was "The Utility of the SASSI-3 in Early Detection of Substance Use Disorders in 'Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity' Acquittees: An Exploratory Study."

**Dr. Cheri Pierson Yecke**, associate professor and dean of graduate programs, had an article titled "Schoolhouse Options" published in the summer 2008 issue of the *Duke Gifted Letter*.

### COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

**Dr. G. Kwame Yeboah**, assistant professor, co-authored an article titled "Evaluation of Albumin Microspheres as Oral Delivery System for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Vaccines," published in the May 2008 *Journal of Microencapsulation*. >>



# Point of view

An associate professor in the new College of Pharmacy, **Dan Atchley** reveals his journey into pharmaceutical sciences.

### Your path to pharmacy ...

"I spent three years in the Army as a medical lab tech, got out, and went to Northeastern State College in Oklahoma to get a B.S. in medical technology. I then worked nine years in a 1,000-bed hospital as a medical technologist before joining the Air Force.

"I've spent 18 years in the Air Force as a medical lab officer, researcher and teacher at its Academy. I spent four years as chief of analytical laboratory systems at Eglin Air Force Base before I was sent for my master's degree at University of Washington-Seattle. I taught biology three years at the Academy before leaving to earn my Ph.D. Afterward, I led a biotechnology research group in San Antonio before returning to the Academy as a senior faculty member in the department of biology."

### Why Searcy?

"I was one year away from a new assignment with the Air Force and unsure of where I wanted to go. My daughter met another pharmacy professor at her job and told him about me. Then Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace [dean of the college] called me, and here I am. We moved here one year ago in June."

### Your role in the pharmacy program ...

"There are three major components to pharmacy. One is pharmacy science, which gives students the medical science foundation they need. My background is well suited for medical science courses needed for pharmacy education. I'm teaching classes such as medical immunology, pathophysiology and medical microbiology."



### Collaborative research arrangements ...

"Being a brand-new college, we have very little equipment. Harding has not traditionally been a big research school. But the College of Pharmacy is committed to research. It is an important component, and it fits in with our mission. Our collaborative arrangement with the Air Force Academy allows us to continue current research.

"We also now have medical research with the clinic in Zambia [at the University's newest international campus]. We can marry up the research and these programs. If we can treat even one person, it is worth it."

### Your interests ...

"I am involved in applied research in novel antimicrobial

therapies for drug-resistant microorganisms and development of reliable and portable methods to diagnose disease in remote regions of the world. ... I have an interest in rapidly diagnosing diseases in missionary settings in order to treat patients.

"It is challenging to keep up with research. I have experience in diagnosing but need the treatment side. Being a part of the College of Pharmacy gives me a perfect opportunity to combine the two."

### Current projects ...

"This year I led a research project with two pharmacy students, Kyle King ('08) and Jacob Blair. They have invented a new antibiotic that may be useful in treating many bacterial infections. This summer I also worked

with biology instructor Amber Hug and medical student April Durham ('08) in research of this new antibiotic with lots of promise."

### Why focus on antibiotics?

"We live in an era when many antibiotics are no longer effective because of resistance, and we are inventing new ones. Many call it the 'post-antibiotic' era. If we are successful in our tests with a new antibiotics class, we'll be able to take [medicine] to mission fields and treat resistant bacteria."

### Ethical dilemmas your students will face ...

"We have a 'Christian Bioethics' class for physician assistants and pharmacists. There are a lot of Christian principles in the course. They permeate everything we teach. There are a lot of issues: Can you prolong life? At what point are you stepping over the line? I'm thankful for God giving us brains and hearts so we may discuss these issues."

### Outlook for the year ...

"I'm excited that we are in the first group of Christian colleges to add a pharmacy program. Christianity is all about helping people. This is an exciting time to infuse a Christian education into a health profession where people seek advice — pharmacists often spend more time with a patient than a doctor does. To have a Christian-educated professional giving that advice gives me a big, warm fuzzy." **H**

*Dr. Dan Atchley holds a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the Medical University of South Carolina. Before joining the faculty, he served as associate professor of biology at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was the recipient of many teaching awards, including the U.S. Air Force Academy's Outstanding Educator Award and the Frank J. Seiler Excellence in Research Award for Basic Sciences.*



Greg Lyons, Paul Elliott and Steven Barber assemble an instrument package that will fly on an Orion class sounding rocket.

## Students 'RockOn' with NASA

STEVEN BARBER OF FLORAL, Ark.; Paul Elliott of Gales Ferry, Conn.; and Gregory Lyons of Hudsonville, Mich., can now call themselves rocket scientists. The students earned their credentials as participants in "RockOn!" June 22-27 at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Va., where they learned the basics of building experiments for flight on suborbital rockets.

Nearly 60 people from universities in 22 states and Puerto Rico participated in the workshop.

Accompanied by Chemistry Professor Ed Wilson, the three undergraduates built experiments from kits developed by students from the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and learned about the steps and procedures for creating payloads for flight. Each experiment package included a Geiger counter and sensors for measuring temperature, acceleration and pressure. The experiments were then integrated into payload cans for launch.

The week culminated with the launch of the experiments aboard a NASA Orion sounding rocket. The 20-foot-tall, single-stage rocket flew to an altitude of 41 miles. After launch and payload recovery, participants conducted preliminary data analysis and discussed their results.

"I have a much better idea of what all it takes to make one of these things work,"

Barber says. "There's a ridiculous amount of preparation. The organizers of our program were working on things a couple of years in advance."

Wilson says, "It's not like taking a test on a subject. If they haven't had hands-on experience, they don't have any idea what to do. Those experiments bring home what you're trying to teach and make it more valuable to the student."

The University is a member of the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium, which funded Wilson and his students' participation in the workshop.

## Wind Ensemble honors esteemed director

THIS SPRING THE WIND Ensemble will take recognition of a beloved music professor to new heights. To honor Professor Emeritus Eddie Baggett on the occasion of his 80th birthday, the Music Department has commissioned a new concert band piece by leading Arkansas composer Charles Booker.

Baggett distinguished himself among the musical community during his long career in Arkansas. He served not



Dr. Eddie Baggett

only as the University's first director of bands from 1951 to 1982 and as professor of music from 1951 to 1993, but also as president of the Arkansas College Band Directors Association. Additionally, he served as secretary and vice president for the Arkansas Music Educators Association.

Booker's composition is to be in three movements: the first a fantasia on the University's Alma Mater, the second based upon melodies that Baggett's former students recall hearing him whistle, and the third a surprise variation yet to be revealed. The Wind Ensemble will premiere the piece April 23, 2009.

## Chorus aids earthquake victims in China

IN MAY, THE CHORUS HAD the opportunity to assist victims of the devastating earthquake in Sichuan, China.

Led by director Cliff Ganus, 51 University students spent three weeks in China on a May 13-June 3 tour, presenting concerts in Beijing, Qingdao, Wuhan, Changsha, Xining and Xi'an. They left the United States the day after the earthquake, and, when the Chinese government declared three days of national mourning, two of their concerts in Qingdao were cancelled.

Alternative performances were arranged, and the group later used some unspent funds to hire a hall for an additional concert in Xining. Donations were taken at that concert, which, along with proceeds from CD sales, brought in \$1,300 for earthquake victims. Though that hall had a seating capacity of only 380, more than 450 people were admitted to the concert, and more were turned away at the door.

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

#### Department of Biology

May 2008 graduating seniors honored departmental faculty by donating funds to the Mvule Project to purchase a tree in the department's name. The project enables people to buy an exotic hardwood (mvule) tree in Uganda. It is then planted, geo-tagged and cared for, and purchasers may locate their tree through GPS technology. The project provides income for local economies, allowing villages to improve life and education for their children.

#### Department of Computer Science

Dr. **Frank McCown**, assistant professor, presented two papers at the ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries in Pittsburgh June 15-20 titled "Recovering a Web Site's Server Components From the Web Infrastructure" and "Usage Analysis of a Public Web Site Reconstruction Tool."

#### Department of Kinesiology

An article by Dr. **Ken Turley**, associate professor and director of the Human Performance Laboratory, was published in the May 2008 issue of *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*. The article was titled "Effects of Different Doses of Caffeine on Exercise Responses in Young Children."

### FINANCE OFFICE

**Lynette Brooker** began serving as director of budget and payroll March 24. She previously worked in the Office of Financial Aid Services.

### OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**Craig Russell**, director, has been elected board chairman for the Arkansas Board of Private Investigators, Private Security Agencies and Alarm System Companies.

Appointed to the board a year ago by Gov. Mike Beebe, Russell will now preside over all board meetings.

### OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Dr. **David Collins**, dean, has been promoted to vice president for Student Life. He had served as assistant vice president and dean of students since 2005.

**Butch Gardner**, director of First Year Experience, defended his dissertation April 24 to receive the Doctorate of Education from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The title of his dissertation was "African-American Student Affairs Administrators at Predominantly White Institutions: Factors That Contribute to Their Success."

## Working on the 'chain gang'

By SCOTT GOODE, sports information director

**T**HE PHRASE "CHAIN GANG" brings to mind visions of the South's Reconstruction Era: workers shackled together at the ankles, swinging pick axes and serving time until their release. The five men responsible for working the chains (also known as the first-down markers) for Bison football have not been here since Reconstruction — it only seems that way.

Charlie Carroll ('79), Ray Gunter, Charlie Howell ('77), Howard Morris ('76) and Zac Muncy ('83) can be found on the visiting sidelines measuring first downs at University football games, and

they have been there for a while. The five have combined for nearly 100 seasons of service. Carroll, Howell and Muncy have each worked more than 20 years.

Howell and Morris hold the first-down markers, one at the original line of scrimmage and the other at the spot of the first down. Muncy holds the down marker that shows the ball's location and current down. Carroll mans the clip, which is attached to the chain, after each first down and assists in placement of the ball following a measurement. Gunter typically records all penalties called by game officials for them to review following the contest.

"Our goal is to be as exact as we can

be, so that there is no question whether we are fair or not," Carroll said.

The group has developed quite a reputation. "We've had some officials come over and thank us because they know that they won't have any problems at Harding," says Muncy.

Though the five are not attached at the ankle, they are good friends on and off the field. The crew, along with their wives, meets each Saturday before home football games for a "chain gang meal."

"We are all connected to Harding," Carroll says. "And this is just our way of giving back to the program."

With service like that, these men might never be released. **H**



Charlie Howell, Charlie Carroll, Zac Muncy and Howard Morris work the chains at all home football games, including the Sept. 6 home opener versus University of West Alabama, which the Bisons won 37-27. Not pictured is Ray Gunter.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

### [ROUNDUP]

#### Baseball makes tourney appearance

THE BASEBALL TEAM ADVANCED to the Gulf South Conference Tournament for the second time in school history and the first since 2002. The Bisons compiled a 27-23 overall record and a 9-10 mark in conference play. Senior Bo Whitaker and junior Aaron Roberts both earned Second Team All-GSC honors. Roberts led the team in nearly every offensive category, hitting .363 with 10 home runs and 45 RBIs. Whitaker hit .288 with 22 RBIs. Sophomore Troy Keith was the team's top pitcher, posting a 4-2 record with a 3.31 ERA. He had 54 strikeouts in 65.1 innings pitched.

#### Hall, Washburn Berryhill awardees

MATT HALL, A MEMBER OF THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM from De Queen, Ark., and Kendyl Washburn, women's soccer player from Midland, Texas, were honored as 2008 M.E. Berryhill Award winners.

The Berryhill Award, named after former coach and athletic director M.E. Berryhill, is given to a senior male and female athlete possessing the characteristics of athletic excellence, academic achievement, social maturity and spiritual example.

Hall, who majored in kinesiology, earned his second All-America honor in 2008. He was a three-time Gulf South Conference West Division Player of the Year and was only the second Bison basketball player to have his jersey retired. He completed his career with 2,227 points, the University's second all-time leading scorer.

Washburn, who majored in exercise science, earned All-Region honors as a senior, setting the school record with 17 goals. She was the Gulf South Conference Player of the Year and a four-time All-GSC honoree. She is also the University's career leader in points (112), goals (48), game-winning goals (15), shots on goal (130) and games started (72). She earned *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America honors as a senior and was three-time Academic All-GSC.

#### Howell men's golf coach

THE MEN'S GOLF TEAM WILL BE UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP for the 2008-09 season. Dustin Howell has been named head coach and is replacing Dr. Nicky Boyd, who will coach the women's program.

Bison golfers placed 10th at the 2008 Gulf South Conference Tournament. Dusty Gourley of Farmington, Ark., tied for sixth at the event, shooting a three-round 217, the fifth-best three-round score in Bison golf history.

In its third season of intercollegiate competition, the women's golf team shot a school-record 669 to place fourth in the nine-team GSC Tournament. Taren Swindle of Paragould, Ark., placed 12th and was the team's top finisher. Swindle was one of three Lady Bison student-athletes to earn *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America honors in 2007-08.



Dustin Howell

#### Tennis teams advance to nationals

THE MEN'S TENNIS TEAM EARNED its fourth-straight and eighth overall trip to the NCAA II National Tournament in 2007-08. The Bisons set a school record by winning their first 15 matches of the season, all with 9-0 scores. The team fell to University of West Florida in the first round of the national tournament. Sophomore Olzhas Taniyev of Almaty, Kazakhstan, and junior Marco Ruiz of São Paulo, Brazil, both earned All-Gulf South Conference honors.

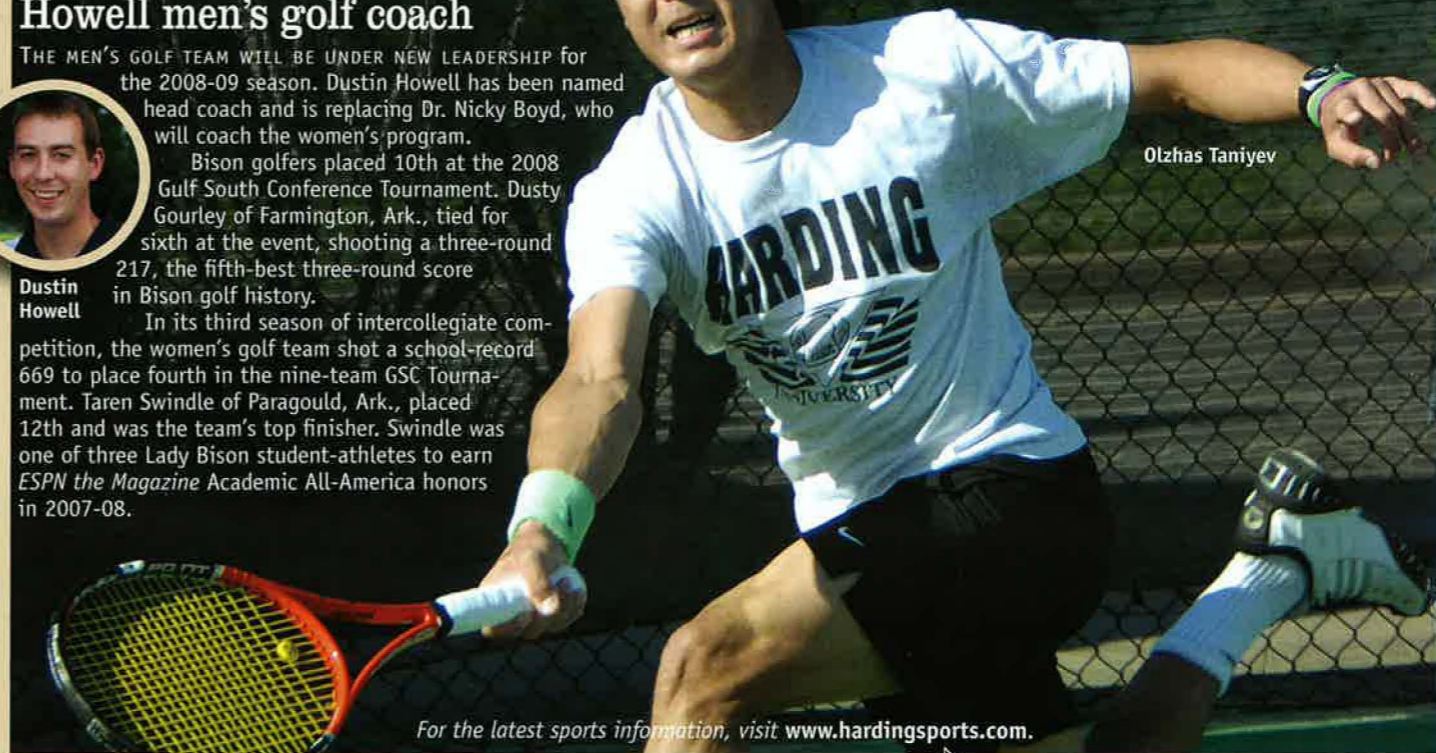
The women's team advanced to its fourth consecutive NCAA II National Tournament, compiling a 21-6 overall record. The Lady Bisons were led by junior Alicia Williams of Greenville, Miss., who collected an 18-5 overall singles record, playing all her matches at No. 1. Williams, along with her doubles teammate, senior Karina Gomes Swindle of São Paulo, Brazil, both earned All-Gulf South Conference honors.

#### Kirwa claims two track titles

DANIEL KIRWA, A NATIVE OF ELDORET, KENYA, was the story for the men's outdoor track team in 2008. Kirwa won his second national championship of the year when he captured the outdoor 10,000-meter title at the national meet in Walnut, Calif., in May and also placed second in the outdoor 5,000 meters. The freshman won the indoor 1,500-meter national championship in March. His 18 points were enough to give the Bisons an 11th-place national finish.

Sophomore Esther Komen placed fifth in the 3,000 meters at the 2008 NCAA II Outdoor Track and Field Championships to earn her first All-America honor as a Lady Bison. Komen finished in 9 minutes, 56.57 seconds, her first race under 10 minutes this season.

Komen, a native of Iten Kabarnet, Kenya, qualified for the finals by placing second in her heat in 10:02.09. She is only the second Lady Bison runner to earn All-America honors in the 3,000 meters, joining teammate Janee Jones, who accomplished the feat in 2006.



Olzhas Taniyev

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



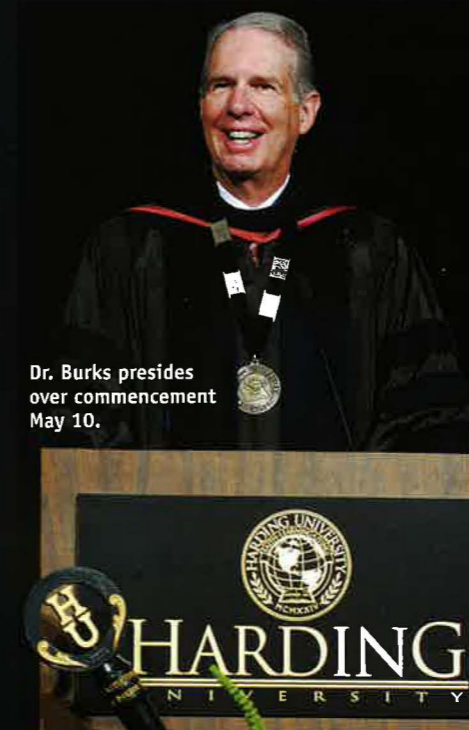
Joining with the Rhodes Rowdies, Dr. Burks helps cheer the Bisons to a 72-59 win over Henderson State University Feb. 23.

# WHAT'S AHEAD? THE NEXT FIVE years

Interview by TOM BUTERBAUGH,  
photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

**A**CCORDING TO THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON Education, the nation's college and university presidents are holding their jobs longer than any time since the mid-

1980s. Today's average sitting president has now served 8.5 years. Long past the mark with 21 years already at the helm, Dr. David B. Burks has continued the trend of long-term presidencies at the University. Recently asked to serve five additional years, he spoke with us about his goals, today's students, diversity on campus and even his hobbies. >>



Dr. Burks presides over commencement May 10.



**How do student concerns today compare to 1987 when you became president?**

I think the concerns of today's students are very similar to those of students when I became president. Students are concerned about learning more about the Bible, and that is a primary reason why many students choose to come to Harding. Students are concerned today, just as they were in 1987, about preparation for their careers, and they are concerned about building meaningful relationships with other students and faculty members. I think expectations today are different than 20 years ago in that students have an expectation of global awareness and international travel that was not nearly as evident in 1987. They are much more into text messages, e-mail and communication. Also, students tend to be from more affluent backgrounds for the most part.

**Do you receive much e-mail from students and parents?**

Surprisingly, I receive very little e-mail from parents and only a small amount from students. I do receive a lot from faculty and staff members and a great deal from partners with whom we work on different projects.

**You recently had your contract extended by the board until 2013? What are your top goals for the University in the next five years?**

Realizing that I had just turned 65, the board asked that I consider extending my verbal agreement with the University through 2013 when I will turn 70. It is my intention to remain in this position as long as we can continue to implement our goals in a meaningful way — assuming my health allows me to do so. My major objective during the next several years is simply to maintain our spiritual focus. This has always been my major objective since becoming president. We will attempt to imple-

ment the newly approved strategic plan, the first part being a reaffirmation of our spiritual mission at the University. Key elements over the next five years include increasing students majoring in Bible to 10 percent of full-time equivalent undergraduates and establishing a Center for Preaching within the College of Bible and Religion. I am excited about the continuing challenge to enhance and develop new undergraduate and graduate programs and degrees consistent with our mission. I am also challenged by the need to maintain or increase our enrollment, and I expect total enrollment during the next five years to increase from 6,300 to 7,500 students. I am hopeful that we will be able to increase our endowment funds in a significant way. It is also very important to me that we [the administration] continue to find ways to build strong relationships among our faculty, staff and students as they represent what our work is all about.

**How will Harding stay affordable? Will there be an increase in need-based scholarships?**

It is important that we continue to implement a tuition pricing policy of affordability. The University's tuition is currently the lowest of all four-year senior colleges supported by churches of Christ. We also offer significant scholarship assistance. We have recently increased need-based scholarships, and our plan is to increase them by 20 percent during the next five years.

**Endowment has grown tremendously during your tenure. Why does this growth need to continue, and where would you like it to be by 2013?**

I believe we must continually emphasize a strong endowment for the future. We use this income at a rate of five percent to assist us in our operating budget so that we may provide scholarships for students. As we grow, it is increasingly important that we have a strong base that we can count on year after year. I am hopeful that we can grow our endowment to \$175 million by 2013.

**What is the revised liberal arts program the University is implementing?**

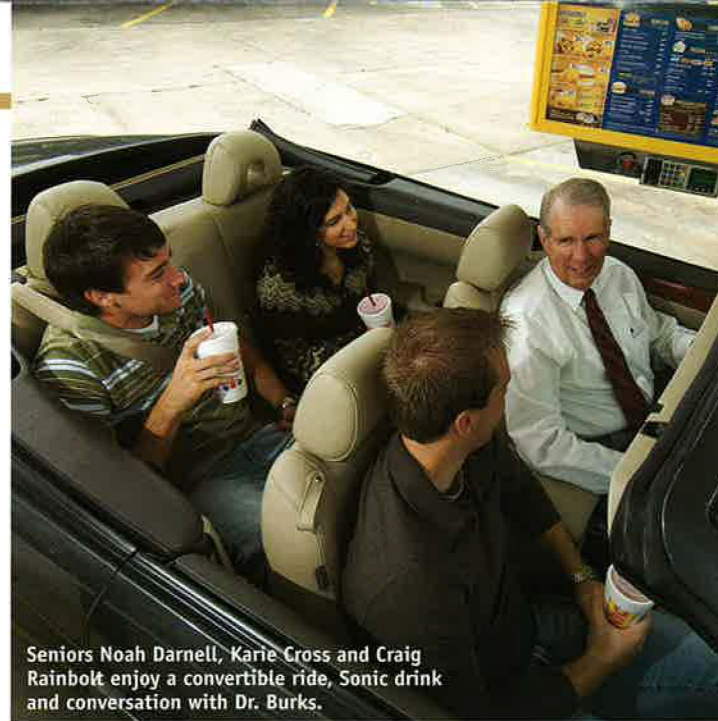
Dr. Larry Long [vice president for Academic Affairs], with the help of all academic deans, is involved in a major effort to simply re-examine our liberal arts program and make any needed changes to reflect the evolving academic structure that we find in our University today. We hope to have this recommendation finalized within the next year.

**How does the University plan to increase ethnic diversity among students and faculty?**

Our goal is to increase ethnic diversity by 10 percent by 2013 for both students and faculty. This will require additional scholarships for students and a very intentional strategy to hire more minority faculty and staff members.

**Much physical growth has occurred on campus during your presidency. Are there plans for any new or renovated facilities in the next five years?**

The strategic plan calls for us to continue upgrading our residence halls, which includes a complete renovation of Sears, Stephens and Allen halls. We anticipate additions to the Mabee Business Center, Ganus Athletic Center, and McInteer Bible and World Missions Center. We also anticipate building a new facility for the College of Nursing.



Seniors Noah Darnell, Karie Cross and Craig Rainbolt enjoy a convertible ride, Sonic drink and conversation with Dr. Burks.

**Protecting our environment is on many people's minds these days. Is the University making efforts to become a "green" campus?**

This past spring I appointed an ad hoc committee to look at what we can do in terms of the environment, considering the responsibility of being good stewards of the resources that we have been given. Members have already made a number of recommendations, and I anticipate ongoing efforts to help us in this important area.

**A few years ago you stepped back into the classroom and taught a course on business ethics. Do you plan to teach a class again?**

Yes, I plan to teach next year after we initiate the strategic plan this year. I anticipate teaching ethics for the College of Business Administration.

**Many alumni and friends may not know you took up piano playing recently. Has this been a lifelong goal?**

It has been a goal of mine for perhaps 20 years to learn to play the piano. I started taking lessons two years ago, and I am enjoying this activity very much. Sometimes I have trouble finding enough practice time.

**The car in the president's parking space is much sportier lately. What prompted you to choose a Toyota convertible?**

I have always wanted a convertible, and I am not getting any younger, so I decided to buy one last year. I love the view when the top is down, but it is a bit difficult to get my long legs into the convertible.

**You participate with the Rhodes Rowdies. How else do you interact with the student body, and what do you gain from such interaction with students?**

Students are the reason that I love Harding. I have lunch with students every month in my office to get ideas from them. I attend as many student activities as I can work into my schedule. I am involved each semester in a student prayer group, and my wife and I regularly host a home Bible study on Wednesday nights with students.

**Have you been to all of our international campuses? Which are your favorites and why?**

I have been to all of our international campuses except our newest program in Zambia, and I hope to visit it next year. I have been to our programs in Greece and Italy more than any of the others because we have our own campus facilities for these two. I love Greece because of the opportunity for students to travel to Israel, Turkey and Egypt as well as learn about Bible lands. In Italy, I love the people, I love the food, and I love being able to see so much of Europe as part of the travel. I wish that all of our students could attend one of our International Programs because I am a great believer in the experience that they will receive by being a participant.

**Harding is a Christ-centered institution. How will the University strengthen that identity in the future?**

I believe that Harding has done a good job of maintaining a commitment to spiritual truth over its long history. I believe we must always be true to the word of God, and my prayer is that we will continue with this emphasis in the future.

**How do you strengthen your own personal faith?**

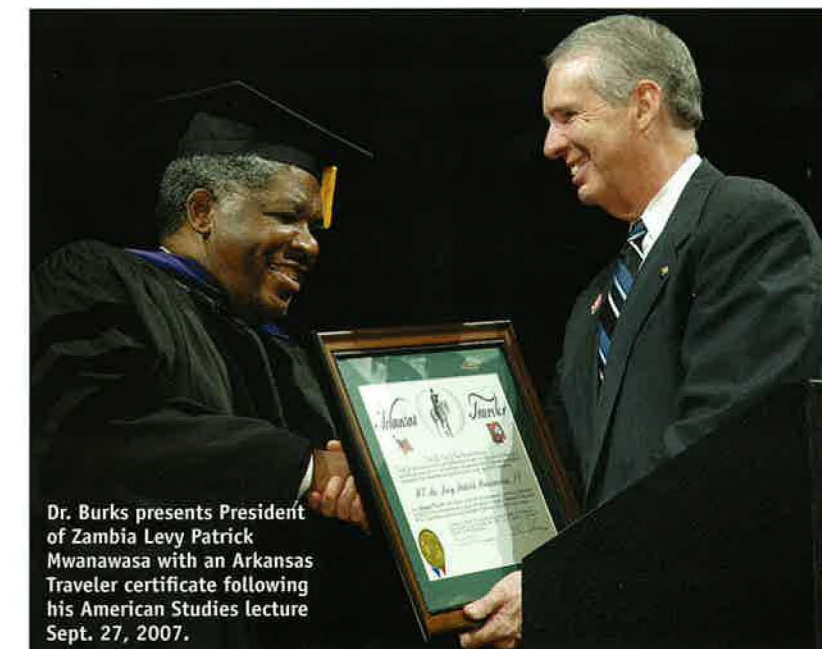
I like to read books written by people of faith, and I also like to read the Bible through every year because it helps me increase my own faith.

**What advantages do you feel your long tenure gives you in guiding the University?**

I have now enjoyed 21 years as president, and that experience has given me some perspective in terms of what is possible through Christian education. I believe the best years of influence for Harding University lie in the future. I believe the need for Harding is greater now than ever. I think we can always learn from what we have done in the past, but I think it is very important that we continue to dream about the future and how Harding can be the kind of community that emphasizes the Christian worldview so that students can develop and deepen their own faith. **H**



During Student Impact Aug. 21, Dr. Burks helps freshman Rachel Martin of Columbia, S.C., move into Cathcart Hall.



Dr. Burks presents President of Zambia Levy Patrick Mwanawasa with an Arkansas Traveler certificate following his American Studies lecture Sept. 27, 2007.



◀ The coastline of Normandy, France, looking toward the Mulberry harbour at Arromanches, is the site where World War II ships unloaded following D-Day.

Outer fortification walls surround the ancient city of Rhodes, one of a multitude of Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. ▶

# Places that [COVER STORY] CHANGED ME

Text and photography by NOAH DARNELL

FROM THE TIME I SAID GOODBYE AND LEFT MY PARENTS AT THE SECURITY CHECKPOINT IN Birmingham International Airport until I arrived at the same gate at the same airport and greeted my parents in the same spot, exactly 109 days had elapsed. In this short span of time, I had evidently done something deserving of questions — hundred of questions — from hundreds of people. Granted, most of the questions came in two forms: “How was your trip?” or

“Did you have fun?” Many of these four-word questions were answered easily with single-syllable answers: “Good!” or “Fine!” If excessively wordy that day, I might have added, “It was the best experience I could have asked for.”

More than a week of “Good!” and “Fine!” and “Great!” passed before I got my first question that required a great deal of thought to answer. My often-philosophical great-uncle asked me, “What was the most important thing you learned?”

How do you tally up the things you learned while spending four months on foreign soil? How do you make one learned thing more important than another?

There was an answer. But, on the spur of the moment, I did not have it. >>

A dock worker checks the progress of a ship passing through locks on the River Nile south of Luxor, Egypt. ▶



IT IS TRULY DIFFICULT TO NAIL DOWN the one thing that comes to mind as more significant than everything else. I learned plenty about places, of course. That cannot be overlooked. However, I am not able to say that the most important thing I learned had anything to do with Ramses the Great (who brought order and power to the entire Egyptian empire), Delphi (which repeatedly changed the course of history with its mysterious Oracle), or Capernaum (where Jesus and his disciples had their base for a few years).

Don't get me wrong; book smarts are important, for sure, but they pale in comparison to the feeling of standing in the presence of and looking at the shriveled, leathery face of the REAL mummified

body of Ramses the Great. I tell you from experience it gives you a different sort of chill. Whether it was Ramses the Great or Thutmose III, one of the 13 mummies in that Cairo museum went toe to toe with Moses and the Israelites. One of those withered bodies witnessed the parting of the Red Sea, and one of those 4,000-year-old men had his son die as a result of the 10 plagues of Israel. Do you have chills yet?

When Israel is spoken of, everything else pales in comparison in my mind. To see these places — Masada, the Dead Sea, Petra — is enough to make anyone pause and think, "Is this real?" But the most bizarre feelings I have ever experienced in my 22 years charged up inside my

head and my heart as we drove along the highway into Jerusalem, knowing fully that it was just around the next bend. We then burst into the light after the darkness of a long tunnel and saw the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock gleaming golden in the afternoon sunlight. I am in no way being melodramatic when I say I will never feel the same way about Jerusalem for the rest of my life.

These are all places I no longer have to see in photographs and history books. These are all places where I can simply close my eyes and see them in my memory, completely real.

Maybe these tangible places really *do* have something to do with the most important things I learned. While I stood >>



**In the marketplace** before sunset begins the Jewish Sabbath, one man aids another by giving him a few shekels.



**Night falls** on the Kom Ombo Temple located on the banks of the Nile. Ancient Egyptians worshipped the crocodile there.



**In the shadow** of grandeur during the rush of the day, an elderly man and his younger friend stroll along Milan, Italy's, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.



**On the Sea of Galilee,** a tour boat sails into the afternoon mist.



◀ One of Egypt's oldest pyramids still in existence, the Step Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara predates the famous pyramids of Giza by at least two centuries.

at the Western Wall, Athens Acropolis or wherever else I traveled, my worldview was changing. I can no longer be cozy wrapped up with my Southern, small-town worldview. I have watched Jewish men in the Jerusalem marketplace do business with Arab Christians and Muslims while their children played together behind them in the street. I have seen the Italian people sitting in the shadow of the Milan Duomo just enjoying their usual morning paper. I have been pestered by hawkers pushing their trinkets in obscure corners of Egypt. I have walked through rows of white crosses on the perfectly manicured lawns of the U.S. military cemetery on France's Normandy coast overlooking Omaha Beach.

Is it any wonder I took 20,000-plus photographs? These are places that change people. These are places that changed history. These are places that changed me.

SO WHAT IS THAT ONE THING?

At the most simple level, I learned that this world is continuous. No matter where I traveled, I saw the same land on the same Earth. We all connect. We all share a common thread. After all of it was over, I came to the realization that we are all living in this world together. Every person is someone else's son or daughter or father or mother or sibling. There may be fences and walls — literally and figuratively — all over the world, from Berlin to Bethlehem; but where there are spaces in the walls, people interact and lives intersect. In the old city of Jerusalem, a man and his neighbor may pray in different ways, but they say hello at the mailbox, and their children play together after school. At the most basic level, people are just people.

That's what I told my uncle: "I learned that people are just people, and they are just like you and me wherever you go."

My answer satisfied him. **H**

Noah Darnell is a senior print journalism major from Guntersville, Ala., who spent the spring semester at the University's International Program in Greece. For more photos and insights from his semester abroad, visit [www.harding.edu/mag](http://www.harding.edu/mag).

∨ In the Plaka, a historical neighborhood and marketplace in Athens, a man sits outside and reads surrounded by two companions.



∧ In Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport, two pilots head down the corridor to their flight.



∧ The temple of Poseidon at Sounion, Greece, is offset by the rising moon and setting sun in this in-camera double exposure.

# Bible 11 ing

*begins  
lifelong journey  
for Bible majors*

By JENNIFER L. MARCUSSEN,  
photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY



ON A FRIDAY EVENING IN EARLY MAY, a group of students, their families and faculty members gather in the rotunda of the McInteer Bible and World Missions Center. With commencement a little more than 12 hours away, campus is crowded, congratulations are shouted and parking spaces are full. However, for this group, amid the festivity, a quiet reverence appears. The

students — male and female Bible majors — are excited about completing their undergraduate journey. But before they walk across the stage and receive their diplomas in the morning, they will receive a more personal gift tonight, a blessing.

### Behind the blessing

The College of Bible and Religion began hosting a Blessing Ceremony for graduates in December 2005. But the idea sprung from a tradition that has existed for thousands of years.

The concept of bestowing a blessing on children is witnessed numerous times in the first book of the Old Testament. In Genesis 17, God, in the role of “father,” blesses his “son” Abraham and tells him he will be the father of many nations, although he is childless at the time. Some years later, Abraham blesses his son Isaac, who later blesses his twin sons, Jacob and Esau — even through deception. Finally, in Genesis 49, Jacob blesses his 12 sons. Here, the blessings are mixed with constructive criticism and even prophecy, such as the revealing of the tribe from which Christ will descend — Judah.

History reveals that the custom of speaking a blessing from father to child remained a significant part of Jewish life during the life of Christ and is important in many families and communities today. In the New Testament, Matthew, Mark and Luke all record Jesus blessing children: “And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:16).

Fast-forward a couple of millennium to 1986. That year, authors Gary Smalley and John Trent, inspired by Jesus’ and the

Patriarchs’ use of blessings, wrote *The Blessing*. In this book, they encourage parents and teachers to continue the tradition of blessings, making sure children and students receive a message that conveys love and acceptance.

Five elements comprise the “blessing,” each one supported in Scripture.

The first, **meaningful touch**, emphasizes the importance of the giver of the blessing placing his hands on the person receiving the blessing, much like when Isaac blessed Jacob in Genesis 27.

The second, **spoken words**, conveys the significance of the giver speaking the words and the recipient hearing them. Abraham spoke his blessing to Isaac, as did the other Patriarchs, the words representing a transfer of power from one to the other.

Spoken words contain an **expression of high value**, the third element of the blessing. In it, the speaker tells the recipient how he or she is treasured and loved. These expressions may contain vivid and powerful descriptions, such as Jacob calling Judah a lion (Genesis 49:9).

The expression of high value is often coupled with the **picture of a special future**, part four. The speaker’s portrayal of confidence in the recipient’s future helps him or her develop a positive attitude toward life.

Finally, the fifth element, an **active commitment**, binds together the first four aspects of the blessing. The giver promises to be there for the recipient, not just with words, but also with actions.

Upon reading the book, Bible faculty members realized the

importance of blessing their students, knowing all too well the challenges that arise from full-time ministry or just trying to remain faithful and focused on a daily basis. Thus, they decided to implement principles from *The Blessing* and host a college-wide ceremony.

### The ceremony

Today, “blessings” are held twice a year, in May — for spring and summer graduates — and December. All majors are invited: missions, preaching, youth and family ministry, vocational ministry, Bible and religion, Bible and ministry, and Christian education.

In his welcome to family and friends on May 9, Dr. Monte Cox, now dean of the College of Bible and Religion, explains why this ceremony is important to the spiritual growth of both faculty and graduates. “We take seriously our marching orders, which come from many places in Scripture, such as 2 Timothy 3:14, ‘But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know from whom you learned it.’”

Before the individual readings begin, Bruce McLarty, vice president for Spiritual Life, emphasizes the community aspect of the ritual and ultimate goal of the evening. “There are three words we want the students to hear tonight,” he says. “‘Congratulations.’ You did it. ‘Commit.’ Our relationship with you does not end tonight. ‘Commission.’ We send you out with a commission.”

Several weeks preceding the ceremony, faculty members selected students for whom they would write blessings. The writer then crafted a one-page statement built around these two open-ended sentences: “I see in you,” and “I pray for you.” Because of time, the whole message is not read, but each presenter incorporates all five elements from Smalley and Trent’s book when giving the blessing.

Over the course of an hour, 38 students are blessed. Some are simple, such as the words from Assistant Professor Allen Diles to Nathan Myers (’08). “My prayer for you is that you may be a blessing to many — devote to him the best of your head, heart and life.”

Others demonstrate a mentor/mentoree relationship between teacher and student, such as Professor of Bible Dale Manor’s remarks to Rachel Mosby (’08): “What a joy you have been to my classes and my life. May others continue to see in you his reflection.”

Many are a call to action. “I suspect you are one of the few I have met who’s born a natural leader,” Marvin Crowson, missionary in residence, tells Wesley Woodell (’08).

All are heartfelt, sincere and encouraging — but words spoken from men, for “God is the one who ultimately blesses,” says Cox.

While these blessings are given at the end of the students’ undergraduate years, they signify a new chapter about to begin in their lives. “We want you to remember the love we have for you and the faith we have in you,” says McLarty. “The heart of ministry is simple,” he adds. “It is following in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

As the ceremony closes, participants and audience members join together to sing words that, perhaps, best summarize the hope, expectations and prayers that the faculty has for these men and women: “Rise up, O men of God.

Have done with lesser things.  
Give heart and mind and soul and strength  
To serve the King of kings.” **H**



Travis and Anna Trull

## Instilling confidence

**W**HEN MISSIONS MAJOR Travis Trull (’08) graduated May 10, he breathed a sigh of relief, glad to be done with classes and tests. But his break did not last long.

One week later he was in a wedding — his own. And within a month of marrying Anna Lauren Greek (’08), he and his new wife set out for Africa. Their destination: Tanzania.

The Trulls are part of a mission team planning to move to the East African nation in 2010 for at least 10 years. This month-long survey trip allowed them to travel the country and find locations where they might have the best impact among the population of 38 million.

“My parents were actually missionaries,” Trull explains. “I grew up in Kenya until I was 9 years old. I’ve always been interested in what my role might be in Africa or remote places.”

This childhood desire, along with an internship last summer in Togo, West Africa, cemented his commitment to return to parts of the continent with no Christian influence. But receiving a blessing by Dr. Ken Neller helped instill in Trull the confidence he needs to carry out his plans.

“Just to hear from such a great man ... to hear the confidence he has in my future, my dreams and my plans ... to hear someone I look up to say he expects great things from me is exciting and encouraging, motivating as well,” he says.

For Trull, the Blessing Ceremony signified the close of one chapter and the beginning of a new journey. He was able to reflect on the impressions made by Bible faculty members on a daily basis. “I was able to experience their passion for the message of God and sharing it with others. Learning more of who God is and how he interacts with the world is very influential.”

But he also saw the opportunity to look toward the future and what he can glean from men such as Neller and Dr. Monte Cox, his faculty mentor. Both are members of Trull’s supporting congregation, where they serve as minister and elder, respectively.

“Downtown [Church of Christ in Searcy] is sending our team,” he explains. “It is encouraging to know that they will continue to be there for you, to teach you more when they have the opportunity. I’m excited that the relationship can continue.

“It makes me want to rise to their expectations.” **H**



During May’s Blessing Ceremony, Dr. Ken Neller encourages graduating senior Jonathan Strasser to continue his work of caring for the less fortunate and “those who hurt but have no voice.”

TRULL, PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS AND ANNA TRULL

REAFFIRMING OUR MISSION:

# An introduction to the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan

FOLLOWING IS THE PREFACE to the University's Strategic Plan for the next five years. It was developed during a yearlong process of listening to board members, faculty, staff, students and alumni. The preface reaffirms the University's commitment to the Christian principles upon which the school was founded. The Board of Trustees at its May 2008 meeting unanimously adopted the statement as the fundamental philosophy undergirding all of the school's programs.

Any strategic plan for Harding University must be founded upon our spiritual convictions and vision. We are, at our core, a Christian university. The character, example and concerns of Jesus Christ are the standards that shape us and chart the course for our future. Because of this, an all-encompassing love for God and a corresponding love for people are at the heart of who we are.

As we look toward the future, we are committed to retaining the Christian identity of Harding University. Realizing that there is a powerful, almost overwhelming tendency for Christian institutions to drift toward secularism, we recommend ourselves at this time to the distinctive practices that have always been central to Harding's Christian character: required Bible classes, daily chapel, and a lofty code of behavior for the administration, faculty and students.

For many years at the University, our motto has celebrated the integration of "faith, learning and living." This has reminded us that the Christian worldview is to be at the core of every academic discipline and every extracurricular activity on campus. Every professor who stands in front of a class, every coach who stands in front of a team, and every director who stands in front of a cast or a chorus are to speak and lead as men and women of God. They are to confess, both in words and actions, that God created the world; that he redeems us through the blood of his son, Jesus; that he fills his children with his Holy Spirit; and that he calls us to be holy as he is holy. Such core themes will continue to be emphasized in chapel services, in faculty meetings and throughout the University.

The Gospel of John states, "The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Grace and truth were perfectly blended in Jesus. He spoke truth but always in a gracious way. He extended his hand in grace but never betrayed the truth in doing so. However, Christians constantly struggle to demonstrate that same sacred balance. Gracious people are easily tempted to compromise truth, and truth-seeking people often communicate ungraciousness. Recognizing this challenge, we are determined to be a people who are "full of grace and truth," sacrificing neither in the pursuit of both. Cheap grace and harsh truth are two extremes we will seek to

avoid. Our hope is that when people think of Harding University, they will think of both grace and truth.

Another important aspect of our institutional identity is our belief in the Bible as the fully inspired and authoritative word of God. We hold it to be "God-breathed" and the basis of our teaching and life. The Bible is central to our goal of spiritual formation in the life of everyone at Harding. Consequently, it is our goal that all graduating seniors leave our university with a greater level of confidence in Scripture than they had when they first arrived on campus.

Harding University has always been a leader in world missions. Nearly one-third of the missionaries who have gone out from churches of Christ have graduated from Harding. At this critical point in history, we believe it is important that we renew our commitment to participate fully in the mission of God, both at home and abroad. While the pluralism of our postmodern culture denies the need to preach the Gospel, we continue to believe that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ and that Christians are to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Harding has always been deeply connected with churches of Christ, and we reaffirm this connection as we move into the future. In keeping with this, our goal will be to continue to hire only members of churches of Christ as faculty and administrators. Though we live in a time of significant confusion over our brotherhood's identity, we are determined that Harding University will become captive to neither a rigid legalism on the right nor a formless liberalism on the left. "With gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:16) we affirm on this occasion such distinctive convictions of mainstream churches of Christ as baptism for the remission of sins, a cappella music in worship, and male spiritual leadership.

While we maintain our close ties with churches of Christ, we make clear that Harding opens its arms to all. Those who do not share all of our convictions are always welcome, and we will work hard to see that they are always treated with kindness, fairness and respect.

We present this mission statement with a heart of humility, realizing that God alone is sovereign. While we can survey, discuss, dream and plan, God controls the future. So, as we present our vision for the future of Harding University, we offer it to God with the words of our Lord, Jesus: "Father ... not (our) will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). **H**



## 1953

**Alfred Carnell and Dell Lanier** ('51) **Brittain** celebrated their 50th anniversary in May. They married in the home of Daniel Boone in Alamo, Tenn. Both are retired teachers. Carnell has preached for churches of Christ for approximately 40 years. (2004 Max Luther Drive N.W., #620, Huntsville, AL 35810)

## 1961

**Nick Poulos** retired after 46 years with Walgreen Co. as pharmacist and manager. He and his wife, **Judy Hastings** ('63), moved to Springdale, Ark., to be near their son and grandchildren. They also have two daughters. (471 Doris Drive, Springdale, AR 72762; npoulos38@yahoo.com)

## 1979

**Rhonda Moyer Roberts** is one of three national winners of *Highlights for Children's* annual fiction contest. She competed against more than 1,100 other entrants and was awarded the publication of her story "Sandstorm!" in the magazine and \$1,000 in tuition to the *Highlights' Foundation Writers Workshop* at Chataqua, N.Y. She is active in the White County Writers group and an insurance agent with Shelter. She and her husband, **Gary** ('72), have two children. (620 Morris School Road, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 1981

**Dean Stanley** became the Midland, Ark., superintendent in July. Previously, he was middle school principal at White County Central School. His wife, **Debbie Arms** ('82), is an elementary teacher at White County Central. They have two children, Ben and Allison. (120 Mary Louise Lane, Judsonia, AR 72081)

## 1984

**D. Craig Baugh** retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) after a career spanning 30 years. He began his career with DIA in 1984 following six years in the U.S. Navy. During the past 24 years, he has also ministered to small startup churches of Christ in northern Virginia. To honor his career of federal service, he was awarded the Defense Intelligence Directors' Award. (8027 Samuel Wallis St., Lorton, VA 22079)

### PROFILE: CLIFF & JANE SHARP 1961, 1964

## Ministry in Murfreesboro

WHEN CLIFF SHARP RETIRED from his position as teacher and coach at the University 20 years ago, he and his wife, Jane, moved to Murfreesboro, Tenn. There, the Sharps became engaged in a new ministry as Cliff directed a crisis pregnancy center. Through this work, the couple began to see an even greater need in the community.



"We noticed that single moms and the working poor were being missed," says Cliff. "Jane and I wanted to lift their hopes and serve their physical needs, but also their spiritual and emotional needs."

Thus began Greenhouse Ministries, a faith-based, volunteer organization dedicated to providing encouragement and motivation to members of the community who need to make changes in their lives; promoting wholeness; and giving back to others in the community. The Sharps serve as executive directors.

Many families come to Greenhouse for necessities such as food, gas vouchers and furniture. There is no qualifying, and all services are free. However, clients don't just get a hand-out. To receive furniture or a computer, an individual must first engage in some form of community service — from mowing laws to picking up trash or even volunteering at the ministry. It is not uncommon to meet a volunteer who was once a client.

But Greenhouse, now in its 10th year, provides more than material items; more than 60 volunteers offer resources to help citizens improve their lives. Services available include computer classes, GED tutoring, counseling, budgeting classes, literacy tutoring, relationship classes, job and housing referrals, home repairs, and many forms of advocacy. Last year alone, more than 11,000 individuals received help.

Above all, every person who comes through the door is given the opportunity to pray with the staff and volunteers.

"The people who we see ... most of them do not have a church home. I do weddings and funerals all because people have nobody else," says Cliff. "While we do whatever we can do to help [materially], we want to make sure there is a spiritual component.

"We have had more fun in this ministry," he adds. "When you feel like you are where God wants you to be, you have a lot of joy. We want to give everyone a touch of Jesus who comes here." **H**

— Jennifer L. Marcussen

**Mary F. Ciccone-Cook** was inducted into Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional and Entrepreneurial Registry for her dedication, leadership and excellence in education. She teaches advanced placement language and literature for Aviation High School, a public school that emphasizes math, science,

technology and engineering under the theme of aviation and aerospace in the Highline School District in Burien, Wash. She also teaches online English courses for St. Martin's University in Lacey, Wash. She conducts teacher-training workshops and is an AP reader for the College Board. Mary and her husband,

Greg, reside in Fircrest, Wash. (124 Golden Gate Ave., Fircrest, WA 98466)

## 1988

**Wesley Stine** graduated from Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock, Texas, and works for Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas. (4410 Bruce Drive, Abilene, TX 79606)

## 1989

Brian and **Maria Reynolds Smith** announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Elise, Dec. 11, 2007. Abigail has a congenital heart defect that requires multiple surgeries. Brian works in supply and distribution at Sycamore Hospital, and Maria teaches music for Dayton Public Schools. (2625 Colonial Ave., Dayton, OH 45419; brian\_maria\_smith@sbcglobal.net)

## 1990

**David** ('84) and **Christy Golden Mars** announce the birth of a son, Samuel Edwin, Aug. 26, 2007. (3772 Kenwood Ave., Memphis, TN 38122)

## 1991

**Stan Bennett** is employed by the U.S. Public Health Service as an occupational therapist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He is stationed at a maximum/medium security complex that specializes in health care for federal inmates. He and his wife, Kim, have three children, Harper, Miller and Graham. (237 Evesham Court, Wake Forest, NC 27587)

## 1992

Robert and **Donna Garner Cole** announce the birth of a daughter, Emily Gail, March 23, 2007. They also have a son, Logan. Robert works at White River Medical Center, and Donna works for a home-health and hospice agency. (10 Brady Lane, Batesville, AR 72501)

**Shawn** and **Britney Kell** announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Gracelyn, May 21. They have another daughter, Addie. Shawn works for Sage Software as senior quality assurance/test engineer, and Britney is a home-maker. (307 Lakemont Drive, Hutto, TX 78634)

## 1993

Luis and **Michelle Ponds Pineda** announce the birth of a son, An-

SHARP PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIFF AND JANE SHARP

PHOTO BY JEFF HORTON/REX

thony Ponds, Jan. 7. Luis is the owner of a Mexican restaurant in Oxford, N.C., and Michelle owns a veterinary hospital and pet resort in Chapel Hill, N.C. (1004 Goldenview Court, Durham, NC 27713; mlpineda@earthlink.net)

**Stephen** ('05) and **Heather Oliver Stewart** announce the birth of a son, Anderson Parker, March 14, 2007. They have two other sons, Carson and Jackson. (14 Spring Drive, Maumelle, AR 72113)

**1994**

**Shane** ('95) and **Cara Rana Lank** announce the birth of a daughter, Allyson Paige, Oct. 31, 2007. Shane is an IT auditor with Dillard's Inc., and Cara is a financial analyst for the Arkansas State Bank Department. (2908 Mossy Creek Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211)

**1995**

Sean and **Tressa Cole Ashberry** announce the birth of a daughter, Callie Sue, March 18. They also have a son, Jackson. Tressa spent eight years as a media specialist at Central Arkansas Christian Schools and is now a homemaker. (116 Merganzer Drive, Jacksonville, AR 72076)

**Kevin** and **Trena Moss Busch** announce the birth of a daughter, Eliana Grace, March 29. (5803 Culross Close, Humble, TX 77346; trenaandkevin@hotmail.com)

James and **Dona Kolde Clarin** announce the adoption of a son and daughter, Nathaniel James, 8, and Alexiz Raelynn, 7. Dona is a nurse practitioner at University of Tennessee Medical Group in the pediatric neurology department in Memphis, Tenn. (4344 Bloombury St., Southaven, MS 38672)

**David** and **Robyn Hook** announce the birth of a son, Aidan Samuel, March 6. David works at Resource Design in Rogers, Ark., and Robyn works as director of college project talent search at University of Arkansas. (1812 Patti Ave., Springdale, AR 72762; dhook@resourcedesign.net)

**Dale Sheehy** is youth and family minister for Lake Shore Drive Church of Christ. He and his wife, **Kim Fancy** ('92), have two children, Brenden and Hannah. (204 Gail Drive, Waco, TX 76708; dalesheehy@hotmail.com; k.sheehy@hotmail.com)

**Ron** ('94) and **Holly Hays Sparkman** announce the birth of a daughter, Whitley Hays, Dec. 7,

2007. They have three other children, Max, Annie and Coleman. (2196 Sam's Creek Road, Pegram, TN 37143)

**1996**

Brandon and **Heidi Burkham Baker** announce the birth of a daughter, Esther Mae, Oct. 8, 2006. Brandon is youth and family minister at Western Hills Church of Christ. They have two other children, Mason and Emma. (7916 Hawthorn, Temple, TX 76502)

Jeff and **Marcy Winters Fielder** announce the birth of a daughter, Jacey Hope, April 16. They have another daughter, Lexi. Jeff is an insurance adjuster for Frontier Adjusters, and Marcy is a pharmacist for Select Specialty Hospital. (5 Cherry Crest Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211)

**Timothy** ('92) and **Heather Fuchs Fowler** announce the birth of a son, Elijah Landon, May 12. They have three other children, Joel, Hannah and Ian. Timothy is branch manager of Master's Craft Flooring Co. in Oklahoma City, and Heather home-schools their children. (311 S. Mitchell Lane, Mustang, OK 73064)

**David** and **Rebecca Lisle Waller** announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Caroline, Dec. 19, 2007. They have two other children, Hayley and Colton. (1516 Bassett Hound Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76052)

**1997**

**Danny** and **Jody Rhoten Allison** announce the birth of a son, Owen Wade, Aug. 2, 2007. They also have a daughter, Ellie. (6820 Fair Meadows Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180)

**Ethan** ('94) and **Ashley McKelvey Brown** announce the birth of a son, Silas Richard, April 23. They have two other children, Isaac and Gillian. (84 Reed St., Agawam, MA 01001)

**Chad** ('02) and **Jennifer Walker Floyd** announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Claire, March 6. Chad is assistant head football coach at Mayflower High School, and Jennifer is a senior manager with Deloitte & Touche, LLP, in Little Rock, Ark. (14 Sunbelt Court, Mayflower, AR 72106)

Wesley and **Rhonda Raper Gilbert** announce the birth of a daughter, Chloe Michelle, May 16, 2006. They have two other daughters, Rileigh Quinn and Piper Susanna.

ALUMNI AWARDS

2008 honorees a cut above

DURING HOMECOMING 2008'S BLACK & GOLD BANQUET, Alumni Relations will honor a select group of individuals who are making an impact in their communities and around the world. The alumni selected were chosen for their degree of excellence and recognition in their fields; lives consistent with University ideals; active support of the University; and service to their community, church and God.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Shelter Island, N.Y., residents **Cliff** ('67) and **Tish Larkins** ('71) **Clark** are partners in the truest sense of the word. They own and run the South Ferry Co., which offers



year-round service from Shelter Island to North Haven, N.Y. Together their community service has made a huge impact in the town of 2,500. Cliff is a former elite runner and coach who was a three-time All-American and national NAIA champion in track and field. He finished one spot away from qualifying for the 1972 Olympics in the steeplechase. For

more than three decades, he has helped improve multiple high school running programs and mentored many high school and collegiate All-Americans. He serves on the board of Timothy Hill Children's Ranch, was selected the 2002 Citizen of the Year by the Shelter Island Lions Club, and is co-founder of the Shelter Island 10K Run. Tish devotes much of her time to running the ferry business and working with many local organizations, including Girl Scouts. The Clarks, who have two grown daughters, are members of East Hampton Church of Christ, where Cliff serves as an elder.

CLARK PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIFF AND TISH CLARK; CHEATHAM PHOTO COURTESY

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

**Craig** ('90) and **Caryllee Parker** ('91) **Cheatham** of Colorado Springs, Colo., are both known for excellence in their respective fields. Craig is currently president and CEO of The Realty Alliance, one of the largest real estate firms in North America, which serves more than 100,000 real estate practitioners. He has been named one of the "Top 100 Most Influential" individuals multiple times by industry press and has been a featured speaker on five continents. Caryllee is a former public relations specialist and communications manager for the Alabama Housing Finance Authority. Her communications projects have garnered multiple awards, including the National Council of State Housing Agencies' Communications Award (1994, 1995 and 2000) and the Public Relations Council of Alabama's Medallion Award (1992). Both Cheathams were recognized as "Top 40 Under 40" business leaders by the Montgomery Advertiser, Craig in 2002 and Caryllee in 2004. They are members of Eastside Church of Christ and have a son and daughter.



OF CRAIG AND CARYLLEE CHEATHAM

College of Arts and Humanities

**Ginger Blackstone** ('91) is a supervising producer for CNN in Atlanta. Her responsibilities include overseeing network programming, instructing executive and line producers, approving newscast rundowns, evaluating staff, monitoring potential for breaking news, approving correspondent scripts, and flagging sensitive or potentially litigious situations and information. She received a 2005 Peabody Award for CNN coverage of Hurricane Katrina and aftermath and a 2005 Columbia DuPont Award for CNN coverage of the South Asia Tsunami Disaster. She is a member of North Atlanta Church of Christ.

College of Bible and Religion

**Landon Saunders** ('68) of Norwich, Vt., is founder and president of Heartbeat, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to helping people fulfill the promise of human life by discovering the possibility that, despite circumstances, tragedy and suffering, they can have a life that loves to happen." He considers the primary focus of his work to be the relationship between culture and religion.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

He is a frequent speaker who has brought fresh insight for dealing with life's difficulties to millions via radio and has hosted "Feeling Good About Yourself" and "Life That Loves to Happen" seminars in more than 100 cities throughout North America. He worships with Norwich Church of Christ.

College of Business Administration

Little Rock, Ark., resident **Steve Clary** ('74) is owner and CEO of Clary Development Corp., where he is involved in the ownership, development, leasing, management and syndication of real estate having an aggregate value in excess of \$600 million. He is also a founding partner in Clary Holdings, LLLP, and a founding member of Evest Group, LLC, both of which have venture capital investments in a number of different companies. He is a member of the Board of Trustees, University Builders Circle and President's Council. He and his wife, Cindy Cannon ('74), have been members of Pleasant Valley Church of Christ since 1979. The Clarys have two grown daughters, both University graduates, and two grandchildren.

College of Education

**Mike Lucas** ('71) serves as program adviser of Educator Preparation for the Arkansas Department of Education, where one of his chief responsibilities includes reviewing and evaluating professional education programs in all state and independent colleges and universities throughout Arkansas. From 1993 to 2007, he directed Educator Preparation and Assessment for the Missouri Department of Education. He is a member of the Association of Teacher Educators, Phi Delta Kappa, and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification and serves on the board of examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Married to Lynn Greenway ('70), they have two children and three grandchildren and are members of WindSong Church of Christ.

College of Nursing

Assistant Professor **Susan Drinnen** ('84) **Kehl** is a nurse educator at the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing in Abilene, Texas. She coordinates clinical courses and teaches adult health nursing for the consortium of Abilene Christian, Hardin-Sim-

mons and McMurry universities. An advocate of health care missions, she has led campaigns to Guatemala, Hungary and Uruguay and serves on the board of Hope Haven, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources for the homeless. She and her husband, Kevin ('84), are members of Highland Church of Christ and have two children.

College of Sciences

Reconstructive dentist **Tim Hacker** ('74) has practiced in Bartlett, Tenn., for 30 years, continually learning and implementing the latest advances and technology. His professional memberships include the Tennessee Dental Association, American Dental Association and Academy of General Dentistry. He is an associate fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and also serves on its board of directors and as president of the Southern District. Hacker is past president of the Memphis/Germantown Art League and was selected Bartlett's favorite artist in 2000 and 2003. He is married to Tammie Skelton ('73), and they have two children and one grandson. The Hackers are members of Sycamore View Church of Christ. **H**

Wesley is employed by Concentra Medical Center, and Rhonda is director at Smart Start Preschool in Coppell, Texas. (2325 F.M. 2738, Alvarado, TX 76009)

**Kent** ('96) and **Cara Wilson Jobe** announce the birth of a daughter, Brylee Rebecca, Feb. 11. They also have two sons, Derek and Austin. Kent is minister of discipleship at College Avenue Church of Christ, and Cara works part time at the church as women's and children's director. (311 Mockingbird Lane, El Dorado, AR 71730)

**Linda Makarova** graduated with an MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business June 15. She is employed by Bain & Co. in its Chicago office. (635 N. Dearborn St., # 1601, Chicago, IL 60610)

**Darrin** ('98) and **Heather Henson Shephard** announce the birth of a son, Isaac Daniel, April 30. They also have a daughter, Lillian Grace. Darrin is a systems analyst for GEICO, and Heather is a homemaker. (11197 Freedom Court, Bealeton, VA 22712; darrinandheather@comcast.net)

1998

Andy and **Kristina Pennington-Boyce** announce the birth of a son, Hunter Koda, March 4. They also have a daughter, Kaitlyn. (602 S. Second St., #1, Winterset, IA 50273)

**Jimmy** ('96) and **Mary Alice Reed Brooks** announce the birth of a daughter, Annalee Elisabeth, March 20. They also have a son, Mark. (114 Indian Trail, Searcy, AR 72143)

**Michael Christie** received his MBA from McCombs School at The University of Texas in Austin. He works in the Leadership Development Program at Raytheon. He and his wife, Amy, have two children, Cole and Afton. (11 Remington Drive, Highland Village, TX 75077)

**Jonathan** and **Rebecca Hug Dandy** announce the birth of a son, Abraham Seth, March 30. They have two other children, Samuel and Genesis. (18201 E. 11th Terrace Court N., Independence, MO 64056)

**Matthew** ('99) and **Jessica Norris Fincher** announce the birth of a son, Micah Lane, May 29. They have two other sons, Luke and Nathan. Matthew graduated in May from University of Georgia with an educational specialist degree in social science education.



He is a high school teacher at Greater Atlanta Christian School. (1229 Renee Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047)

**Matthew ('01) and Anabella Ruiz Freeman** announce the birth of a daughter, Ruby Ann, Nov. 11, 2007. They have three other children, Isabella, Matthew and Michael. Anabella works for Wal-Mart Centroatamerica as regional coordinator. (P.O. Box 12063, Searcy, AR 72145)

Robert and **Beth Meeks Garza** announce the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Martha, April 12. They have another daughter, Camilla. Robert is completing his plastic surgery residency at University of Alabama-Birmingham, and Beth is a homemaker. (422 Woodland Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209)

**Tyson Ledgerwood** is an art teacher. He has illustrated his first book, *Pocahontas: Princess of Faith and Courage*. (1128 N. Grayson, Hobbs, NM 88240)

Jon and **LeAnn Hauge Logsdon** announce the birth of a daughter, Kaylee Jill, Oct. 13, 2007. (2117 Ember Brook Lane, Powell, TN 37849)

**Shane and Whitney Starnes Lumpkins** announce the birth of a son, Austin Cole, March 14. Shane is a field service engineer for Applied Biosystems, and Whitney is a homemaker. (10305 Grayhawk Lane, Keller, TX 76248)

**David ('99) and Sheryl Dunkle Marks** announce the birth of a son, Robert Jeffrey, March 28. They also have two daughters, Reagan and Matilda. (1505 Broadlawn Drive, Plainfield, IL 60586)

**Lathan Watts** has been named president of Associated Builders and Contractors of North Texas. He has also been re-elected to the city council in Lewisville. He and his wife, **Kim Knight**, have two daughters, McKenna and Ashton. (1412 Berne Lane, Lewisville, TX 75067)

**Laura Kee White** is a physical therapist. Her husband, Nathan, is finishing his last year of law school. They have a son, Owen. (308 Foundry Circle, Murfreesboro, TN 37128)

## 1999

**Preston and Jodi Menges Brandimore** announce the birth of a daughter, Cecilie Rose, Jan. 6. (140 Meadowgreen Drive, Franklin, TN 37069)

Mike and **Jill Kinworthy Burcham**

announce the birth of a son, Cade Michael, March 12. They also have two daughters, Kyra and Ella. Mike is a lumber representative and independent contractor, and Jill is a homemaker. (3711 W. Edgewood St., Springfield, MO 65807)

**Frederic and Alisa Lundy Cognard** announce the birth of a son, Noah James, March 8. They have another son, Benjamin. (22 Chemin de Soucy, Puisieux en Retz 02600, France)

Kelly and **Karie Stewart Green** announce the birth of a son, Hudson Paul, Feb. 13. They have two other children, Annie and Daniel. Kelly is an internal medicine resident with University of Tennessee, and Karie is a homemaker. (7374 South Branch Parkway, Olive Branch, MS 38654)

Kevin and **Jessica Rickard Mullins** announce the birth of twins, son Brody Douglas and daughter Taya Savannah, Dec. 31, 2007. They have another daughter, Jayda. Kevin works in graphic design for Cook Communications Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Jessica is a homemaker after working seven years as a speech-language pathologist. (4122 County View Way, Castle Rock, CO 80104; jrnickardmullins@yahoo.com)

Matthew and **Jennifer Reininger Sleppy** announce the birth of a son, Parker Matthew, April 2. They also have two daughters, Molly and Macey. (2901 Nolo Road, Penn Run, PA 15765)

## 2000

**Reagan ('02) and Jennifer Conner Baber** announce the birth of a son, Conner Reagan, Nov. 30, 2007. They also have a daughter, Avery. Reagan is in his third year of anesthesiology residency, and Jennifer is a homemaker. (23 Lariat Court, Little Rock, AR 72211)

**Jason ('01) and Julie Wilson Baker** announce the birth of a son, Jarett Wilson, Nov. 29, 2007. Jason is youth and family minister at College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, Ark., and Julie is a homemaker. (1401 W. Cedar, El Dorado, AR 71730)

**Jennie Casebolt** married Lance McGinn Sept. 15, 2007. (428 S. Grant St., Denver, CO 80209)

Gary and **Megan Winter Ellis** announce the birth of a daughter, Beth Anne, Feb. 11. Gary is an aircraft mechanic, and Megan is a homemaker. (208 Winchester Drive, Sharpsburg, GA 30277)

Jesús and **Danielle Rubin Franco** announce the birth of a son, John Alden, May 5. Jesús works for Mt. Eden Floral Co., and Danielle teaches Spanish at Monte Vista High School in Danville, Calif. (58 Fountainhead Court, Martinez, CA 94553; oaknut3@aol.com)

**Lauren Ashley Hodge** married Rudy Kink Nov. 10. Lauren is a pediatric occupational therapist, and Rudy is a pediatric emergency medicine fellow. They are both employed at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. (1451 Island Town Cove, Memphis, TN 38103)

**Chad ('98) and Teri Wade Mitchell** announce the birth of a son, Max Henry, Nov. 14, 2007. They also have a daughter, Reagan Belle. Chad is employed by School Specialty Inc., and Teri is a homemaker. (2803 N. Frankfort, Russellville, AR 72802)

**Garret and Rachel McAdams Myran** announce the birth of a son, Marcus Garret, Feb. 15. They also have two daughters, Emma Claire and Libby Kate. (1 River Oaks Blvd., Searcy, AR 72143)

**Jess ('01) and Brooks Howard Parker** announce the birth of a daughter, Finley Brooks, March 20. They have two other children, Tayton and Ellis. Jess is a nurse anesthetist at Jonesboro Anesthesia, and Brooks is a homemaker. (2504 Britton Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401)

Mike and **Krista Roman Phelps** announce the birth of a daughter, Faith Anna, May 21. (3805 County St., Portsmouth, VA 23707; imkita@gmail.com)

**Randy ('96) and Heather Davis Rankin** announce the birth of a daughter, Hannah Lynn, Oct. 16, 2007. They also have a son, Haden Allen. (400 S. Division, Morrilton, AR 72110)

**Jon and Allison Martin Simmons** announce the birth of a son, Isaac Christopher, Oct. 19, 2007. They have another son, Jon Thomas. (400 N. Sawmill Road, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 2001

**Matthew ('00) and Lindsay Curton Horner** announce the birth of a son, Graham Edward, May 14. Matthew is an air traffic control specialist at Memphis International, and Lindsay is a homemaker. (376 Winding Wolf Place, #304, Memphis, TN 38120)

**Bryan ('00) and Emily Smith Jobe** announce the birth of a son, Andrew Ryan, Feb. 19. They also

have a daughter, Amelia Beth. Bryan works from home as a business development executive for Constella Group/SRA International, and Emily is a homemaker. (7257 Maplelawn Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

**Greg and Angelique Cole Moses** announce the birth of a daughter, Rhiannon Michelle, Nov. 21, 2007. They also have a son, Corbin. (621 Johnson Drive, Coppell, TX 75019)

**Josh ('02) and Jeanine Philips Muller** announce the birth of a son, Jonah Moses, March 29. Josh is a youth minister, and Jeanine is a first-grade teacher. (77 N. Alling Road, Tallmadge, OH 44278)

**Joey and Emily Montandon Myers** announce the birth of a daughter, Lucy Adele, April 8. They have two other daughters, Riley and Josey. Joey owns Myers Stairs Inc., and Emily is a residence life coordinator in Armstrong Hall. (Harding University, Box 10851, Searcy, AR 72149-0851; jerjmyers@sbcglobal.net)

**Chris and Amy Williamson Perry** announce the birth of a son, Grant, June 25, 2006. Chris is controller for Radiology Associates, P.A., and Amy is a grants accountant for Arkansas Children's Hospital. (7909 Toltec Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

**Jennifer Brooke Romine** married Neil Whitson McGlothlin June 14. Jennifer earned her doctorate in audiology from University of Tennessee in 2005. (400 Stone Chimney Court, Nashville, TN 37214; jenromac@gmail.com)

**John ('04) and Tia Tarole Stone** announce the birth of a daughter, Anna Leigh, April 21. They have two other children, Abigail and Anthony. John is an assistant professor in the College of Business Administration at Harding University, and Tia is a homemaker. (314 N. Sawmill Road, Searcy, AR 72143)

**Lance ('98) and Amber Wade Wigington** announce the birth of a daughter, Verity Hope, Oct. 18, 2007. They have another daughter, Aria Tuscany. Lance is a sales representative and installer for Tile and Marble Showroom, and Amber is a homemaker. (409 S. 32nd St., Terre Haute, IN 47803)

## 2002

**Jimmy and Ashley Singleton Allen** announce the birth of a daughter, Madison Grace, June

25. Jimmy is program manager for Reality Check Inc., and Ashley is a marketing specialist for Arvest Bank. (998 Quail Run, Bethel Heights, AR 72764; allenranch2005@yahoo.com)

**Justin and Brooke White Brewer** announce the birth of a daughter, Chandler Reese, April 15. Justin is finishing his obstetrics and gynecology residency at University of Mississippi, and Brooke is a homemaker. (601 Shea Cove, Brandon, MS 39047)

**Luke ('01) and Katie Elliott Dean** announce the birth of a daughter, Norah Taylor, June 15. Luke is choir director at Mount Pleasant High School, and Katie is a research analyst for Scarborough Research. (412 Walnut St., Mount Pleasant, TX 75455)

**Mary Edmundson** married Jason Bruer Oct. 13, 2007. Mary received her master's in child and family studies from University of Tennessee. (919 Ashbrooke Way, #826, Knoxville, TN 37923)

**Jason ('03) and Jalaina Tyree Hammett** announce the birth of a son, Sawyer Thane, Feb. 16, 2007. They also have a daughter, Evelyn. (728 Kingston Drive, Yukon, OK 73099)

**Jared Kee** is attending the International School of Nursing in St. Kitts. (P.O. Box 1218, Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies)

**Jeremy ('04) and Jenni Woodward Knox** announce the birth of a daughter, Summer Lanai, March 7. Jeremy is a territory sales manager for Wrigley Gum Co., and Jenni is a homemaker. (2225 Caleb Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

**Silas ('03) and Lauren Hensley Orbison** announce the birth of a son, Tyson Rhodes, July 20, 2007. Silas is plant manager for Itnolap Pallet and Crating, and Lauren received her license in social work and works part time as a therapist at Families Inc. (5524 Timber Creek Lane, Jonesboro, AR 72404)

**Seth and Brittney Allison Patterson** announce the birth of a daughter, Jules Avery, April 22. They have another daughter, Jillian. Seth is a major accounts manager with Airband Communications, and Brittney is a homemaker. (2226 Landoine Lane, Lewisville, TX 75056)

## 2003

**Jeremy T. Cochran** is a licensed marriage and family therapist with Samaritan Care & Counsel-



Liz Howell

## ALMA MATTERS

### Alumni define true success

By LIZ HOWELL, director of alumni relations

MANY PEOPLE DEFINE SUCCESS in terms of achievement, wealth, prestige, favor, status and power. Successful people enjoy the “good life” — financial security, throngs of admirers and fruits of their labor. Their accomplishments are noticed, and those also looking for success emulate their example.

Unfortunately, this definition of success deals only with the here and now of this life.

But God measures success by our obedience and faithfulness to him, regardless of opposition and personal cost. He defines success by our loyalty to him and whether we are accomplishing his goals and purposes.

I believe the success of the Harding experience is measured by the friendships cultivated within the University family, the difference our graduates choose to make in the lives of others, and their influence as lights in a dark world.

Recently two graduates whom I feel meet God's definition of success spoke of their rocky starts, humble beginnings, and how kind words of encouragement charted their course and became defining moments in their lives.

Bill Barden ('64) related how he originally planned to attend Harding for only one year. Because of deepening friendships, he decided to stay longer but majored in fun and friends, with very little attention to grades. However,

through the encouragement of Jim City ('61), Ed Higginbotham ('60), Wilt Martin ('65) and Perry Mason Jr. ('59), Barden became a teacher at Harding Academy in Searcy and state championship football coach in spite of his transcript. His gentle and humble spirit has made an impact on thousands of young men and women on and off the field. Those of us fortunate to have this godly man mentor our sons

and daughters are thankful for the encouragement of friends who helped him find his purpose in life.

Cliff Clark ('67) told of a time when he was showing off with his roommate, Tom Bateman ('67). At the time, drag racing in front of where Benson Auditorium now stands seemed like a good idea — burning rubber, driving fast and then retreating to A&W.

Unknown to them, Dr. Eddie Baggett ('50) witnessed the episode and followed them. The assistant professor of music gently talked to Clark about his behavior and how he could have hurt or killed someone. Clark said it is something he will never forget. As Baggett left, he turned and looked over his shoulder at the sheepish young men and smiled while saying, “I am glad you boys are here.”

Clark never forgot the kindness of his remarks. Baggett made an impression on him that he fondly remembers more than 40 years later. He always thinks of him when he has to talk to an employee or someone concerning his or her behavior.

Clark and his wife, Tish Larkins ('71), are our 2008 Distinguished Alumni and credit their success to the influence and encouragement of coaches, including R.T. Clark and John Prock, and other University friends, faculty and staff.

Regardless of one's background or major, the Harding experience has a proven track record of preparing graduates for lives of service and training them to excel in their professions — in other words, allowing them to be truly successful.

I encourage you to reconnect and reunite with people you met at Harding. Write a note or send an e-mail to express the difference they made in your life. This will take time, but the reward is well worth it. If you need contact information, please call (800) 477-4312, ext. 1, or e-mail alumni@harding.edu. **H**

in North Carolina. (149 White Tail Road, Statesville, NC 28625)

**Kyle ('99) and Alison Johnson Laws** announce the birth of a daughter, Madison Leigh, May 16. Kyle is a math teacher at Ozark Junior High, and Alison is training coordinator for Peoples Bank of the Ozarks. (4102 N. 30th St., Nixa, MO 65714)

**Tyler Matlock** received his master's

in education from National University in June. He is married to **Jessica Burger ('05)**. (12825 Westglen Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211)

**Ryan Williams** graduated from University of Texas in December 2007 with a doctorate in analytical chemistry. His dissertation was titled “The Fabrication of Specialized Probes for Surface Metrology.” He works for Schlum-

berger as a research chemist. He is married to **Rebecca Canales**. (6722 S. Adventure Way, West Jordan, UT 84084)

## 2004

**Ryan and Katie Cornett Bond** announce the birth of a daughter, Coralie Rose, Feb. 26. (11505 E. Pine Meadow St., Wichita, KS 67206)

**Joshua and Kyleen Bontrager** announce the birth of a son, Aidan Patrick, April 9. Joshua and Kyleen are teachers at Westbury Christian School in Houston. (2338 Rushbrook, Missouri City, TX 77489)

**Jordan Hix** ('03) married **Kelcey Fry** Jan. 5. Jordan is a financial analyst for Jeffries & Co., and Kelcey is a graduate student at New York University in the social work program. (57 W. 90th St., #7, New York, NY 10024)

**Timothy and Stephanie Schuller Nance** announce the birth of a son, Henry Langston, April 18. They both teach in the International Baccalaureate program at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, Tenn. (707 Lynn St., Murfreesboro, TN 37129)

**Caleb** ('03) and **Jessica Palmer Pagel** announce the birth of a daughter, Riley Elizabeth, Dec. 2, 2007. (12190 Eagle Pointe Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33913)

**Payton Patterson** graduated from University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry in May. He is working with an optometry practice in Panama City, Fla. He is married to **Kristy Holsombake** ('02). (115 Lakeridge Drive, Panama City, FL 32405)

**Elizabeth Lambie Sullivan** graduated from medical school and has started a neurology residency at Wake Forest. Her husband, **Adam** ('02), is freelancing in theater. (1749 Willa Place Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284)

**2005**  
**Michael Davis** ('06) married **Sarah Crist** Nov. 17, 2007. Michael is an electrical engineer, and Sarah is a communications specialist, both with Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, Kan. (13814 E. Peppertree, Wichita, KS 67228)

**2006**  
**Justin** ('05) and **Lindsay Hunton** announce the birth of a son, Riley Cade, Nov. 14, 2007. (3107 Summerwood Lane, Alpharetta, GA 30005)

**Jyusef** ('00) and **Crichelle Vaughn Larry** announce the birth of twin sons, Jordan Christopher and Jaxon Xavier, April 9. (6315 Crystal Forest Trail, Katy, TX 77493)

**2007**  
**Pamela Guess** married Roy Perez May 26. Pamela is a counselor at Jacksonville High School, and Roy is an aircraft cabinet finisher.

(113 Oakleaf Drive, Beebe, AR 72012)

**2008**

**Michael** ('05) and **Sarah Cramer Lumbard** announce the birth of a daughter, Maelyn Vienna, March 29. (706 Willow Drive, Lochbuie, CO 80603)

**Send us your news**

We love hearing from you. Please keep us updated with what's happening in your life: a wedding, birth, job change, promotion, award, retirement, etc. Send your news items to:

"Connections"  
Harding University  
Office of Alumni Relations  
Box 10768  
Searcy, AR 72149-0768  
or [alumninews@harding.edu](mailto:alumninews@harding.edu)

Please note that because of publishing deadlines, your information may be delayed an issue.

**Passages**

**Corinne Bell Smith Chesser** ('40), 90, died Jan. 3 in Tyler, Texas. She was the first May Queen at Harding in 1939. She taught second grade in Mountain Pine, Ark., where she met her husband of 46 years, Jesse H. Smith. He preceded her in death in 1987. In 2000 she married Al H. Chesser. She was a member of Glenwood Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband; a son, **Dick Smith** ('63); a daughter, **Sandie Propst** ('66); five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Eva Thompson** ('40), 88, died Aug. 20. She worked with the Red

Cross during World War II. She received her master's and doctorate from Texas Woman's University. She taught high

school in Pangburn and Paragould, Ark., and then devoted her life to teaching at Christian colleges in Michigan, Texas and Arkansas. She was a member of the Harding home economics faculty and supervised Echo Haven, a home management house for home economics majors. Near retirement she opened the Corner Gift Shop in Searcy, which

she ran for 19 years. She later volunteered at White County Medical Center and His House. She was a member of College Church of Christ.

**Helen Claudine Waller Gray** ('41), 87, died Dec. 29, 2005, at her home in Judsonia, Ark. She met and married her husband of 46 years, Paul, while working in Little Rock, Ark., during World War II. They owned and operated the Dairy Freeze in Judsonia for 23 years before retiring. She was a member of Downtown (Judsonia) Church of Christ and, later, Highway Church of Christ. She is survived by two daughters, **Claudine Moss** ('72) and **Dana Poteat** ('74); a brother, **C. Clayton Waller** ('49); three sisters, including **Juanita Pickens** ('50); six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Rachel Eloise Lawrence** ('45), 83, died Nov. 24, 2007. She was a member of Central Avenue Church of Christ in Fairborn, Ohio, where she served as secretary, retiring after 26 years of service. She was preceded in death by a son, Daryl. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, **D.C. Lawrence** ('43); two sons, Danny and John; a daughter, Sue Sheehan; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. (431 Beacon Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324)

**Jack McCorkle** ('47), 83, died April 7 from a heart attack. He was a soldier in World War II in the Philippines, a family practitioner for 15 years, and a radiologist for 30 years. He was among the first physicians to do medical relief work in Cambodia and Vietnam and was involved in relief work on seven continents. He led the medical team that opened doors to the communist nation of Laos in 1994. When the Iron Curtain fell, he was part of the medical team sent to Romania that made way for establishment of the first churches. He served on the board of directors and helped finance the first school to train preachers in Southeast Asia. He also helped finance similar schools in Vienna, Austria, and Kiev, Ukraine. He worked in Nigerian Christian Hospital and served on its board for many years. He also donated his time to the Christian hospital in Tanzania. He and his wife established the Jack and Madalon McCorkle Endowed Scholarship fund at Harding to train preachers and foreign missionaries. He was preceded in death by a son,

**EVENTS**

<b>OCTOBER</b>
23-25 Homecoming
23-26 Bison Daze II
24-25 President's Council meeting
<b>NOVEMBER</b>
13 ASI speaker Truett Cathy
22-30 Thanksgiving recess
<b>DECEMBER</b>
20 Fall graduation
21-Jan. 11 Winter recess
<b>JANUARY</b>
12 Classes begin
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
<b>FEBRUARY</b>
10 ASI speaker Ben Stein
16 Winter Preview
26-March 1 Bison Daze III
<b>MARCH</b>
7-15 Spring recess
<b>APRIL</b>
9-11 Spring Sing
9-12 Bison Daze IV
<b>MAY</b>
9 Spring graduation

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

**Brandt** ('75). He is survived by his wife, **Madalon Herren** ('49); a sister, Jane Webb; and three grandchildren. (12400 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230)

**Charles Raymond Brooks** ('48), 80, died May 11. Upon graduation he worked in the Dallas area for Western Auto and then for Texas Eastern in Longview and Fred Wilson Drilling Co. in Shreveport, La. In 1969 he joined a partnership that expanded the Gibson Discount Center Franchise in Montana, as well as Bossier City, La. In 1984 he became director of development at Rocky Mountain College. From 1986 to 1993, he was executive director of the Montana Retailers Association. In 1993 he created Charles R. Brooks & Associates, a firm that provided consulting services and advocacy for small businesses and government entities. He was a member of the church of Christ, serving as a deacon and then elder in churches in three states. He was a longtime member of Rotary International. Survivors include his wife, **Bettye** ('49); two sons, **Bradford** ('73) and **Charles** ('77); and two grandsons. (2226 Fairview Place, Billings, MT 59102)

**Betty Faye Harris Young** ('50), 79, died June 18. An elementary school teacher, she taught in Brookland, Blytheville and Searcy, Ark., and Nashville, Tenn., before teaching in Bethany, Ill., from 1969 to 1992. She was a member of the Illinois chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa teacher's sorority. She retired to Clinton, Ark., where she volunteered at the Van Buren Adult Literacy Program and was a member of First Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Robert; a son, Thomas Jr.; a daughter, Sue Crader; and four grandchildren. (4192 Highway 16 W., #55B, Clinton, AR 72031)

**Bernadine "Bernie" Hagan Egly** ('54), 78, died April 20. She received her master's in social work from University of Missouri. She was dean of women at Harding from 1970-73 and taught in the social work program until 1979. She became director of the program in 1975 and led it through the initial accreditation study in 1977-78. She was a director for Ozark Counsel-

ing Service until her retirement in 1996. She was a member of East Grand Church of Christ in Springfield, Mo. She is survived by her sister, **Forestine "Frosty" Sumner** ('58). (2218 Crestline Drive, Abilene, TX 79602)

**Mary Anne Keathley** ('58), 71, died April 13. She was a member of West Side Church of Christ, Associated Women for Harding, and Green Keepers Garden Club and a volunteer at CARTI for more than 10 years. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, **Jesse** ('57); a son, David; a daughter, **Cindy Sittler** ('80); two brothers, Alton Smith and Terry Smith; a sister, Sue Smith; and three grandchildren. (114 Water Oak Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

**H.E. "Gene" Conner** ('64), 70, died June 13. He spent a total of seven years in Saigon, Vietnam, teaching in the Christian school and working with the church and men stationed at Tansonnhut Air Base. He loved the Vietnamese people and was continually work-

ing on improving his knowledge of the language. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Nancy; two sons, Robert and Harry; and a daughter, Polly. (630 W. Grenoble Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052)

**Latina Clare Dykes** ('64), 66, died May 26. This spring she received her pin for 45 years of service to Harding University. She worked 40 years for the late Lott Tucker, ultimately serving

as executive secretary to his position as vice president of finance. She most recently worked in the advancement office. Affectionately known as "Miss Latina," she taught two-year-olds at College Church of Christ for four decades. She provided assistance for deserving young students to attend the University and support for Camp Wyldewood, which was founded by her father, John Lee Dykes, in 1948. She is survived



by her brother, **Norman Lee Dykes** ('57). (107 Hillside Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503)

**Peggie Louise Baker Roper** ('64), 65, died May 30. She was employed as a secretary at Harding and worked in various departments within the University. She moved to Bartlesville, Okla., in 1997 when she and **Sidney G. Roper Sr.** ('45) were married. Peggie was a member of Nowata Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband; two stepsons, **Sidney Jr.** ('68) and **Joe David** ('75); two stepdaughters, **Sara Nell Kerr** ('70) and **Bonnie Sue Ward** ('74); a brother, Bobby Baker; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. (238 County Road 3006, Bartlesville, OK 74003)

**Kathy Nutt Inglis** ('68), 59, died June 13. She is survived by her husband, Steve Inglis; a brother, Martin Nutt Jr.; and a twin sister, **Elizabeth Nutt Haden** ('70). (19417 Richland Spring, Houston, TX 77073)

**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**  
**College education and a tax break?**

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

WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT a college education and tax break could go hand-in-hand? Acquiring both is easier than you think. It all begins with a charitable trust.

**The challenge**

- > Children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., are nearing college age.
- > You want to help with college and graduate school education.
- > You do not have cash.
- > You do have appreciated assets such as stock, mutual funds, property, business interests or art.
- > You do not want to pay tax on the sale of your appreciated assets.

**The solution**

- > You give appreciated property to a charitable trust.
- > You pay no tax when appreciated property is sold and avoid capital gains tax.
- > You receive a tax deduction for a portion of the gift to the trust.
- > Trust income is given to your students when they enter college for tuition, room, board and other expenses.

**An example**

George and Martha Adams have seven grandchildren ranging from age 4 to 11. The first two grandchildren will enter college in eight years. The Adams expect their grandchildren's higher education costs to exceed \$1 million.

- > The Adams contribute \$680,000 of Big Box stock to a charitable trust.
- > The Adams' overall tax savings exceeds \$400,000.
- > More than \$1.1 million is distributed for the seven grandchildren's education.
- > No income tax is owed on distributions.
- > **Bonus:** The Adams' church and favorite university receive a total of \$1 million at the end of the charitable trust.



Ted Hackney

**In summary**

Over a 20-year period, a \$680,000 gift creates \$400,000 in tax savings, \$1.1 million in nontaxable distributions, and \$1 million in gifts to favorite charities. We can run calculations for your specific situation. To learn more, contact me at (501) 279-4861 or [thackney@harding.edu](mailto:thackney@harding.edu). **H**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLER-DANIEL

EGLY PUBLIC RELATIONS FILE PHOTO, DYKES PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLER-DANIEL, HACKNEY PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

# The freshman vote

Compiled by JENNIFER MARCUSSEN

ON AUG. 25, 999 FRESHMEN BEGAN CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY, encountering a number of firsts in a short time period. But one first had to hold off a couple of months — voting. Members of this year's incoming freshman class will participate in their first presidential election Nov. 4. According to Washington Post columnist George Will, young voters (ages 18-29) are expected to turn out like never before. Here's a look at the issues important to them and some of the deciding factors in candidate selection.

"Christian values ... that there is a moral right and wrong and that life starts at conception and deserves the same rights as those born. Conservative values ... limited government and a closer observance of the Constitution. Security ... a leader who stands strong against those who threaten the security and stability of our country."

— Jordan Broaddus, Louisville, Ky.

"Our current health care system is corrupt and unjust. New ideas and approaches to the issue are greatly needed and will be even more vital as our recession continues to intensify."

— Sarah Fisher, Little Rock, Ark.

"I believe that no matter how cliché and overly argued they may be, the stereotypical controversial issues do matter — such as abortion — because they reflect how the United States is growing as a nation, and we are all part of it. As a military child, I worry over national security and international affairs such as Iraq and Afghanistan. I want a leader who knows what needs to be done and how he can fulfill these goals realistically."

— Devon Fulbright, Columbus, Ga.

"I think it is important that our president is a Christian, first and foremost. He needs to support and care about all American citizens, including the 'least of these,' unborn children. He needs to protect innocent civilians, which means defending against and preventing terrorism. Despite political pressure, he should not tolerate evil. He must actually stand for his beliefs and not just try to please others with his words. ... He must believe in allowing a choice of education (public, private, home schooling). ... He should be conscious of the environment but not hold false claims of environmental disasters. He must support freedom of religion ... and be firm and fair in dealing with immigrants."

— Lindsay Green, Madison, Ala.

"It is important to me that the president goes through with what he says ... lower gas prices ... lower taxes ... and a good

health care plan for the elderly."

— Nicola Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo.

"I'm concerned about abortion, stem-cell research, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, global affairs, and the restoration of the economy."

— Trey Lewis, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

"Our government should still be concerned about rights and treatment of those who are different (such as homosexuals) and prenatal treatment (which should be fair to the infant but also the mother). Another issue is a person's right to privacy in a world that is becoming more and more connected."

— Samantha Lutz, North Richland Hills, Texas

"Abortion and gay marriage are important to me in this election. I believe abortion is murder no matter what the circumstances. Adoption is a better option. Also, while we should treat gay individuals with Christian love ... I believe gay marriage should remain illegal."

— Kayla Minette, Harrison, Ark.

"The condition of the economy and how the government plans to revamp the economy on a world scale..."

— Justin Perkins, Hendersonville, Tenn.

"The economy, taxes, the war in Iraq, national security and international relations with Iran are important to me."

— Keith Pierce, Memphis, Tenn.

"Alternative fuel sources — I think we need to work on limiting use of fossil fuels. Same-sex marriage — I think we need to keep marriage between one male and one female."

— April Souza, Ketchikan, Alaska

"In the upcoming election, I want to know what candidates are going to do about the economic 'crisis.' Our generation will certainly have to deal with the consequences, negative or positive, of our next president. I want to be assured that the next four years will be better than the last four years."

— Nate White, Omaha, Neb. **H**

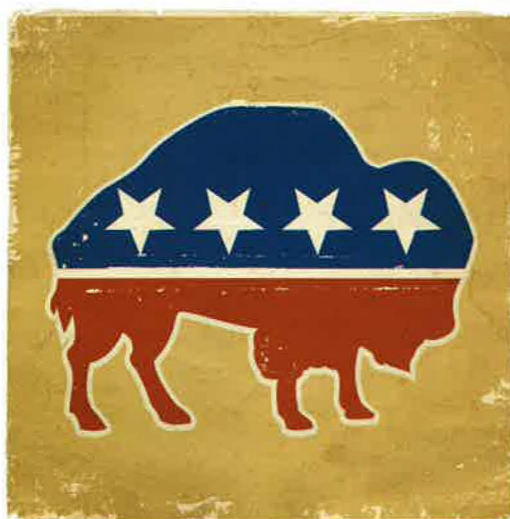


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**FINAL FRAME**

PHOTO BY NOAH DARNELL



Alex Yao proudly takes a photo of his mother, Nikki, and her 60 classmates following the College of Pharmacy's first White Coat Ceremony Aug. 22.