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Harding



FALL
2009

UNPLUGGED

The wireless
phenomenon

Cancer survivors | What really matters | Sweet summertime

For such a time as this

By DAVID B. BURKS



ONE OF MY FAVORITE TIMES OF YEAR is the beginning of the fall semester. The excitement of new and returning students and a sense of shared ministry surround us as faculty gathers together for our annual pre-session conference before classes officially begin.

Executive Vice President Dr. Jim Carr pointed out in his keynote speech at our evening dinner that we now live in a culture that is effectively post-Christian, emphasizing, "We must maintain our spiritual direction or there is no

reason for our existence.

"The mission of building Christian servants stands out like a beacon in the night," he said. "The church is counting on us remaining faithful to our mission. The great cloud of witnesses is counting on us."

I do believe that Christian education is needed more today than ever. We must, however, embrace technology and change as we work with students who communicate in ways we never imagined just a few years ago [Page 13].

We must demonstrate our mission of transforming lives, and, with our students, we must put a premium on genuine personal relationships just as Jesus did. As July commencement speaker Dr. Mike Ireland so capably said [Page 16], we must help our students learn what truly matters in life.

We must allow an all-encompassing love for God and a corresponding love for people to be at the heart of who we are. We must balance grace and truth.

We must stay true to our core mission and purpose, our reason for existence. We must keep the main thing the main thing. We must remain distinctively Christian while reaching out to others.

Our purpose will hold us steady in turbulent times as we look to biblical principles for guidance. I believe God has a plan "for such a time as this." If we maintain our purpose, God will use this institution in a powerful way. May we be faithful servants as we proclaim the word. **H**

David B. Burks

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Harding

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ON THE COVER

Even in the depths of the Administration Building in the switch room, landlines are beginning to become extinct. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Billy Joe Thrasher acknowledges the crowd as the 1959 football team is introduced at the opening football game of the year. Teammates from left include Bill Hunter, J.L. Pate, Glenn Randolph, Jerry Figgins and Walt Mays. The 2009 Bisons gave the 1959 team quite a show throwing a touchdown pass with 18 seconds remaining to win 17-15 over Missouri Southern State University [Page 8].

FEATURES

10 An appreciation for life

Three students who have experienced the clinical side of a hospital firsthand find a field trip to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital especially rewarding.

13 Cutting the landline cord

Calling a residence hall phone? Chances are you will need to call the person's cell phone instead as the wireless phenomenon overtakes campus and the world.

16 Something to celebrate

Dr. Mike Ireland informed graduates at summer commencement that if they want to make a difference, they must know what truly matters in life.

18 My summer spent ...

The diversity of summer experiences is seen through the eyes of five students at five locations around the globe.

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2006 alumna Trixie Lee's love of research began with science fairs.

Shultz takes on national leadership role

DR. CATHLEEN SHULTZ, DEAN of the College of Nursing, was installed as president of the National League for Nursing at the organization's Education Summit on Sept. 26 in Philadelphia. She then began her two-year term after serving the past two years as president-elect.

Established in 1893, the NLN is the oldest professional association for nursing education. According to its Web site, the organization works to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce by promoting excellence in nursing education, boasting 28,000 individual members and 1,200 institutional members.

Shultz, who joined the organization in 1976, made history in 2005 when she became the first Arkansan to be

tion for Evidence-Based Teaching-Learning and also authored a chapter in the book.

As president, she oversees membership and coordinates major initiatives. She also works with officers from the Constituent Leagues, which are state-led affiliates that support the NLN at the local level. In addition, she represents the organization at various events, oversees board meetings, and works as a trustee of the NLN Foundation to raise funds for future endowment projects such as scholarships and research grants.

Shultz began teaching at Harding in 1976 and went on to become the first and only dean of the College of Nursing in 1980. When asked how her tenure at the University has prepared her for presidency of the NLN, she doesn't take long to answer.

"The years of working with people who truly know education have certainly helped.

One person who comes to mind is Dr. Joe Pryor who was, at one time, the academic vice president and my first supervisor. I also think the strategic planning that Dr. [David] Burks initiated has been tremendously helpful," says Shultz.

The NLN is not the only organization moving toward the future. The College of Nursing has many exciting changes on the horizon, and Shultz's presidency is just the beginning.

"We've already gotten a lot of attention nationally. We were known as a very good private school, but it's really put us on the map, so to speak. It's been a very uplifting thing to know that this college is at that point."



"This is what America is all about — each generation moving forward, making a better life for their children and grandchildren."

— U.S. Rep. John Boozman of Arkansas speaking to more than 6,000 people, including nearly 600 graduates, at Commencement May 9.

University tightens budget, continues to grow

AS A RESULT OF THE ECONOMIC recession, many families are cutting back their spending, looking for ways to save money while not sacrificing their greatest needs. For the University, it is no different. Tuition for the 2009-10 school year has risen three percent, the lowest increase in 22 years.

The University's endowment, which is invested in stocks and bonds, took a hit, declining 23 percent during the fiscal year. "The endowment distribution makes up less than five percent of the overall operating budget, so effect on the budget is minimal," says Vice President of Finance Mel Sansom.

In order to reduce spending, President David B. Burks requested that the heads of the departments cut back on their budget for the year or, at least, not have an increase. Additionally, the University has affected a hiring freeze, only filling a

position made available by retirement or termination or that is within a new program, such as the College of Pharmacy. The remodeling of Sears Hall, scheduled for summer 2009, was postponed in an effort to reduce spending.

According to Executive Vice President Jim Carr, the University has seen a very modest decline in fundraising. "People continue to see Harding as a good investment," Carr says. "Now, with so many students struggling financially, the donor dollar is critical."

However, despite the economic climate, enrollment increased for the 23rd consecutive year with 6,613 students, a 1.6 percent increase over last year's enrollment. Although undergraduate numbers were slightly down, the number of graduate students increased by more than eight percent, and the retention rate remained strong at 82 percent.

Says Carr, "Students are still looking for a world-class education and a great value. Harding remains a Christ-centered institution and that has helped students look this direction."

Neill named Concert Choir conductor

AT THE END OF THE SPRING semester, Concert Choir director Arthur Shearin passed the baton, both literally and figuratively, to newly appointed conductor Kelly Neill.

Although not retiring, Shearin felt that the timing was right to entrust the group to a new leader. "The students deserve the freshest and best there is," says Shearin. "I am pleased that Kelly will be taking over Concert Choir. I'm leaving the group in great hands."

Neill taught private voice for three years before leaving the University in pursuit of his doctorate. He eagerly anticipates his new role, noting the pressure that comes with filling Shearin's shoes. "He's been here for so long and done it so well that I think anyone would feel pressure replacing someone like that," says Neill. "On the flip side, he has been so good to me. He was a very good mentor and has also been a great friend. He's made this transition very easy on me."



Dr. Kelly Neill

Recently earning his doctorate from the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, Neill has conducted several vocal groups and bands and participated in numerous vocal ensembles. "I love choral music," he says. "I had always dreamed of conducting it at the college level."

Neill will also direct the Chamber Singers. Shearin ends his 21-year tenure as conductor. He remains in the music department, teaching vocal music classes and researching.

Darwish

Diverse lineup includes Bush

NONIE DARWISH, FOUNDER of Arabs for Israel and author of *Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel and the War on Terror*, kicked off the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series Sept. 17. Also speaking this year are:

► CYNTHIA COOPER, NOV. 12

Former MCI vice president and chief audit executive Cynthia Cooper led the team that uncovered the WorldCom fraud in 2002 — the largest corporate fraud case in history to date. The accomplishment earned her recognition as one of *Time Magazine's* Persons of the Year in 2002. After helping MCI move forward and successfully emerge from bankruptcy, she left the company in July 2004 to launch her own consulting firm, The CooperGroup.

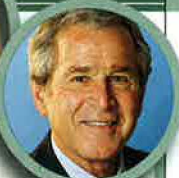
Her book, *Extraordinary Circumstances*, was published in February 2008 and outlines her experience as a corporate executive and lessons learned at WorldCom. Profits from the book have been donated to further ethics education for high school and college students.

Cooper has appeared on numerous programs including "America's Nightly Scoreboard" on Fox Business, "The Today Show," and "This Week With George Stephanopoulos." She was the first woman inducted into the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Hall of Fame in 2004 and was featured as one of 25 influential women in *Working Mother*.

► LAURA INGRAHAM, FEB. 16

Nationally syndicated radio host Laura Ingraham can be heard on her self-titled show on more than 325 stations coast to coast. Her latest book, *Power to the People*, debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller List and discusses traditional family values, education and

Ingraham



Bush

American patriotism. She is a regular Fox News contributor and has filled in as guest host for Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity.

Ingraham worked as a speechwriter during the final two years of the Reagan Administration at the White House, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Education. In addition, she served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Judge Ralph K. Winter on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit before becoming a defense attorney. "The Laura Ingraham Show" launched in 2001.

► GEORGE W. BUSH, APRIL 22

George W. Bush was elected 43rd president of the United States in November 2000 and was re-elected in 2004. Before his presidency, he served six years as governor of Texas and was the first governor in the state's history to be elected to consecutive four-year terms.

The son of Barbara and former President George H.W. Bush, he served as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard.

The most significant event during his presidency occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people on U.S. soil. In response, Bush worked to protect the American people and led a dramatic reorganization of the federal government, reformed the intelligence community, and established the Department of Homeland Security.

During eight years as president, Bush instituted federal tax cuts, added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, implemented free trade agreements with more than a dozen nations, and launched a global HIV/AIDS initiative. He also appointed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. **H**

Interior design achieves accreditation

THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM, within the department of art and design, has received accreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation for six years, the maximum allowed.

CIDA conducted a site visit in April. The process included a vigorous evaluation of each project, course and curriculum structure in relation to CIDA standards for interior design programs, which includes design process, technical drawing skills, building codes, environmental sustainability, construction knowledge, aesthetics and business practices.

Other considerations included faculty qualifications, physical space, technology and administration support. Site visitors reviewed course contents including projects, written assignments, tests and other related work, and interviewed administration, faculty, support staff and students during the four-day assessment.

SPOTLIGHT

From Commodore 64 to modern-day Macintosh

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, the personal computer can go from technological wonder tool to enormous headache. Scott Pritchett, client support specialist on campus, deals with that daily.

Working in Client Support and Consulting, Pritchett spends his day winding through a constant stream of e-mail, voice mail, work orders and questions. He handles everything from configuring e-mail addresses to setting up printers to troubleshooting problems with Macintosh, Microsoft Office and Windows. In addition to his everyday duties, he and a team of two other employees tackle the daunting task of upgrading campus computers.

"Each summer we swap out about 400 computers," says Pritchett. "This involves unpacking and imaging the new computers and picking up the old ones, which can be tricky because people don't like to be without their computers, even in the summer." The team then transfers each user's data and finishes by setting up the new machines.

Pritchett's fascination with computers began at an early age. Born in San Francisco, his family packed up when he was 5 years old and moved to Alice Springs, Australia, where his father was offered a job with E-Systems. They lived there for six years before returning to the U.S., settling in Virginia.

"My dad was a computer technician but couldn't talk much about his job for security reasons. I remember playing games on his Commodore 64 and destroying him in Chuck Yeager's Air Combat on our LCII and LCIII Macintosh computers. Although I wanted to be a

'time scientist' and invent a time machine when I was kid, I always knew I would have a career in computers."

Pritchett first caught glimpse of Harding in 2001. Although he wasn't familiar with the University, from the moment he arrived, he knew he wanted to join the campus community.

"My wife, Heather, and I visited her brother Josh (a Harding student) in Searcy. We fell in love with the town and decided to move here. I wasn't sure why, but it just seemed like Harding was the place I was supposed to be." Pritchett began his career as a support specialist at the University in 2002.

"There isn't a lot of turnover in this department, so it really was a blessing that this opening came so soon after I moved to Searcy."

Four years ago, Pritchett decided to finish his education at the University. He graduated in July with a bachelor's degree in leadership and management.

"Being a student has helped me get to know many of the faculty on a deeper level and understand their needs better than I could have through client support. We really have a great faculty at Harding."

Pritchett says his favorite part of the job is the group of people he works with every day.

"In every job I've had outside of Harding, there has been at least one person that is extraordinarily difficult to work with. At Harding, however, everyone understands that we all have a job to do, and sometimes it's hard, but we try to help and lift each other up." **H**

— Heather Williams



Outstanding in community service

FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE year, the Corporation for National and Community Service named the University to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll due to the exemplary service contributions of students, faculty and staff in meeting critical community and national needs.

"Part of our mission at Harding University is a commitment to a servant-leadership lifestyle," said President David B. Burks. "That commitment encourages students to seek out opportunities to serve others and lays the foundation for a lifetime of service."

During the 2008-09 academic year more than 6,500 students contributed 77,203 hours of service to numerous projects.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

Dixon, Elrod Distinguished Sponsors

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT Life presented the first Distinguished Sponsor awards in April to Phil Dixon and Tish Elrod in recognition of dedicated service and contribution to the work and purposes of social clubs at the University. The office will present the awards annually to one men's and one women's club sponsor during club week.

Dixon is sponsor for Chi Sigma Alpha, and Elrod sponsors the ladies of Ko Jo Kai. Each was chosen because of

their outstanding commitment to developing lasting relationships with club members while exemplifying Christian servant-leadership by supporting and challenging members to realize their full potential.

This year's award recipients

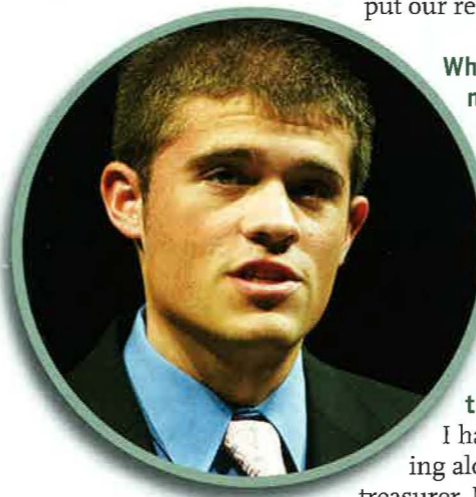
were chosen by Corey McEntyre, director of campus life, along with student life deans. In the future, honorees will be nominated by each club, and McEntyre and the student life deans will review recommendations for the final selection.

Five questions for Bryan Clifton

FOLLOWING A SIX-WEEK ELECTION PERIOD, the longest in the University's history, junior accounting and finance double major Bryan Clifton of Snyder, Texas, was elected Student Association president for 2009-10. Clifton discusses his plans for the year as well as a little S.A. trivia.

What one thing do you hope to accomplish this year?

This year the S.A. is striving to create an atmosphere of openness, transparency and action by empowering students to reach their full potential. We want to bring the student body closer together because there is no limit to what we all can achieve if we put our resources together.



What was your campaign motto/slogan?

"Empower" was the motto, and it carries over as the theme for this year.

Did past S.A. president Michael Crouch give you any advice as you took over this role?

I had the privilege of working alongside Michael as S.A. treasurer. Michael and I had many

long discussions on how we could use our influence to modify Harding in areas to make it the best that it could be for all students. Most of the things I learned from Michael came from being present through all of the planning and implementation of events and projects.

How will you get students involved this year?

A focused effort is being made to get students participating in an area of the S.A. in which they have a sincere interest. People are more likely to take the position seriously and will do a better job with it when they have a vested interest.

Several former S.A. presidents are still roaming around campus. Can you name any?

[Instructor of Engineering and Physics] Jimmy Huff, [University President] David B. Burks, [Professor of Bible] Ross Cochran, and [Assistant Professor of Education] Kenny Stamatitis. I know that there is at least one other that I am forgetting. **Editor's note:** Others include Professor of English Rod Brewer and recently retired Professor of Bible Jimmy Allen.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

ASSOCIATED WOMEN FOR HARDING

Associated Women for Harding met for the National Council meeting and Worthy Woman luncheon May 1. The Lifetime of Service Award was presented to **Charlene Prock**, wife of former Bison football coach **John Prock**.

The group presented a check for nearly \$110,000 to President **David B. Burks** for first year, need-based scholarships.

Recipients of the Worthy Woman Award were **Ruth Browning**, **Norma Lou Rollmann** and **Betty Davis**, all of Searcy, and **Patti Walker** of Heber Springs, Ark. Chapter Members of the Year were **Jan Funk** of the Heber Springs chapter, **Amber Hutchinson** of the Northwest Arkansas chapter, and **Harriet Raley** of the Searcy chapter. Hutchinson also received the honor of being named the Outstanding Member of the Year.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Department of English

Stephanie Eddleman, instructor, defended her dissertation July 15 to receive the doctorate in English from University of Mississippi. The title of her dissertation was "Eye of the Beholder: Physical Beauty in the Novels of Jane Austen."

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND RELIGION

Dr. **Paul Pollard**, professor, had a commentary on Colossians published in the spring in *The Transforming Word: A One-Volume Bible Commentary*.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Lori Sloan, assistant professor, has been appointed vice chair for marketing by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Her term began July 1 and lasts through 2011.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Todd Patten, assistant professor, defended his dissertation April 27 to receive the doctorate in counseling from University of Memphis. The title of his dissertation was "The Institutional Integration of the Religious Minority at a Systemic Religiously Affiliated University."

Cheri Smith, assistant professor, defended her dissertation July 17 to receive the doctorate in education from University of Memphis. The title of her dissertation was "Creating the Classroom Environment: Perceptions of First-Year Teachers."

COLLEGE OF NURSING

The College of Nursing received continuing approval through 2014 in June from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Every five years the board reviews each nursing program for registered nurse licensure in the state. The University has been continually approved since the nursing program began in 1975.

Juli Lane, assistant professor, earned the designation of Certified Nurse Educator in July after successfully completing the certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

The College of Pharmacy was advanced to candidate accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in June. The College will maintain accreditation for the standard two-year term through June 30, 2011. Candidate status is the second of three steps leading to full accreditation.

Students **Janice McKean**, **Crystal Payton** and **Celia Proctor** joined Arkansas pharmacists C.A. Kuykendall and Melissa Liddle to compete at the Nonprescription Medication Academy's annual Over the Counter Competition during the Arkansas Pharmacist Association meeting June 13. The team defeated contestants from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the final round of the Jeopardy-style competition to bring home the first-place trophy.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists awarded a \$500 grant to the new Harding University Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Students **Samuel Hubler**, **Diana Park** and **Mo Mroueh** completed the grant application. Drs. **Melissa Max** and **Rayanne Story**, both assistant professors, serve as co-advisers to the new student chapter.

Student **Jack Lin** was featured on Walgreens Diversity and Social Responsibility Web site during the summer as a Walgreens Diversity Scholarship recipient.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Department of Behavioral Sciences

Dr. **Terry Smith**, professor and chair, presented a workshop "Giving Voice to Pain: Using Biblical Laments to Address Grief Issues" at the Arkansas National Association of Social Workers conference in Little Rock April 9. **Debbie Ford**, associate professor, presented a workshop "Working With Difficult and Challenging Children" at the same conference. >>

Point of view

Associate Professor of Education **Carol Douglass** gives her view on sharing Christ in the classroom and looks at the future of education.

What led you to focus on special education?

It seems that all of my life I've been a teacher, even while growing up. I have a nephew who has cerebral palsy; that's where I found my interest in children with disabilities. When he was born, I wanted to do something that would help him, perhaps study physical therapy. I then realized I didn't want to do that; I was more of a people person. I prayed about that because it was so important to me. Then, I came upon the realization that as long as I am serving God and obeying his word, it doesn't matter what I do.

I really do enjoy teaching, and it's a nurturing feeling to me. It's a ministry — a vehicle that I use to show the love of Christ.

How do you minister to students in a public school setting?

When Christ is in you, you don't have to talk about it. It's obvious in the way we treat our fellow man. John says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." To me, that means how we treat other people. I am here as a resource to help when I can. I'm not just a resource for the children but for the parents, too. Young children can't make choices for themselves; their parents do. Having the appropriate resources can help them make those decisions.

Many times when you have children with disabilities, parents feel like it's their fault. I



strive to love them in a way to show they are a good parent; they are seeking information to better serve their child.

Do you see a difference between your undergraduate and graduate classes?

In my graduate classes, they're more attentive, and I think that one reason is because they have taught students themselves. They're now teaching and are searching for information to solve the challenges they are experiencing. They're also willing to share classroom experiences of challenges being solved. Teachers want to share. They want to help somebody else. Many of the grad students take the

classes seriously because teaching is their job, and they want to get better.

The importance of patience ...

Not everybody can teach special education. It takes a true heart; it takes true patience, all of those fruits of the spirit. When we talk about the characteristics of a good teacher, we look at the characteristics based on the student. Often we don't turn those characteristics back on ourselves. We have to be patient and fair with ourselves. We have to be confident and competent in what we're doing — that we do have the information, and, if we don't, that we can very quickly get that information. I think

special educators and general education teachers can often be a bit hard on themselves in terms of the information they know and how they're getting it out there. All of those characteristics go both ways, in terms of how I view myself and how I view my students.

Education's future ...

I see a lot of cyber schools, but sometimes I wonder how that is going to affect special education. When you have students with disabilities, where are those classes leaving them? We find that the best way for a student to learn is the tutorial method, one on one. I wonder what child is going to be left behind.

I hope there will always be a time and a place for face-to-face classes because I really like that type of interaction. So much is said by nonverbal communication, and, by looking at people, you can tell if you're communicating or not. You can't see that in an online setting. I guess I'm old fashioned. A lot of software programs are coming out to help students who have disabilities to remediate reading and writing, but I still think they need to have that human touch. **H**

Dr. Carol Douglass received her doctorate in education from the University of Memphis. The mother of five joined the University in 2000. In 2008 she received the Teacher Achievement Award from the Cannon-Clary College of Education.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

New major builds on existing foundation

BEGINNING THIS SCHOOL year, students are able to design their own interdisciplinary programs of study through the Honors College.

May graduate Chris Cochran was an accounting and finance major who began his senior year lacking six hours to graduate. He decided to use his final semester as a period of academic exploration and creativity, enrolling in courses outside his major.

He found that his classes in Spanish, calculus, science and literary criticism overlapped and created a unique opportunity for academic discovery and holistic development.

"I have been shaped more this year than the other three years of school combined," says Cochran. "Each of my classes has challenged me to think differently, and, as a result, I feel like I have developed exponentially as a person."

Students have long been able to design their own program through the special majors option in the catalog. However, Cochran noticed that these students lack advisers and the academic community that comes with being connected to a single department. He developed the idea for an interdisciplinary studies major as part of his honors capstone project.

Cochran consulted faculty and staff across campus while researching and developing his plan. Drs. Bryan Burks,

Monte Cox and Mark Elrod, along with Karen Kelley and Janice Bingham, served as the faculty committee for the interdisciplinary major.

Larry Long, vice president of Academic Affairs, sees the interdisciplinary studies major as being a directed and applied version of the special majors option available to students who choose a vocation for which there is no catalogued major and wish to design their own program of study.

"Chris packaged it in a way that would be more attractive to honors-type students and created a mechanism for advising and orchestrating information about the option that would make it more available," says Long.

The Honors College will directly supervise the program

under the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students must be in the Honors College and maintain the required 3.25 grade point average to complete the program.

"The purpose is to give strong students who don't find their academic home a challenging major that will allow them to develop their chosen areas of study," says Jeff Hopper, dean of the Honors College.

Students interested in pursuing the interdisciplinary studies major must form an advisory faculty committee, design a unique course of study, and seek approval from the dean of the Honors College and the vice president of Academic Affairs. For more information, consult the 2009-10 academic catalog or visit www.harding.edu/honors.

GO FIGURE

16

Number of consecutive years the University has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in the *America's Best Colleges* issue as one of the best schools in the South

26

2010 rank for best master's universities in the South

9

Rank on Great Schools, Great Prices list for master's universities in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES *continued*

Department of Biology

Dr. **Joseph Goy**, associate professor, presented the paper "Phylogeny of the Infraorder Stenopodidea (Crustacea: Decapoda) Based on Morphological and Molecular Data" at the Crustacean Society and Carcinological Society of Japan meeting in Tokyo in September. The paper will be published in *Crustaceana Monographs* in early 2010.

Department of Computer Science

Dr. **Frank McCown**, assistant professor, presented the paper "Everyone Is a Curator: Human-Assisted Preservation for ORE Aggregations" at DigCurr 2009 in Chapel Hill, N.C., April 2. He also attended the Association for Computing Machinery and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers joint conference in San Antonio, Texas, June 15-19, where he copresented the paper "What Happens When Facebook Is Gone?" In addition, he cochaired the First International Workshop on Innovation in Digital Preservation at the conference.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. **Denise Fisher**, assistant professor, presented two educational sessions at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 100th Annual Conference in Knoxville, Tenn., June 25-27. The presentations were "Who Will Lead Us? Cultivating a Professional Culture That Supports and Develops Emerging Family and Consumer Sciences Leaders" and "The ABCs of Leadership: Accept the Challenge, Build Skills and Create a Legacy to Sustain the Family and Consumer Science Profession."

In addition, Fisher was elected president of the Arkansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, an affiliate of the national association, in February. Her term lasts one year. **Becky Moore**, instructor, was voted president-elect and will succeed Fisher in February 2010.

Audrey Russell of Tahleah, Okla., a senior fashion merchandising major, competed in the 41st Annual Career Day Design Competition sponsored by Fashion Group International of Dallas in April. Her project, "Gypsy," placed second in the Texas Department of Agriculture Trend Board cotton category, earning her a \$100 prize. Russell was the first Harding student to participate in the competition.

Dr. **Beth Wilson**, department chair, attended the Kappa Omicron Nu Leadership Institute and Undergraduate Research Conference in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 6-9.

NASA Research Grant

The Arkansas NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research team, which includes Drs. **Edmond Wilson**, **Constance Meadors** and **Charles Wu**, was awarded a \$1.5 million grant by NASA to develop a system to search for signs of life on Mars. The team, which also includes scientists from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, won for its proposal "Mobile Surveying for Atmospheric and Near-Surface Gases of Biological Origin" during a national competition and was among 27 teams NASA selected for funding.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Dr. **Mark Powell**, associate professor, had his book *Papal Infallibility: A Protestant Evaluation of an Ecumenical Issue* published in January.

Dr. **Edward Robinson** was named Alumnus of the Year at the annual Ministry Forum March 19. He is an adjunct instructor of American and African-American history at HUGSR and also a professor in both the history and Bible departments at Abilene Christian University. In addition to teaching, Robinson is a preacher and author of five books.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS SERVICES

Glenn Dillard, assistant vice president for enrollment management, presented a lecture "College 101 for Parents" at the 2009 Arkansas Home School Convention. The Education Alliance hosted the event on campus in May.

OUTSTANDING CENTER OF INFLUENCE AWARD

The **Arkansas National Guard** recognized the University as an Outstanding Center of Influence at the Freedom Salute ceremony May 3. The award was presented by the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team in recognition of the University's support to the unit and guardsmen of Searcy.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The University's student newspaper, **the Bison**, won the Mark of Excellence Award for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper in its four-state region at the Society of Professional Journalists spring conference in April. In addition, senior advertising major **Leah Faust** from Battle Creek, Mich., won first place in the photo illustration category for her graphic on Preacher Roe.

Recalling football's return

By SCOTT GOODE, sports information director

IN THE FALL OF 1959, 26-YEAR-OLD Carl Allison faced a daunting proposition. He had just been hired to coach a college football team that had not played a game in 28 years.

When Harding opened in 1924, the College fielded a football team that played a few games against local high schools. The football program continued through the 1931 season when, due to financial difficulties, the administration eliminated the team. By the end of the decade, all of Harding's intercollegiate athletic programs ceased operations.

Beginning with the 1957-58 school year, the administration reinstated baseball, basketball and track with football returning for the 1959 season.

Allison was selected to direct the team. He had spent the previous four years as head coach at Clinton (Okla.) High School but became well known throughout the Southwest because of his standout collegiate career at University of Oklahoma.

During his four seasons with the Sooners, Allison was a starting defensive end and earned All-Big Seven and Scholastic All-America honors. Oklahoma won four Big Seven championships during his time in Norman.

Harding's Oklahoma connections at the time played a large part in Allison's getting the job. Dr. James Baird, president of Oklahoma Christian University, conducted a gospel meeting at the Clinton church where Allison attended and mentioned to him that Harding was restarting the football program and needed a coach.

"He asked me to contact Dr. Benson, and I did so," says Allison. "He flew to Oklahoma City every Monday where he was teaching a class. I met him, and he asked me to come down to talk about the program and start it from scratch since they had not had football for those 28 years. I went down, we interviewed, and, later that summer, I moved to Harding."

Allison knew something about winning. At Oklahoma, he was part of a team that won 47 straight football games. Allison also knew that building a program at Harding was not going to be easy.

"The smartest thing that I did was just schedule six games that first year," says Allison. "I knew it was going to be difficult. We did not have anyone on our team that had ever played a college football game. We had some that had played intramurals at Harding and some that were freshmen just out of high school. We did not have any scholarships at all, but I was young and energetic and thought that I was up to the challenge. I wanted to get into Christian education, and that was the opportunity."

When practice began, Allison remembers that nearly 50 players showed up for preseason drills. At the first meeting, he told players that it would be "a year of experiences." One of those experiences was Harding's first victory since a 19-0 win over Jonesboro Baptist on Nov. 19, 1931.

The Bisons opened the season at home against Itawamba Junior College on the newly built Alumni Field in Searcy Oct. 3. Rain the previous two days left the field in soggy condition, as Harding fell 19-0 before a capacity crowd of 1,500.

One week later, Harding collected its first win. The Bisons defeated a team of Arkansas State freshmen 7-6 in Searcy. Harding's defense stopped Arkansas State inside the 10-yard line twice; the second of which came at the one-yard line with less than 10 seconds left in the game to give the Bisons the win.

"They had a lot of good athletes, and we were fortunate to hang on," Allison says. "It was really exciting to win that first game. It encouraged the players and the coaches, and I'm sure it encouraged the student body."

The team played four more games, the closest a 33-13 loss to University of Tennessee-Martin the following week.

The stretch of four games also included a trip to Cleveland, Miss., to play Delta State on their Homecoming. Walter Mays ('63), a starting offensive lineman on the 1959 team, recalls pulling in on the bus and hearing some kids saying that Delta State would score every time they rang the bell. Mays says, "We laughed because we thought they meant

that they rang the bell AFTER the team scored. But it turned out the kids were right." Delta State led 27-0 before Harding scored on a 72-yard touchdown pass against the Delta State third-string defense. It was the first touchdown allowed at home by Delta State all season.

Mays then remembers "feeling the ground shake" on the ensuing kickoff as Delta State put the first team back in and won the game 60-7. As Harding loaded the bus after the game, Mays recalls that one of the coaches said it looked "like the retreat from Gettysburg."

"It was good experience. We played the games, got through them," says Allison.

The team got through them mostly because of Allison's creative coaching.

Lathan Garnett ('61), a kicker and defensive back, says that, following one of the tough losses, "When Monday practice rolled around, everyone was about ready to throw in the towel." Coach Allison arrived in the locker with a scowl on his face and a challenge for his team.

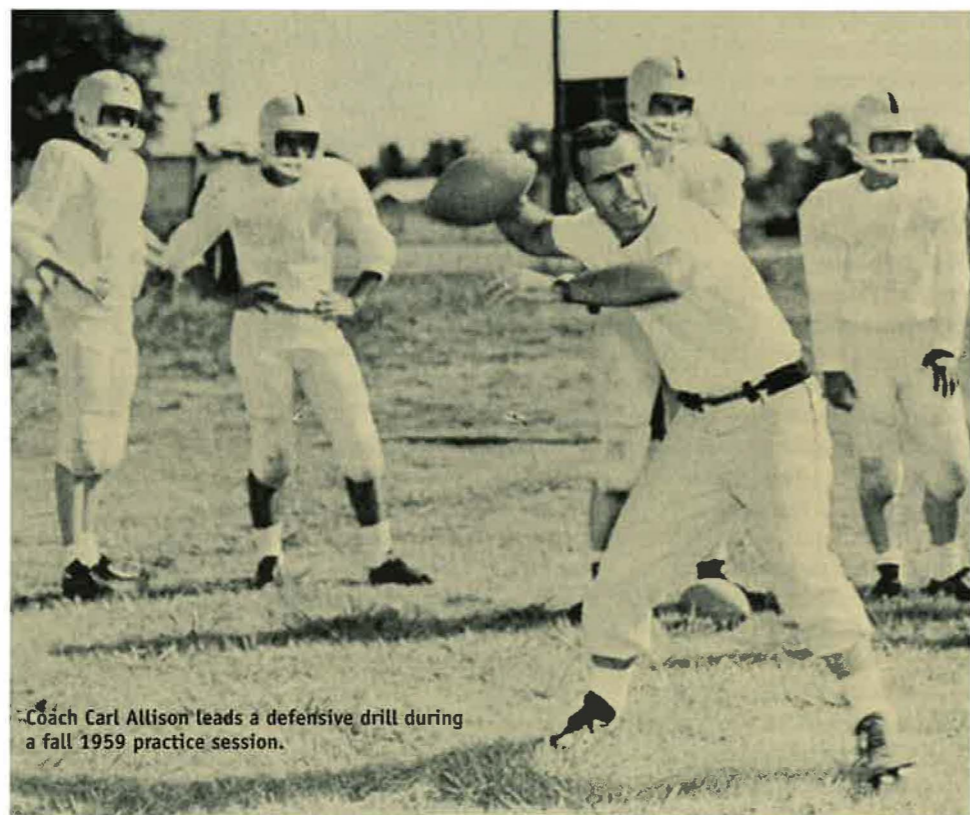
Garnett says that Allison called his squad a "dragging bunch" and said that he believed that he could beat them in a race around the track. "He took off running," says Garnett. "We all looked at each other and then took off after him."

Allison did in fact beat his team around the track, but, when the squad arrived back at the locker room, he had instructed the team's managers to bring in ice cream and Cokes while the team was racing around the track. Allison gave the team the day off. Garnett called it "a great lesson in motivation" that he has never forgotten.

Allison, who coached football five seasons at Harding, looks back at his first team with great memories.

"We had some fine young men, and they battled hard," he says. "The following year we were able to provide some scholarships and get the team built to the outstanding program it is today." **H**

Editor's note: Allison currently lives in Monroe, La., where he has worked the last 38 years in ministry at White's Ferry Church of Christ.



Coach Carl Allison leads a defensive drill during a fall 1959 practice session.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 1960 PETIT JEAN

ROUNDUP

Baseball returns to post-season play

BISON BASEBALL REACHED the Gulf South Conference Tournament for the second straight season. The Bisons had a 32-25 overall record and were 12-9 in the GSC West Division, including a victory over No. 1-ranked Southern Arkansas University. As the third seed from the West Division, the team won its tournament opener against University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Senior Adam Darby led the Bison offense, hitting .426 with 16 home runs and 64 RBI, both school records. Darby, a centerfielder from Jackson, Tenn., became the University's first-ever position player to earn First-Team All-America honors. He signed a professional contract with the Pensacola Pelicans of the American Association following the season.

Berryhill goes to Kosgei, Williams

JULIUS KOSGEI AND ALICIA WILLIAMS WERE HONORED as 2009 M.E. Berryhill Award winners. The Berryhill Award is given to a senior male and female athlete who possess the characteristics of athletic excellence, academic achievement, social maturity and spiritual example. Kosgei, from Timboroa, Kenya, was a 12-time All-America honoree in cross-country and track and was the 2006 NCAA Division II outdoor national champion in the 10,000 meters. He was runner-up in the 2006 Division II national cross-country meet and in the 2006 outdoor track 5,000 meters. He was four-time First-Team All-Gulf South Conference and four-time First-Team NCAA All-South Region. He holds five school records.

Williams, a tennis player from Greenville, Miss., was a four-time First-Team All-Gulf South Conference honoree and was the 2009 GSC West Division Player of the Year. She won a University-record 70 singles matches at the No. 1 position and also won 69 doubles matches. She was a 2008 *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District honoree and a two-time Academic All-GSC honoree.

Golfers fall short at tournaments

THE MEN'S GOLF TEAM CONCLUDED its 2008-09 season with a ninth-place finish at the Gulf South Conference Championship in Hot Springs, Ark. The Bisons finished with a three-round score of 925. Senior Dusty Gourley had the Bisons' low score in each of the first two rounds and finished tied for 18th, shooting a three-round score of 223. Sophomore Michael Sitler earned Academic All-GSC honors.

The women's golf team placed sixth in the nine-team 2009 GSC Championship, finishing at 691. The team's top finisher was freshman Evelyn Poteet, who tied for 15th with a two-round score of 168. Senior Brandi Watkins earned First-Team All-GSC honors, and senior Natalie Gay was named Second-Team All-GSC — the first two all-conference honorees in the program's history.

Tennis teams continue winning ways

THE MEN'S TENNIS TEAM COMPLETED the 2008-09 season with a 16-7 overall record and a 2-1 mark in the Gulf South Conference West Division. Junior Marco Ruiz earned First-Team All-GSC honors after compiling a 16-1 singles record. His .941 winning percentage tied for the best single-season percentage in school history. Senior Olzhas Taniyev also earned First-Team All-GSC, and both players were on the Academic All-GSC Team.

The women's tennis team finished with an 18-10 overall record and 3-3 mark in the GSC West Division. The top performer was senior Alicia Williams, who went 15-5 at No. 1 singles. She finished her career with 70 No. 1 singles victories, the most ever by a Lady Bison. Williams earned First-Team All-GSC, Academic All-GSC and *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District honors. Junior Lola Pardo earned Second-Team All-GSC honors.

Track's success led by Kirwa

SOPHOMORE DANIEL KIRWA WAS THE BIG STORY for the outdoor track team. The Eldoret, Kenya, native won the 2009 NCAA Division II national championship in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters at San Angelo, Texas. His four individual national championships are the most ever by a Harding athlete.

Kirwa won the 5,000 meters in 14 minutes, 17.45 seconds and defended his 10,000-meter national championship with a time of 29:46.84. His two victories gave the Bisons 20 points in team standings, enough for 13th place.

Freshman Philip Biwott placed 10th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at nationals.

For the latest sports information, visit www.hardingsports.com.

Dr. Steven Moore and 17 students — including three cancer warriors — discover firsthand there's no place like St. Jude to refresh

An appreciation for LIFE

By HEATHER WILLIAMS, photography by STEVEN MOORE

COLLEGE STUDENTS OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES PERCHED ON AN uncomfortable desk chair in a classroom, dreaming of life beyond the walls of campus. But last spring, students in Dr. Steven Moore's immunology class found themselves strolling down the corridors of one of the most prestigious cancer facilities in the world.

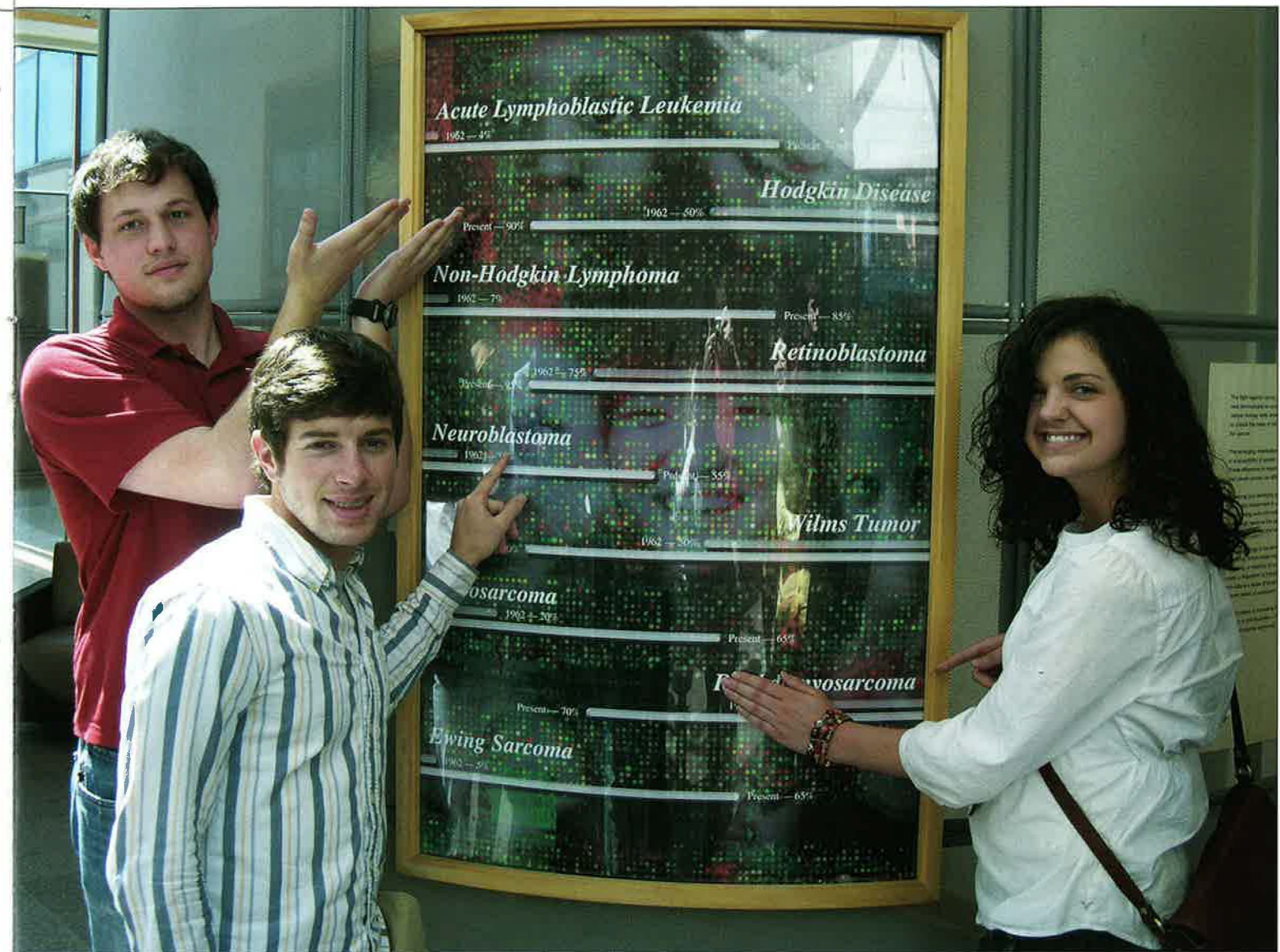
Moore worked in the Department of Immunology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., as a post-doctoral research fellow for more than three years before coming to the biology department at the University in 1993. He has been escorting classes to tour the facility ever since.

Learning opportunities abound within the walls of St. Jude, where there is a working budget of more than \$1 million per day, and the goal of every laboratory research project has direct clinical relevance. Students are able to witness research techniques learned in the classroom, such as flow cytometry, a tool commonly used to identify immune cells and monitor their activities. This year, for the first time, they were also able to tour

the clinical areas of the hospital.

"St. Jude does not see the research aspect of their work as secondary to the clinical work but sees both research and clinical work as equally important," says Moore. "Students visiting St. Jude get to see this firsthand and come back to Harding with a much better appreciation of how biomedical science truly works and how the techniques and concepts they learn in class are in fact extremely relevant to today's medical problems."

Although the trip is not required, he says that most students see it as the highlight of the semester. Seventeen students made the journey with him on April 17 to Memphis, but this year's group had three unique participants. These three stu-



While touring St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Luke Smelser, Carlton Thiede and Brittany Mills indicate the type of cancers they have overcome.

dents had already experienced the clinical side of a research hospital firsthand — they are childhood cancer survivors.

Brittany Mills: Compassion paid forward

Brittany Mills of Clemmons, N.C., is a senior biology major with minors in psychology and health care missions. After taking Moore's microbiology class, she was eager to learn more and decided to enroll in his immunology course. Mills recalls the excitement of being able to visit St. Jude.

"I was amazed that this facility bears the entire cost of treatment for its patients and really does everything possible to make the families comfortable. To me, that is an amazing display of goodness and compassion. Being able to see that, both as someone wanting to enter the medical field and as someone who has been through the treatments, also was truly inspiring."

Mills was diagnosed with Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma at age 3. The disease usually occurs through contained tumors, and the cause is unknown. Although her tumors have never metastasized (spread), she did experience recurrences at ages 6 and 17. She also spent this past summer dealing with another small recurrence.

After the first mass was removed, Mills underwent a year of chemotherapy at Duke Children's Hospital in Durham, N.C. However, new developments at the time showed this type of cancer to be unresponsive to chemotherapy and radiation, and subsequent masses had to be surgically removed. Mills sees the reality of not having to deal with the side effects of chemo and radiation as a blessing.

"This is good news for me," says Mills. "Not having chemo means I get to avoid the 'sick' part of cancer and leaves surgery as my main mode of getting rid of it."

The support of her family, friends and church have been an encouragement to her throughout this journey, often relieving the nervousness that accompanies such an experience. The impact of being a cancer survivor has left a lasting impression on her life and faith.

"As with any hardship, it makes you surrender both the problem and the solution to God because there is absolutely nothing you can do to make yourself get better. Essentially, this is how I have developed my faith."

As for the future, Mills says she no longer sees cancer as a death sentence but merely an inconvenient stone hurled into »

the pathway of life. Upon graduation in May, she hopes to enroll in the Physician Assistant Program at the University.

"I look at the way people treated me with such care and compassion when I needed it, and it makes me want to give that same care to other people in every way I can."

Carlton Thiede: A fighter from day one

Although he says he was more than likely born with Neuroblastoma, Charlton Thiede was diagnosed at 6 months. But, the senior biology major from Highland Village, Texas, has now been cancer-free for more than 20 years. He enrolled in Moore's immunology class to enhance his major and, like his classmates, was excited to visit St. Jude.

"It was very inspiring to go there and see the work that was being done," says Thiede. "St. Jude and its doctors are on the cutting edge of new cancer treatment and medical technology."

Thiede received treatment at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and Children's Medical Center, both in Dallas. Each center provides similar care and treatment, and, like St. Jude, patients are not turned away for their inability to pay.

After the diagnosis, Thiede underwent numerous surgeries as well as nine months of chemotherapy to eliminate the cancer from his spinal canal and chest cavity. He developed severe scoliosis as he grew up, an effect of his treatment.

Walking the halls of St. Jude, Thiede was drawn in by the advances of technology as well as the history he shares with patients.

"Being a former Neuroblastoma patient made me really appreciate what is being done to help kids with that particular type of cancer as well as many others."

For Thiede, the most valuable aspect of the trip to St. Jude was to see the hope the center provides to young patients through committed doctors and adequate funding. Being a childhood cancer survivor has impacted his life tremendously. Like Mills, he sees it as his chance to make something of himself and give back. He plans to someday pursue a career as a physician's assistant and possibly become a college professor later in life.

"In my mind, curing cancer is a modern day miracle. I want to give something back to humanity because a lot has been given to me in order to have the chance to just be alive. It's more or less a gift that I can't just throw away. I am truly blessed."

Luke Smelser: Big disease, small world

For Luke Smelser of Florence, Ala., the road to St. Jude was not an unfamiliar one. Just before he turned 4, he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, and since then, St. Jude has maintained a constant presence in his life.

"My introduction with cancer was rushed and frightening," says Smelser. "It was quite a transformation to go from a normal little kid running around outside to being confined to a sterile isolation room in St. Jude."

Although difficult, Smelser said his experience at the center was one that left him feeling extremely blessed. He was treated by internationally renowned childhood leukemia expert Dr. Ching-Hon Pui, who is now chair of the oncology department at the center.

He underwent more than two years of chemotherapy before the cancer went into remission. Afterward, he and his family made regular visits to the hospital for checkups until he was pronounced cancer free around age 10. He continued to go back for annual checkups and, as a college student, spent the summer before his senior year there working as a research intern.

Smelser, who graduated in May with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, was a lab assistant for Moore's microbiology course during his last year at the University. When he heard the immunology class was making its annual pilgrimage to St. Jude, he couldn't resist an opportunity to tag along and return to the place that so greatly impacted his life.

"I always love going back to the institution that I owe my life to. It was great to go with a group of people that had never been there and see their reactions to such an overwhelming place."

Perhaps the most special aspect of the trip is the connection shared between Smelser and Moore. The two discovered during a microbiology class that Smelser was actually a patient at St. Jude during the time Moore was working in the center's immunology department.

"It was interesting that our lives were overlapping once again. I felt so blessed that someone who had potentially aided in my diagnosis and treatment was now shaping my mind and education. It is a really special connection to have."

Going back to the place from which some of his earliest memories come gave him a fresh perspective on the aspects of the hospital that had become so commonplace to him through the years. Although the journey was difficult and often painful, he recalls the joy of being pronounced cured and thanks God for the experience.

"It gave me an appreciation for life that I do not believe I would possess otherwise. It instilled in me an interest for the practice of medicine by providing me with an insider's look at medicine early in life. Most of all, it convinced me that God has a purpose for my life, and he is indeed in control."

Smelser started medical school at University of Birmingham this fall.

A life-changing experience

Visiting St. Jude is quite possibly a life-changing experience for all who enter its doors. It touched the lives of these three students, who have lived through cancer, as well as their 14 classmates. It has forever changed the professor who continues to seek opportunities to enrich the educational experience for his students.

Moore recalls meeting a little boy while working at St. Jude. The child ran up to him in the hallway and asked how he was doing before running off as quickly as he'd appeared.

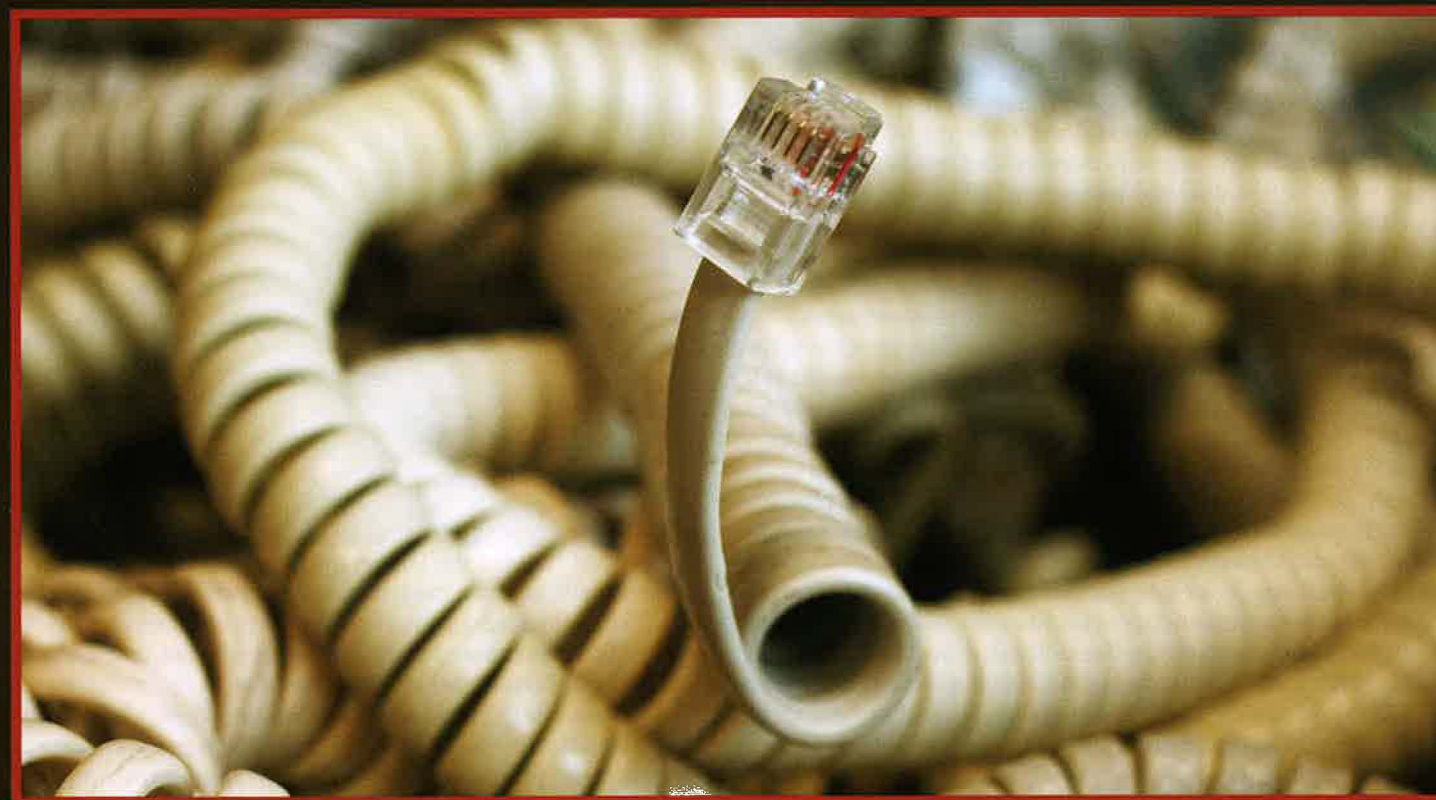
"I stood there for a moment, thinking, 'How am I? How am I? Little boy, you are the one with no hair. You are the one with cancer! How am I?' It truly changed my outlook on the whole day. I said a quick prayer, thanking God for my life and health! I've wondered since meeting Luke, 'What is the chance that was Luke Smelser?' I'll never know." **H**

[COVER STORY]

Cutting the LANDLINE CORD

Wireless phenomenon poses threat to landline phones on campus and across the nation

By HEATHER WILLIAMS, photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY



"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?"

The question that's made Verizon Wireless a household name could very well have been uttered between Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson more than 130 years ago as they stumbled upon what would eventually become the telephone during their experiments with the telegraph. »

“That’s how society is now, wanting everything **IMMEDIATELY**, on demand, right now.”

The last century has transitioned the telephone from novelty item to absolute necessity. The University, along with the rest of the world, has seen tremendous changes in the communication realm. Students today roam the halls and stroll across campus with a cell phone glued to their ear, a laptop in their bag, and the world at their fingertips. But there was a time when many students had only a weekly phone call or written correspondence to keep them connected to home.

In 1969 Tammie Skelton ('73) Hacker arrived on campus to find herself more than 200 miles away from her family. Whereas today's students can connect with parents, siblings and friends back home in a matter of seconds, Hacker remembers the days when students didn't have a phone in their room but shared one with an entire dorm floor.

Hacker called home every Sunday, and, with no long distance service, the only method was to call collect. She and her mother also stayed in touch by writing letters. As a busy student caught up in university life, she didn't always mind the disconnection from her family but says that sharing a phone with an entire floor of young women had its drawbacks.

“Sometimes the phone in the hall would ring off the wall until someone decided to answer it, and then they would yell the name of whoever the phone was for until they came. Messages often didn't get delivered. The phone ringing and the yelling could be a distraction if you were trying to sleep or study. If someone with a steady boyfriend got on the phone first after curfew — it was 10 p.m. on weekdays back then — the line might be tied up for an hour or more.”

For students in the late 80s and early 90s, communication options were a tremendous improvement. The hassle of sharing a phone with an entire floor shrank down to simply sharing it with a roommate. Susan Ward ('92) Cutshall began her college journey in 1989 and depended on her dorm phone as a primary means of connecting with family back home and friends on campus.

“I used my dorm phone quite a bit for campus calls and then to stay in touch with home,” says Cutshall. “I remember when I moved into the apartment I was going to live in after I got married, and we didn't have a phone. I had to ‘schedule’ calls and use the phone that was near the couches behind the Heritage front desk. It was a pain.”

Cutshall took advantage of campus long distance services, calling home once a week and also wrote letters to her family. When her now husband Tyler ('93) went home to Houston one summer, Cutshall stayed behind to attend classes. The two would wait until after 11 p.m. to call each other because rates were so much cheaper late in the evening.

More than 20 years later, students are more connected to home and friends than ever before. The emergence of the cell phone has forever changed the way communication occurs on campus. No longer anchored to the wall in their dorm room, a

student can have a conversation with their mom or dad while having dinner in the cafeteria, walking to the library, or driving through town. Most students don't even have a landline phone hooked up in their dorm room.

Says senior James Buce, “When I was a freshman, my roommate and I had a dorm phone and used the landline, but not since then have I even considered setting up a phone in my dorm.”

Buce says he relies on his cell phone because he always has it with him, and it's more convenient. He sees the dorm phone as an unnecessary tool.

Junior Kylie Akins agrees. “I use my cell phone because it's so much easier to have all the numbers I need programmed into my phone. I never bought a regular phone, so I only have my cell phone.”

LORA FLEENER ('82), manager of student support and communications, arrived at the University 27 years ago when students and staff depended on the traditional landline telephone and even written correspondence, now referred to as “snail mail.”

“Everybody used their phone and used us to call long-distance,” says Fleener. “We were their phone company, and it was a big business at that time. Twenty years later, it's not.”

The University purchased long-distance services from a variety of phone carriers through the years and resold those services to students. It was the lifeline students needed to call home and enabled the University to pay for new technology that transitioned the campus from a system where faculty and staff shared an extension number and everything came through a switchboard to one where everyone had their own number and could receive calls directly.

“That was a big deal, and reselling long distance paid for that switch. We've since upgraded and have progressed through the years, but no one [students] uses it anymore.”

Campus trends are merely an echo of what's happening throughout the nation. As the cell phone takeover threatens to cut the landline cord, the world of wireless has become a phenomenon. According to the 13th annual report to Congress, available on the Federal Communications Commission Web site, there were 263 million mobile telephone subscribers in the U.S. in 2007, a 63 percent increase from 2003.

The appeal of the cell phone is not difficult to grasp. Most fit in the palm of one's hand and come with a variety of flashy covers and accessories. If one doesn't have time to talk or can't talk out loud at the moment, a text message can be sent instead. Bluetooth headsets mean no more achy shoulders trying to balance a phone while driving, cooking or working. Favorite songs may even be downloaded as a ringtone.

Smart phones and the Apple iPhone have launched the cellular world into an entirely new dimension. Acting as a tiny



Whether atop the Empire State Building or on a brick column on the front lawn, cell phones make it possible for Laura Jean Jenkins to carry on a conversation almost anywhere at anytime.

handheld computer, they enable the user to take pictures, shoot video, map out their busy schedule, check e-mail, and even browse the Internet. Apple has created numerous applications, and, as their slogan says, there's an “app for everything.” The busy on-the-go physician can view an MRI on his iPhone, and there are even applications to connect people in the church and accompany them on their spiritual journey.

The Cutshalls have come a long way since their college days and launched 43rd Element, an Apple application design and development company, in February. The company aims to merge technology with a missionary mindset and offers a variety of iPhone applications, including eight daily devotionals and an original application called RelationTips. There is also a Prayer Wall that enables users to post requests and join with others in prayer; this application received more than 5,000 downloads within the first three weeks of launching. Users can purchase and download these and other applications through the Apple iTunes Store.

With the convenience of wireless technology and trends like texting and applications, the lifespan of the landline is growing shorter by the second. Preliminary results for the July-December 2008 report for The National Health Interview Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

showed that more than one of every five American households had only wireless telephones. For those who still have a landline, one out of seven received all or most of their calls on a cell phone.

“I guess people want to have immediate access, and that [cell phone] is always with them,” says Fleener. “That's how society is now, wanting everything immediately, on demand, right now. The students are no different. They want to talk to somebody immediately; they want to text.”

Says Akins, “Texting is just as easy for me because my friend or I might be in a situation where we can't talk out loud.”

Buce agrees. “I usually prefer to call someone, but text messaging is just more common, so I text most of the time because that is what my friends will respond to more.”

FCC trends show that the monthly volume of text messaging traffic across the U.S. grew from 2.08 billion in 2003 to 48.1 billion in 2007.

Akins says she sometimes wishes for a landline when she goes beyond her cell phone plan minutes and also points out that landlines are often more reliable. “Cell phones are occasionally unpredictable. They might not have good reception, and the conversation may be too distorted to continue. Landlines would definitely be handy when there is nowhere to charge a cell phone.”

Says Buce, “The only-time I wished I would have had a landline would be when I had to give out a number and didn't want to use my cell phone.”

Fleener says that although it has been discussed, no definite plans are in place to get rid of dorm room landlines. However, cell phones remain the most reliable way to contact students.

The University will launch its new emergency response system this fall, enabling the Office of Public Safety to contact the campus community through a variety of avenues with the click of a button. If an emergency occurs, students have the option to receive notification through a recorded voice call, text message or e-mail, but the message will not be distributed to dorm phones.

“We did not put that on there because we knew it would not be an effective means of communication since no one plugs up a phone,” says Fleener. “We don't want to tie up the system calling a number that no one is going to answer.”

The popularity of cell phones and other technology wonders such as e-mail, text messaging and social networking Web sites like Facebook most certainly have contributed to the downward-spiraling landline. Whether we will lose the old method altogether remains to be seen, but one thing's for certain: having numerous methods of communication ensures that no one is cut off from friends and loved ones anymore. **H**

Editor's note: At the time of publication, Federal Communications Commission statistics for 2008 were not yet available.

Something to *celebrate*

By MIKE IRELAND, associate professor of Bible

You may think when you've heard one graduation speech, you've heard them all. But, when Dr. Mike Ireland addressed the 248 graduates at summer ceremonies, we found ourselves struck by the message he gave. See if you are, too.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE; certainly for you who are graduating but also for those who've come because they love you. One of the best things about this event and this day is that it is shared with those we love.

In a few minutes your name will be called, you will walk across this stage, and every eye in the room will be on you. So please, don't trip. It will be almost as dramatic as the day you came into the world. The flash of cameras, the hoots, howls and high-fives of family members will all underscore how special you are. And as you receive your diploma, smile for the photographer and enjoy this moment. Remember that somewhere in this room a mom and dad are choking back tears of pride and thinking about how fast time flies. And no matter what this may have cost them, in that moment when you walk across the stage, it will all be worth it. Let me tell you this: It does not matter how long you live, you will never be able to repay them because love and sacrifice are priceless. But you can live a life that says thank you so much for your faith in me.

This is an occasion of celebration and rightfully so. We salute you for your diligence and perseverance in reaching this goal. Some of you may have worked harder, and, no doubt, some of you may have taken longer. But today, none of that makes any difference as you make a necessary passage from one phase of your life to the next.

And whether you are headed to graduate or professional school, to a new job, or in a direction yet to be determined, we send you forth with sincere best wishes and a genuine hope and anticipation for your future.

As a university, it was never our intention to simply prepare you to make a lot of money or get to the top of your field.

It was never our goal to help you make a name for yourself or be able to retire early.

But it was our aim to show you that whether you were studying the history of Rome, the three mechanical tasks of the stomach, the managerial skills required in

small business, or the artwork of Rembrandt, everything was linked to God. It was our goal that while you developed your skills on the playing field, in the science lab, the band room, or the computer lab, you would also discover that nothing happens apart from God. It was our desire that while you attended devos, participated in clubs, went on campaigns, and responded to the needs of fellow students, you would see that everything of real value is because of God.

If we failed to do that, if we failed to try to do that, then we may have prepared you for a career but not for life.

If all you take from this university is the opportunity to enter a graduate school, get a job, or just make money, then whatever you paid for these years was too much. If all you take from your years at Harding is simply an appreciation for the complexities of a free market system or a better understanding of the intricacies of the human body, then your education isn't worth very much.

But I believe you got more than that. Even in this place of well-intentioned but flawed people, I believe you could see God at work. And because of that, your education is more than information from the classroom or experiences in a club, more than the discoveries in the lab or the findings on a field trip. You hold much information in your head, but it is what you know in your heart that will shape and determine your life.

Many of you will depart today with wonderful dreams for making a real difference in the world. We commend you for those dreams. But our commendation comes with a warning. Be clear about the kind of difference you intend to make. Some differences simply reshape the world around us, but others reshape lives. Some differences we effect are merely temporary until something new and improved comes along, but others we make will last forever. We hope your time at Harding has enabled you to make the distinction.

But I would say this: If you want to know the difference between these differences, then spend more time with the sick and dying. Perhaps it will be uncomfortable at first, but you will find that no other experience will put you as close to the center of life's meaning as this one. Sick and dying people don't usually pretend about what is important. They are not worried about political correctness. They talk of their memories — both the joys and the regrets. Listen carefully, and you will hear what matters most to people. And when you know what matters most to people, then you'll have a clearer idea of the kind of difference you want to make with your life. They speak of the simplest things as though they were gold, but they speak not at all of those things we often mistakenly value like gold. They speak mostly of family and of God. Their words carry a power, a force like no others. And each time you leave their company, you cannot wait to get home and hug those you love.

My point is this: If you want to make a real difference with your life, you must know what truly matters in life.

Most of you are not going to study distant planets or travel in space, but all of you can love your spouse and show the world what God intended marriage to be. Most of you are not going to transplant organs or discover a cure for some disease, but all of you can be gracious and kind to all people and show the world what it means to be like Jesus. Most of you are never going to win an Olympic medal or score the game winner in a championship, but all of you can honor your word and show the world what it means to have integrity. Most of you are never going to become wealthy or famous, but all of you can live in such a way that those who know you can see that you know Jesus.

Make no mistake: You can make a difference with your life.

What kind of difference is up to you.

Work is God-ordained. It was part of God's original intention for humanity. Work is not inherently good or evil; it is what we make it. Being the flawed people we are, we have a tendency to take what God gives us and abuse it to our own destruction.

Whether you are going into nursing, ministry, business or education — whatever your vocation — we wish you nothing but success. We want and even expect to hear good things about you. It is natural that your chosen profession would be important to you and that you would want to do well. But contrary to cultural opinion, success in work does not mean success in life. As we have sadly observed too often, you can be the president of the country, a sports superstar or a world-class entertainer, but that does not mean you know how to live.

FOR MOST OF YOU THE CHALLENGE will be keeping your work in perspective. That is not easy in a culture that praises productivity and worships the dollar.

So, I appeal to you to resist two temptations. Resist the temptation to believe that this chosen work is who you are, and resist the temptation to believe that you are indispensable to it.

You are not simply what you do. In the future, when we see you and ask how you are, our primary concern is not for the size of your office or company or the size of your house or bank account. Our first concern is not to know how many patients you see, how many clients you have, or how many members attend the church. Forgive us if we have ever given you the impression that those things matter most. We want to know how you are. And that can only be answered in connection with God.

It will be easier to keep your job in perspective if you relinquish all attempts to convince yourself and others that you are indispensable. I know how this works. You become possessed by the belief that it won't get done, done right or done on time if you don't do it. This will, of course, add to your own sense of importance. Surprise! Indispensable people get sick and die every day, and the world clicks right along!

Let me share a brief picture of your future. When you die, the office will close for a few hours for everyone to attend your funeral. They may even take the afternoon off. But when the sun comes up the next day, it will be work as usual. Somebody will begin doing what you did.

That is reality. I don't say that to depress you, and it doesn't minimize your contribution. It is supposed to help you keep things in perspective. After all, if you don't, how else will you know the kind of difference you want to make?

Today, you celebrate, and we celebrate with you. After this, you depart to new arenas of life. New adventures are ahead. We are excited for you. We remember what it was like. We have shared with you what we know about our respective disciplines and challenged you to aspire beyond us. We have tried to be a resource for your interests and a support for your pursuits. But more than that — way more than that — we have endeavored to communicate to you that you were made for a purpose that is greater than any single field of endeavor, and that, regardless of what you do to make a living, there is only one way to make a life.

So, we ask that you not forget this: As the years roll by, we look forward to the news of your successes, promotions and achievements. But mostly, we look forward to hearing that you are well, that you are honest and upright, that you are kind and generous ... and that you make such a wonderful difference in the lives and hearts of so many people.

Now that will be something to celebrate. **H**



My summer spent ...

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN

WHEN THE LAST FINAL EXAM IS TAKEN and the remaining dorm odds and ends are crammed into the car, students say their goodbyes and set off to numerous points on the map. While growing up, summer meant three months of blissful relaxation, cartoons and lawn sprinklers; however, University students find that the months of June, July and August can be more action-packed than a typical semester.

Between mission trips, studies abroad, jobs, internships and summer school, students' time away from campus can be as diverse as the students themselves.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

• • • white-water rafting in Colorado

Being able to navigate a class three river and successfully traverse rock climbs might not seem like normal summer job requirements, but they were essential for sophomore missions major **Jonathan Sims** who worked as a guide for Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Co. in Buena Vista, Colo.

"There is no typical work day," says Sims. "After a devotional, I would go down to the beach and get rafts ready for the day. When customers would arrive, I would fit them with life jackets and prepare them for our rafting trip. Sometimes, I would take as many as two trips a day down a 10-mile section of river."

With an unusual job comes an unusual training experience. For Sims, it involved a five-day backpacking trip and a blindfold. The group of second-year guides were driven for an hour and then hiked for 20 minutes before they were allowed to remove the blindfolds. "When I opened my eyes, I was in a group with two other guides and an instructor," he says. "We were then given four different maps and told to triangulate our position using our surroundings and our compasses. It took us two and a half hours to pinpoint our position."

The group was then given a set of coordinates and traveled there to set up camp for the night. The next day, they hiked to their final destination and met up with the rest of their group. They camped for four more days, ending the adventure in an ice-pick-throwing contest. "It was a time of great manly bonding," he says.

Through his job, Sims met a variety of people and was able to talk to them about Jesus. "I have met youth group kids to recovering drug addicts, the very rich and those from the inner city, Catholic priests and atheists. My favorite part of this job is that I get to spend time with and minister to people in an environment that takes them out of their element."

Whether pushing people during a four-day backpacking trip or guiding a raft full of giggling children down the river, Sims loved every aspect of his job. "I would definitely do it again."

• • • inspiring young athletes

When junior accounting and finance major **Karye Saegert** joined the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in high school, she quickly connected with the organization. Attending FCA summer camps, Saegert was influenced by the college athletes who served as her counselors. "Those young women had a great influence on making my relationship with the Lord stronger," she says.

Now a college athlete on the Lady Bison tennis team, she spent her summer interning with FCA to mentor young girls like previous counselors did for her.

Saegert worked with five other interns, whom she now "considers family," to organize day camps for 8 to 13 year olds across Arkansas, planning lessons, games and other activities for the campers. The team held camps in Lewisville, Fountain Lake, Beebe and Newport, Ark. The summer ended with a state camp for junior high and high school students at John Brown University in Saegert's hometown of Siloam Springs, Ark.

While in Newport, she told the five girls in her huddle group about playing tennis at the University. "Their little eyes got so big," she says. "One girl asked, 'Can we play tennis today, Miss Karye?'" After the day's activities were finished, Saegert and another intern played tennis with the girls and a few others for nearly two hours, taking them to Sonic Drive-in afterward.

"The next day, those few hours were all they could talk about," Saegert remembers. "My girls clung to me everywhere we went. By the end of the week, they were referring to me as 'mom.' It is crazy what a difference you can make in kids' lives in just four days." >>



SUBMITTED PHOTO



LEFT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, RIGHT PHOTO SUBMITTED

It wasn't just the campers who were changed during the summer. Saegert also felt the effects of her time spent with them. "Throughout the summer, I developed my own unique faith. I have always had a good foundation but never had the opportunity to step out of the box and test it to know what I truly believe."

• • • helping Nomba villagers tell their story

The images commonly associated with Africa often reflect poverty, sickness and civil war.

Hoping to change that representation, a group of four dedicated their summer to helping a village share their side of the story. "We felt that if video cameras were put into local hands, the images would be different," says senior English major **Nick Michael**. The experiment was dubbed the Kujilana Project.

The team, made up of Michael, University students Kelsey Sherrod and Tyler Jones, and Samford University student Maribeth Browning, spent their first month in Africa exploring northern Mozambique, becoming familiar to the new surroundings. "There, we attempted to acclimate to the culture and did preliminary research on different types of development work," says Michael.

In the second month, they arrived in Nomba Village and the Malo Ga Kujilana resource center. They began handing out cameras to people and teaching film classes to four locals, covering basic video techniques and local events, wrapping up with a showing of the final products.

"People in Nomba Village need to be loved through listen-

ing," says Michael. "There is ingenuity and drive on the ground, but people need resources coupled with knowledge."

Together, the group along with the newly trained filmmakers, conducted interviews with survivors of the country's own War of Independence and Civil War. The footage was to remind the community of their heritage and to speak to viewers in the United States.

During their final nights in the village, they held a screening of the finished projects. "Tayo, Victor, and both Lucias each introduced their films," remembers Michael. "Their pride is a memory I'll keep for a while."

The resulting product was a joint documentary, filmed by Americans and Africans, telling the story of the villagers who, until this point, had been unable to share. Filming equipment was left to encourage the people to continue.

"We're brainstorming a plan which would replay this summer's camera project in other locations," says Michael. "We believe that putting cameras in local hands, specifically in the developing world, offers opportunities for economic improvement, personal empowerment and global understanding."

• • • hitting the books

While Searcy may not seem like the most glamorous place to spend a summer, sophomore **Marissa Scott** opted to forgo the beaches of a traditional vacation for books and studying. "I decided to take summer classes because I want to get my degree faster if I can," she says. "I actually prefer how campus isn't so crowded in the summer. It helps me focus."

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scott, a nursing major, found the classes' condensed format to be the best for her learning style. "I like to learn things fast, otherwise I get bored easily," she says. "I would rather learn a whole semester's worth of information in two weeks than spend 50 minutes a day for a whole semester on the same thing." The smaller class sizes also helped her develop relationships with her teachers and fellow classmates.

Between taking psychology and math, Scott worked at the desk in her dorm, studied, and spent time with friends. "I had several friends that stayed and also met new people," says Scott. She also got to know her roommate, Caleigh Cronan, better. "Without this summer, I don't think I would know her as well as I do now. That's another good thing about summer school."

While many would see living in a small town during the summer as boring, Scott found plenty to do. "When you're from a very small town like me, you learn to make your own fun." One night, after finding that the gym was closed, Scott and her friends played an impromptu game of hide-and-seek instead of a typical workout, capping off the night with s'mores. "All of our running went out the window after that."

In keeping with her goal to graduate early, Scott has already made plans to stay for summer school next year.

• • • experiencing global business firsthand

The University's overseas programs offer students the opportunity for hands-on learning in a new environment. In order to provide a specialized focus, several colleges have adopted their own overseas programs. Professional sales major **Andrew Flesher** was able to explore the business side of London with the College of Business Administration.

The six-week program gave business students an inside look at major corporations across England. "We got to talk with

upper-level people in different departments and learn how their business operated," says Flesher. "We visited Murphy Oil, which is Murco there; Asda, which is their Wal-Mart; Tate and Lyle who manufactures Splenda; and Sky TV."

As part of their visits, Flesher and his classmates were required to research each company ahead of time. "They could feel that we were involved and curious about the company. I learned a lot about how business differs there.

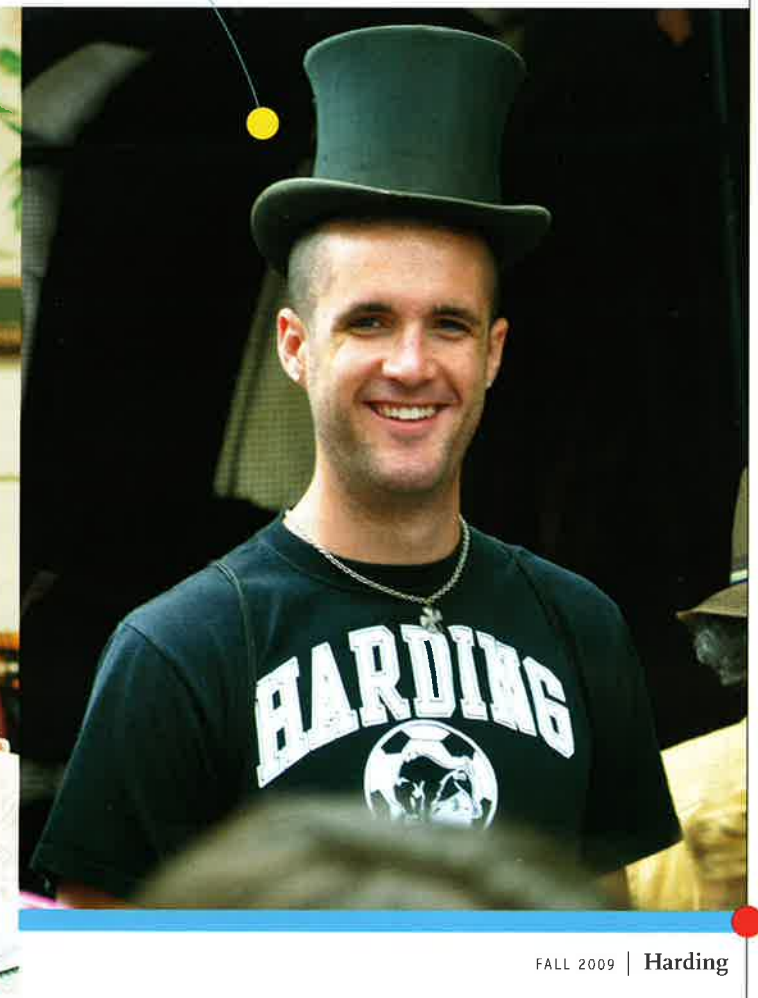
"It's real world experience. It's different because you're being immersed in that culture, seeing it face to face instead of in a book," he says.

Outside of class, Flesher explored the sites of London and spent the last two weeks of his trip free traveling through Europe. Goalkeeper for the Bison soccer team, he was especially interested in visiting various soccer stadiums along the way. "We took a couple of trips to different places in England. I took a two-hour trip to a soccer game one day after we were done with our classes. You're never bored."

For Flesher, Interlaken, Switzerland, was his favorite visit during European travel. Located in the foothills of the Alps, Interlaken offered outdoor adventures and breathtaking views. "We were driven up a mountain and went through a canyon on the way down, rappelling through waterfalls, jumping off cliffs into water pools, and sliding down rock formations. It was amazing."

As a result of his summer abroad, Flesher feels the experience will help him in future interviews. "I can say that I sat in boardrooms at Fortune 500 companies in London learning about their business models. That will definitely set me apart."

He would readily recommend the program to any business student. "Going to London and living that lifestyle day to day, it's leaps and bounds beyond anything you could imagine sitting in a classroom." **H**



1951

Marylyn Tuttleton Lupton and her husband, Keith, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 7. Marylyn has her Ph.D. in English literature and is retired. They have three children. (3411 Picwood Road, Tampa, FL 33618; m_lupton@msn.com)

1958

Gene and Dorma Rogers ('57) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 24, 2008. Gene taught at Harding University, Ohio State University and American University, where he earned his doctorate and served as associate dean of the graduate school. He retired from University of North Carolina's Department of Political Science as Breman and Feldman professorships. He was twice elected chairman of commissioners of Buncombe County as well as serving two terms on Asheville City Council. He headed the North Carolina Political Science Association and the War on Poverty Model Cities Commission. The North Carolina governor awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine — North Carolina's highest civilian award. Dorma recently retired as a real estate broker. She operated her own company during her 20 years in the profession. Still active in church work, the couple also established and operated a non-profit organization for 60 "at risk" young people. They have two children, **Cheryl Billante** ('86) and **Eric Rainey** ('94). (19 Reynolds Place, Asheville, NC 28804)

Benny and Gayle Claunch Stephens celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 13. Benny teaches the Fishers of Men evangelism course along with five co-teachers, in which 20,000 souls have been baptized into Christ. He preaches for the Franklin Road Church of Christ in Indianapolis, and Gayle is a retired art teacher. They have five children, three of whom went to Harding. (8879 E. Big Rock Road, Morgantown, IN 46160; benny@fishersofmen.net)

1959

Benny and Gayle Claunch Stephens celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 13. Benny teaches the Fishers of Men evangelism course along with five co-teachers, in which 20,000 souls have been baptized into Christ. He preaches for the Franklin Road Church of Christ in Indianapolis, and Gayle is a retired art teacher. They have five children, three of whom went to Harding. (8879 E. Big Rock Road, Morgantown, IN 46160; benny@fishersofmen.net)

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Arnold and Ruby Mae Watson celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary April 30. Arnold is retired after a lifetime of preaching. They have five children. (2924 Red Oak Circle, Abilene, TX 79606)

1966

Lois Smith Chisholm has published her first novel entitled *Horsehead*. She retired after 44 years as a baker and wedding planner. Her husband, Buddy, is

minister for the church of Christ in Emerson, Ark. They have two daughters, Angelia and Sarah. (1632 Highway 82, Lewisville, AR 71845; velmac25@yahoo.com)

David Elkins joined University of the Rockies July 1. A licensed psychologist in both Wyoming and California, he earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from United States International University (now Alliant University). (P.O. Box 5844, Carefree, AZ 85377)

1971

Andy Confer published a book on Revelation, *Three Woes for Babylon: Revelation, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever*. Andy works for the local school district, and his wife, **Barbara Arnell** ('69), is retired. They have four children. (15711 Dessau Road, #602, Pflugerville, TX 78660; waconfer@hotmail.com)

Bob Evridge is a real estate broker who recently joined Hop Bailey Co. in Knoxville, Tenn. He is a certified internet specialist, vintage homes specialist and a graduate of the Realtor Institute. He and his wife, Jan, have two daughters, Katie and Rebecca. (8200 Bennington Drive, Knoxville, TN 37909)

1972

Cindy King Finch retired in June after 34 years as an elementary school teacher. She has two children, Heather and Craig. (11 Martin Lane, Union, MO 63084; finchcindy@yahoo.com)

1973

Holly Catterton Allen was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in April at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark., where she is professor of Christian ministries and director of the Child and Family Studies program. Her first book, *Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*, was published in 2008. It consists of the best presentations of the triennial Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives at Concordia University in June 2006. Her husband, Leonard, is director of Abilene Christian University Press in Abilene, Texas. They have three children. (1409 Hunter Ridge, Siloam Springs, AR 72761)

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1975

Robert Bush completed the requirements for certification as a chartered property casualty underwriter by the Insurance Institute of America. He previously completed requirements for associate of risk management and associate in claims. He is manager of claims information systems for the risk management department of Halliburton Energy Services in Houston. (2310 Piddler Drive, Spring, TX 77373)

1976

Charles Ganus, head of Murphy Oil Co.'s U.K. office, has been elected to the additional position of vice president with responsibility for all international downstream operations. He and his wife, **Patty Sapio** ('79), have two children, **Ashley** ('07) and **Kevin**, a student at Harding. (200 Peach St., El Dorado, AR 71730)

Debbie Perrault received the E. Carlyle Smith Humanitarian Award at Parkland Foundation, a hospital in Dallas where she is director of pathology services. She is involved in the community and recently volunteered at a benefit concert for the North Texas Food Bank. (805 Cherry Laurel Lane, Arlington, TX 76012)

John Rosenbaum retired in June 2006 after 27 years as a clinical case worker for the Missouri Department of Mental Health. (163 W. Haynie St., Marshall, MO 65340)

1977

Leslie Kennington received a B.A. in human resource management from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, June 14, the same day her daughter graduated from Ohio State University. Her two older daughters earned advanced degrees this spring. (1437 Scenic Club Drive, Westerville, OH 43081)

William "Bill" Searcy received three scouting awards during the past year and a half: the District Award of Merit from the African District of the Direct Service Council of Boy Scouts of America Feb. 20, 2008, the Faithful Servant Award from members of Churches of Christ for Scouting April 9, and Scoutmaster Award of Merit from the National Eagle Scout Association and the president of Boy Scouts of America May 10. For nine years he was scoutmaster (2000-2009) of BSA International Troop 140 in



Liz Howell

ALMA MATTERS

Staying connected

By LIZ HOWELL, director of alumni relations

CONNECTING TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY is important for our emotional health and well-being.

Facebook, Twitter and other technology are connecting us sometimes faster than we can imagine. Today's technology helps people do everything from planning to meeting for dinner to keeping in touch with a friend or a student in a different country. It seems everyone has a cell phone with them at all times. E-mail and text messages provide instant access that is now being utilized for communication from your alma mater. Whether you are looking to reconnect with classmates or seeking employment opportunities, social networking is a viable and growing tool.

The University is striving to offer more options to communicate with our alumni in the way you prefer. In an effort to be good stewards of our environment, we are communicating electronically as often as we can. We will still utilize some mailings as reinforcements or reminders to our electronic messages. The Harding family has deep connections throughout the world, and we are counting on you to help us communicate better in your networks of influence.

Thank you for your participation in the "Six Degrees of Separation" campaign. Because of your connections, we were able to gather and update many alumni records, saving money from sending mail pieces to incorrect addresses. If you have not updated your record or e-mail address, please send your information to alumni@harding.edu. As special events or news from campus occur, you can help us inform others by text messaging, e-mailing or posting information on Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Nairobi, Kenya. Both of his sons, Joshua and Dabraham, are Eagle Scouts. He and his sons are brotherhood members of the Order of the Arrow which is the National Honor Society of Boy Scouts of America. He serves as a missionary. (P.O. Box 600-00621, Village Market, Nairobi, Kenya)

1979

Rebecca "Becky" Roberts mar-

ried Howard Robinson, Dec. 13, 2008. Becky is working at Integrated Payment Solutions Worldwide, and Howard retired from Kodak. They are both involved in youth group ministries at Holly Hill Church of Christ. (111 McAlister Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174)

1980

Mark Kirk has been appointed a

Your education and influence extend far beyond the years you spent on campus, and you can be a great ambassador for Harding in your community and a role model for prospective students. We want to assist you by providing relevant information that keeps you informed and connected.

Here are some more options:

Alumni Portal — Connect and network with classmates online. Sign up at www.harding.edu/alumni/accounts.html. For your ID number, use your H number located on the back label of this magazine or simply type 1924. You now have the option of a Harding e-mail address.

Facebook — Become a "fan" at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Searcy/Harding-University-Alumni/96610918182?ref=ts>. Become a part of the alumni group at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=2232306611&ref=ts>.

Twitter — Follow Harding news and information at <http://twitter.com/HardingAlumni>.

Career and Job Connections — Go to <http://www.harding.edu/career/>.

Post.Harding — Subscribe to an electronic newsletter for alumni at alumni-list@harding.edu.

HUPA & HUGS — Subscribe to an electronic newsletter for parents and grandparents of current students at hupa-list@harding.edu.

Visit the **Web site** at www.harding.edu, and see what is new on campus.

Our goal is to create services and networks that provide a seamless transition from student to post-college life, assist in career success, and establish linkage among alumni connecting them back to Harding. We solicit your feedback and suggestions. Please contact us through any of the mediums above or call us at 800-477-4312, ext. 1, and we will be happy to talk to you! **H**

board member of TD Williamson Inc. He is partner and managing director of Cleveland-based private equity firm, Linsalata Capital Partners. He and his wife, **Robin Bales**, have three children, Ashley, Alan and Allison. (6330 Lost Woods Lane, Hudson, OH 44236)

1981

Cindy Minton Smith was named president of the Clinton Junior

PROFILE: TAMERA GATTIS ALEXANDER 1983

Christy award winner

TYPICALLY BEING ACCUSED of "living in the past" is considered an insult. However, for Tamera Alexander, it is just the opposite. Author of seven Christian historical fiction novels and winner of back-to-back Christy awards — the highest honor for a Christian book — Alexander finds living in the past creates a very rewarding present.

Alexander never saw writing as a realistic option, especially after being told at age 13 that her skills were not good enough. After a gift from her mother-in-law — *Love Comes Softly* by Janette Oke — ignited a love for Christian fiction, Alexander's husband, Joe ('81), challenged her to write a book of her own. Her first attempt reached the publisher's final review board but was ultimately rejected.

However, Alexander was not discouraged. "I knew if God was leading me, even though I didn't feel prepared, he would equip me," she says. She spent the next two years working full time and writing late at night. Her second try, *Rekindled*, was bought by Bethany House publishers, and Alexander received a three-book contract. She has since released two trilogies along with a stand-alone novel, *The Inheritance*, which is a part of the Women of Faith series.

Drawing on her 17 years living in Colorado, Alexander uses the territory during the 1860s and 70s as her novels' backdrop, utilizing the similarities of then and now. "In some ways it's a simpler time, but in other ways it's like looking into a mirror and realizing, no matter what era we live in, we have always been the same," says Alexander. A self-proclaimed history buff, she enjoys weaving past events into her works, opening her readers to another world. "You get to entertain and sweep people away into a different time," she says. "But yet, they get to see God's word threaded throughout."

Alexander is wrapping up her final Colorado territory book, *Within My Heart*, to be released June 2010. The rest of her works can be found in bookstores as well as her Web site, www.tameraalexander.com. Her next series of books travels into the South, starting in Tennessee where she currently resides. During Homecoming, Alexander will speak Thursday, Oct. 29, in the Heritage Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. She will also be in the bookstore Saturday morning for a book signing. **H**

— Jennifer Hannigan

For more on Alexander, including how her own life experience impacted one of her characters, visit www.harding.edu/mag.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Civic League. She graduated from Auburn University in 1982. Cindy is a homemaker and has a photography business, and her husband, Wade, is a reliability manager at International Paper. They have three children, Patrick, Alex and Lainey. (209 Concord Drive, Clinton, MS 39056; pals1995@bellsouth.net)

1982

Jerry Mitchell is an investigative reporter at The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss. He recently won the inaugural McGill Medal for Journalistic Courage from University of Georgia in Athens. Jerry and his wife, **Karen O'Donoghue** ('83), have two children, Samuel and Katherine. (118 Twin Oaks Drive, Brandon, MS 39047)

1983

Nell Calvert Ard, director of nursing at Collin College in Plano, Texas, has been appointed to the National League for Nursing's Public Policy Committee. She recently published an article titled "Summary of the Survey on Clinical Education in Nursing" in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, the official journal of the NLN. Her husband, **Wayne** ('82), is an insurance agent. (816 Topaz Drive, McKinney, TX 75071)

1984

Brian and **Karly Casey** announce the birth of a son, **Jedd Garrett**, May 18. Brian is an assistant professor of conducting and horn at Houghton College, and Karly is a homemaker and works part time at a pharmacy and gift shop. (62 S. Genesee St., Fillmore, NY 14735)

Dana Jo Hughes married **Jerry Jackson** July 4. (103 Lillian Ave., Dexter, MO 63841)

1985

Kerry Smith is the principal for Pine Crest Elementary School. He has been with the Georgetown-Ridge Farm District since his start in education. (3067 W. State Road 32, Perryville, IN 47974)

1988

Kevin Johnson graduated with a doctorate in nursing practice from Columbia University in New York City. He is an assistant chief of anesthesia services for Parkland Health and Hospital System. (4030 Gilbert Ave., #4, Dallas, TX 75219)

PROFILE: TERRY DINTERMAN 1985

Runway to technology

WHEN TERRY DINTERMAN ENROLLED in a computer class his first year of college, he knew immediately he was destined for a career in the field. The path has led him on a journey intertwined with technology projects and team leadership at Andersen Consulting (now Accenture), Budget Rent A Car, Ameritech (now AT&T), Cultureworx and CNA Insurance.

In September 2008 he was appointed vice president of technology services at JetBlue Airways, a New York-based value airline founded in 1999 with the tagline "bringing humanity back to air travel." While he may not be piloting an airplane, Dinterman says his job never lacks excitement.

"JetBlue went through this period of incredible growth during the last decade," says Dinterman. "Like most startups, eventually the IT [information technology] infrastructure and application platform required a major transformation to enable its transition from a small company to a large mission-critical enterprise. My adrenaline really starts pumping whenever I get the chance to participate in a complex transformational project."

As a leader in the IT department, Dinterman has a front row seat to airline operation and is able to learn all aspects of the company. After a quick cup of coffee, he spends each day winding through planning discussions and problem solving sessions. He and his team are responsible for IT security and architecture and also tackle development and quality assurance along with business partner management and crew member support.

According to Dinterman, the airline embraces innovation and encourages creativity. One of his favorite aspects of the job is leading teams of passionate people working together for a common goal. He aims to incorporate the valuable lessons learned at the University into his leadership role at JetBlue.

"The experience I always share with someone who hasn't heard about Harding is that I, along with my classmates, was invited over to professors' homes for backyard barbecues or picnics or just a celebration of being together. It was about community, and I desire to bring that to the workplace today as a leader. I want my team to know it's more than just work; it's about being part of a community."

Dinterman and his wife, **Andrea**, have been married 20 years and have four children. The family resides in the Chicago, Ill., suburb of Palatine. Although his career drive and passion are always in focus, his most prized accomplishments gather around the dinner table each night.

"I consider my most cherished moments and the best glimpse I'll have of heaven while on earth to be those spent hanging out in the kitchen making pizzas, celebrating a birthday, or sharing the day's events with **Andrea** and the kids. Pure joy." **H**

— Heather Williams



1990

Brett Ferguson received a Master of Science in nursing from Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College of Nursing in St. Louis in May. (9727 Graystone Terrace, St. Louis, MO 63119)

Caleb and **Kristin Webb Kelso** announce the birth of a daughter, **Kimberly Gayle**, Dec. 14, 2008. They also have two sons, **Caleb** and **Joshua**. (8180 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim Hills, CA 92807)

Ron Turner served as "America's Co-host" on Talking Television with **Dave White** for two years. He is founder and past president of Gilligan's Island Fan Club. (111 Walker Ave., #302, Huntsville, AL 35801)

1991

Jim Laughary has been promoted to high school principal at West Plains High School. His wife, **Lee Young** ('90), is a physical education teacher in West Plains District. They have four children, **Willie**, **Jolee**, **Wesley** and **Bradley**. (1035 N. College St., West Plains, MO 65775)

1992

Shannon and **Katrina Shaw Menard** announce the birth of a daughter, **Hadassah Claire**, Feb. 6. They have two other children, **Miranda** and **Lennox**. **Shannon** works at Hytrol Conveyors, and **Katrina** homeschools their children. (404 CR 723, Jonesboro, AR 72401; mimsmommy@yahoo.com)

Jon ('90) and **Samantha Rice Murray** announce the birth of twin boys, **Jonathan David** and **Jacob Dean**, April 10, 2008. They also have three other children, **Jonah**, **Gracie** and **Nathan**. **Jon** is the head cross-country coach for Texas Tech University, and **Samantha** is an adjunct professor for Lubbock Christian University. (5833 88th St., Lubbock, TX 79424)

Alexander and **Carmelita Bandy Weddle** announce the birth of a son, **Parker Andrew**, April 29. They have another son, **William**. **Alex** is a patent examiner for the Patent and Trademark Office, and **Carmelita** is a special education teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools. (4721 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22311)

1993

Tamara Spencer Larter is self-employed as a doula, assisting mothers in birth. She appeared in a

documentary about the beauty of giving birth. She and her husband, **Simon**, have two children, **Andrew** and **Aislinn**. (512 Almonesson Road, Westville, NJ 08093; open2life@gmail.com)

Marlin Williams is director of communications for Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association in Batesville, Miss., after spending 16 years in television news as a sports anchor. His wife, **Tracy White** ('94), is a homemaker. They have twin daughters, **Millie** and **Sophie**. (347 Woodland Road, Batesville, MS 38606)

1994

Learnor ('96) and **Stephanie Lucas Dalby** announce the adoption of three sons, **Jeff**, 12; **Justin**, 9; and **Jordan**, 7; Oct. 19, 2008. They also have two daughters, **Emma** and **Ellis**. **Learnor** is a geographic information systems manager for the state of Arkansas, and **Stephanie** is a homemaker. (510 Beaconsfield Road, Sherwood, AR 72120)

1995

Jeremy ('96) and **Karen Monk Garner** announce the birth of a daughter, **Rachel Elizabeth**, March 20. They have another daughter, **Catherine**. **Jeremy** is a registered nurse in ICU at Central Arkansas Veteran's Administration, and **Karen** is a registered nurse in labor and delivery for St. Vincent Health System. (207 Crain Drive, Searcy, AR 72143; karengarner1311@sbcglobal.net)

1996

Matt and **Nicolle Dunmoyer Ahearn** announce the birth of a daughter, **Brenna Elizabeth**, March 4, 2008. They have three other children, **Emma**, **Matthew** and **Charles**. (311 Alleghenyville Road, Mohnton, PA 19540; ahearn97@dejazzd.com)

Chad and **Tamara Bledsoe Austin** announce the birth of a son, **Ethan Beckham**, April 14. **Tamara** is a second-grade teacher at Keystone Heights Elementary School. (7803 S.W. 51st Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32608)

Luke Smith received the University of North Carolina Psychiatry Distinguished Alumnus Award in June. He and his wife, **Caroline Clements**, have two daughters, **Lilliana** and **Hannah**. (2125 Old Forest Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278)

Scott and **Kim Smith** announce the birth of a daughter, **Bradie Caroline**, April 1. They have two

other children, **Bret** and **Brenna Cate**. **Scott** is senior managing partner for SKB Partners in Bryant, Ark., and **Kim** is a homemaker. (199 W. Ridgewood Drive, Alexander, AR 72002)

1997

Scott and **Tanya Wilson Biddle** announce the birth of a son, **Zebedee Clark**, April 19. He has a sister, **Zephi**. (210 Aztec Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Kyle ('96) and **Angie Sickbert Brice** announce the birth of a son, **Rowan William**, May 19. They have three other children, **Keegan**, **Nolan** and **Quinlan**. (101 Jasmine Drive, Republic, MO 65738; angie.brice@sbcglobal.net)

Mat and **Shanna Lumpkins Duszka** announce the birth of a daughter, **Evie Charmaine**, April 16. **Shanna** is an administrative assistant at Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas, and **Mat** is assistant director at the Family Center at Las Colinas. (2000 Albert Road, Carrollton, TX 75007)

Nick ('99) and **Angela Sholl Kennedy** announce the birth of a son, **Samuel Nicholas**, April 10. They have another son, **Will**. (1752 Wild Briar Drive, Dallas, TX 75214)

Greg and **Shannon Pollard King** announce the birth of a son, **Paxton Dean**, April 13. They have two other children, **Bailey** and **Beckham**. (124 Bedstone Drive, Fruit Cove, FL 32259)

Christoph and **Karin Springer Kündig** announce the birth of a daughter, **Melody Faith**, Feb. 14. (Schaufelweg 11, 3098 Schlieren b. Köniz, Switzerland)

Gregory Allen Nelson graduated from University of Texas at Dallas School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences with a Doctor of Audiology May 16. (15850 N. Thompson Peak Parkway, #1043, Scottsdale, AZ 85260)

David ('05) and **Dawn Prince Spence** announce the birth of twin daughters, **Rebecca Madison** and **Elisabeth Morgan**, March 22. They also have a son, **Matthew**. **David** is a physics teacher for Pasadena Memorial High School, and **Dawn** is a homemaker. (16579 El Camino Real, Houston, TX 77062)

1998

Vernon and **Wendy Gooch Bailey** ('98) announce the birth of a son, **Laken Gooch**, Jan. 20. **Vernon** has a law practice, and **Wendy** is

a paralegal. (9808 Double Rock Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134)

Neal ('97) and **Natalie Sullivan Daugherty** announce the birth of a son, **Garrett Neal**, June 22. They have two other children, **Riley** and **Jackson**. **Neal** is an accountant for Dr Pepper. (1609 Sweetbay Drive, Allen, TX 75002)

Paul ('96) and **Erica Harris Maple** announce the birth of a daughter, **Elizabeth Blake**, Nov. 12, 2008. They also have a son, **Riley**. **Paul** is the associate general counsel for Clarcor Inc., and **Erica** is a homemaker. (2514 Sunset Place, Nashville, TN 37212)

Matt ('97) and **Dawn Michaelson Shinn** announce the birth of a son, **Carter Matthew**, Aug. 16, 2008. (104 Golf Lane, Burlington, IA 52601)

Todd Mullins is senior graphic designer in creative services at Abilene Christian University. His wife, **Rebekah Bradley** ('97), is a registered nurse at Hendrick Medical Center. They have three sons, **Connor**, **Dawson** and **Landon**. (2341 Independence Blvd., Abilene, TX 79601; trcdmullins@eplus.net)

Jon and **Amy Neely Stevens** announce the birth of a son, **Luke**, April 1, 2008. They have three other children, **Neely**, **Ava** and **John**. **Jon** is an accountant for BNSF, and **Amy** is a homemaker. (182 Muir Hill Drive, Aledo, TX 76608)

Kevin and **Kristen Seidel O'Quinn** announce the birth of a son, **Scott Andrew**, March 25. They have two other sons, **Sam** and **Seth**. (4136 Duncan Way, Keller, TX 76248)

1999

Brad ('97) and **Carrie Young Beasley** announce the birth of a son, **Jackson Ray**, Oct. 7, 2008. They have another son, **Todd**. **Brad** is a project manager for Prison Health Services, and **Carrie** is a homemaker. (602 Corlew Court, White Bluff, TN 37187)

Jason Cassity married **Bethany Foemmel** April 11. **Jason** is vice president of Bank of America, and **Bethany** is director of finance at Dallas Theater Center. (8919 Lakewood Drive, Irving, TX 75063)

Kevin and **Ashley Sholl Lemaster** announce the birth of a son, **Sawyer Miles**, May 13. They have two other children, **Ranger** and **Lucy**. (16640 Redbud Drive, McKinney, TX 75071)

Brian Polk is the athletic coordi-

nator and head football coach for Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, Texas. His wife, **Jennifer White** ('00), is a speech language pathologist. (371 Harrison Circle, Van Alstyne, TX 75495; polkjen@hotmail.com)

Eric ('00) and **Stephanie City Schwietzer** announce the birth of a daughter, **Peyton Elizabeth**, March 11. They have another daughter, **Hayley**. **Eric** and **Stephanie** are co-owners of Custom Design Awnings. (3615 Glen Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37412)

Todd and **Mary-Margaret Blue Watson** announce the birth of a son, **Evan Todd**, Sept. 18, 2008. They have two other children, **Anna** and **Toby**. (2508 W. Ocala St., Broken Arrow, OK 74011; rtwatson99@hotmail.com)

2000

Colby and **Emily Kulild Adams** announce the birth of a son, **William Seth**, April 29. They also have a daughter, **Abigail**. **Colby** is manager for Health System Sales at ASD Healthcare, and **Emily** is a dental hygienist. (8811 Fenchurch Road, Dallas, TX 75238)

James and **Jeni Shepherd Allen** announce the birth of a son, **David James**, May 20. They also have a daughter, **Wendy Ann**. (370 School Road, White Bluff, TN 37187)

Don and **Tianay Chambers Carroll** announce the birth of a daughter, **Makena Ashtyn**, May 6. **Don** and **Tianay** both work for Bank of America in Dallas. **Don** is a portfolio monitoring manager, and **Tianay** is a network security process engineer. (924 Hidden Hollow Court, Coppell, TX 75019)

Robert ('99) and **Deidre Mathis Channing** announce the birth of a daughter, **Katelyn Grace**, May 15. They have another daughter, **Shelby**. (102 Lori Circle, Searcy, AR 72143)

Yancey and **Jennifer Sheets House** announce the birth of a son, **Grant Isaac**, April 26. They also have a daughter, **Ansley**. **Yancey** is a portfolio analyst at First Financial Trust and Asset Management Company, and **Jennifer** teaches part time at Abilene Christian High School. (726 Diamond Lake, Abilene, TX 79601)

Christie Perry married **Jim Merritt** June 27. (120 Trail Ridge Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075)

Elizabeth Smith married **Ian Godburn** Jan. 10. **Elizabeth** is a

(continued on Page 28)

SUBMITTED PHOTO

[ALUMNI AWARDS]

A look at 2009's honorees

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN

EACH YEAR DURING HOMECOMING'S BLACK AND GOLD Banquet, Alumni Relations showcases those who have proven to be exceptional in their field of study. These noteworthy graduates have left an impression on their community, live according to University ideals, and are active in their support of Harding. Above all, they serve their God, church and community.

→ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

After graduating from Harding, Vice Admiral **Mike Bucchi** ('69) was commissioned into the Navy where he served as an instructor at Top Gun.

He has completed various Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf cruises aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, USS America and USS Theodore Roosevelt with more than 1,000 carrier-arrested landings. Bucchi received his third star en route to his assignment as Commander, U.S. Third Fleet and director of the Navy's sea-based battle lab. His last active duty tour as commander of the fleet was in 2003.

His long list of awards and commendations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and Bronze Star with Combat Valor.

Bucchi now works with Concurrent Technologies Corp. as a principal technical investigator.

After the death of his first wife, he married **Marilyn Rogers** ('81) Jan. 1, 2006, who taught kindergarten, first grade and reading recovery for 16 years. In 2002, she began a DivorceCare program at the Southeastern Church of Christ in Indianapolis. The program rapidly grew, aiding single moms and their children as they dealt with divorce.

In 2008, she joined the San Diego Council of the Navy League, serving as vice president of scholarships and starting the Alexander Kreiglowa Scholarship Program.

The couple lives in Bloomington, Ind., and has five children and three grandchildren. They worship and serve at North Central Church of Christ.



→ OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

Upon seeing the need for closer health care in rural Alaska, **Bob** ('93) and **Laura Degnan** ('92) **Lawrence** started Alaska Family Doctor. The small medical company provides cutting-edge medical communication technology, helping to reduce the distance between patients and their physicians.

Beginning as a minister in Anchorage, Bob earned his M.D. from University of Washington School of Medicine and went on to work for Norton Sound Health Corp. The company provided medical services to Nome, Alaska, and 15 surrounding villages. He served as family physician, diabetes consultant, cardiac risk consultant and student clerkship coordinator.

In 2008, Alaska Family Doctor began; Bob is owner, cofounder and medical director, and Laura is president and chief executive officer. Before developing their business, both Lawrences taught — Bob as an adjunct professor of anatomy for University of Alaska Biomedical program, and Laura as an English and history teacher.

The couple has four children and worship at Nome Church of Christ.



College of Arts & Humanities

For **Diane Trombly** ('78) **Brown**, teaching has always been a natural fit. Her love for art and children mixed together to create a rewarding profession. As a result of her two loves, Brown was awarded Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Michigan Art Education Association for 2008-09.

For the past 11 years, she has taught art in the Bay City School District and rotates between three area schools. Brown believes that integrating instruction is an important learning tool and works with teachers to incorporate their curriculum into her classes.

In addition to teaching, Brown is a commissioned watercolorist who specializes in architectural renderings of historical homes. She has also lent her abilities to the theater, designing and implementing stage makeup for "The Hobbit," "Snow White," and "Joseph and the Amazing, Technicolor Dreamcoat."

She and her husband, Loran ('81), have two daughters and attend Wheeler Road Church of Christ in Midland, Mich.

College of Bible & Religion

Many great men and women have left a legacy that will forever be tied to the University — **Jimmy Allen** ('52) is one of them. Allen has traveled the globe preaching God's word and converting the lost in 42 states and seven countries. He has authored 13 books and spoken at numerous college lectureships.

Before coming to school at



Harding, Allen served 18 months in the Army and 22 months in the Army Reserve. In 1949, Allen became a Christian and began preaching soon thereafter. He hasn't stopped since.

Allen retired as professor of Bible from the University after 50 years of dedicated service in spring 2009. During his teaching career, he was given the Outstanding Educator Award and Distinguished Teacher Award.

He has been married to Marilyn McCluggage ('50) for 58 years, and they have three children and seven grandchildren. They are members of College Church of Christ in Searcy.

College of Business Administration

Having worked 24 years in the commercial real estate industry, **Blair Bryan** ('84) has estab-

lished himself as a leader in his field. Specializing in tenant representation, Bryan's experience has allowed him to successfully negotiate and serve clients in the competitive real estate market.

Currently working at Jones Lang LaSalle in Charlotte, N.C., as managing director, he has also worked for The Staubach Co., Arthur Young & Co. and EquiFirst. He has negotiated transactions for notable companies, such as Pepsi Bottling Group and Duke Energy. Bryan also provides customers with strategic planning, leasing, dispositions, financial advisory services, purchasing and built-to-suit proposals.

Outside of work, he participates in numerous community activities including the Charlotte Arts and Science Council, Sportsman's Club of Charlotte, and Charlotte Chamber of Com-

merce. He and his wife, Karen Slater ('84), have two children and attend Providence Road Church of Christ.

College of Communication

Upon graduating from the University, **Joe Aaron** ('83) moved to New York City seeking a job in television. His list of employers includes Children's Television Workshop, HBO, Cinemax and Comedy Central.

However, Aaron is best known for his work as co-creator of the character "Doug," which follows the imaginative title character through his middle school dilemmas.

Aaron wrote, produced, directed and starred in his first feature film, "Crazy Jones," which won several awards, including best feature at the Cinequest International Film Festival. He can also be seen in the documentary "Dreams on Spec," focusing on screenwriters in Los Angeles as well as HBO's Emmy award-winning "Autism: The Musical" featuring his daughter Lexi.

He is currently attending the American Film Institute in L.A. and will graduate with his M.F.A. in 2011. He is also working on his next film project, "Big, Fat, Dumb and Ugly," which he hopes to film in Searcy.

Hilltop Community Church of Christ is his home congregation.

College of Education

When **David Fincher** ('72) began teaching at Greater Atlanta Christian School, he was not expecting to stay long. What began as a short stay has continued to this day. During his time at GAC, he has served as teacher, debate coach, principal,

academic dean, vice president and president.

Now Fincher is president of Georgia Independent School Association after holding the title of president for both the National Christian School Association and the Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools.

Actively serving on several boards focusing on community improvement and Christian humanitarian efforts in Atlanta, he is also working with a group of American and African leaders to develop a Christian school in Kigali, Rwanda.

He and his wife, Beth Saxton ('72), have two children and are members of Campus Church of Christ, where he is an elder.

College of Nursing

A graduate of the College's second nursing class, **Arlene Hughes** ('78) **Morris** received support and encouragement

from her professors. As a result, she is doing the same for the next generation of nurses, teaching in the School of Nursing at Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala., for the past 17 years.

During her time at AUM, she has received multiple honors, including distinguished teaching awards from the Alabama State Nurses Association and Auburn University, and receiving the School of Nursing Faculty Excellence Award in 2007.

She has published and presented nationally and internationally regarding issues related to caring for older adults, nursing education and nursing pro-

fessionalism. Prior to teaching, Morris worked in medical surgical nursing, home health care and student health care.

She and her husband, Kelly ('74), live in Montgomery, Ala., have two children, and attend GracePointe Church of Christ.

College of Sciences

Since his college days as president of the senior class and Alpha Chi national honor society

as well as the University's first AIC scholar-athlete in baseball, **Joe Hightower** ('59) has

earned a few more titles, including professor in chemical engineering at Rice University and philanthropist.

While at Rice, he received the American Chemistry Society National Award for his research in petroleum chemistry. He chaired the chemistry department for three years and was acting director of University sponsored research and faculty secretary. In 2002, he was named Emeritus Professor.

Hightower may be best known for cofounding and leading the Hospitality Apartments, a nonprofit foundation providing free housing for families with loved ones receiving various treatments at Texas Medical Center in Houston. He has served as president of the project for 41 years. Each year he bakes almost a ton of sourdough bread for guest families.

As a result of his work, he has received the Jefferson Prize in Houston, Leadership in Volunteerism recognition, and, in 2007, Mayor Lee Brown proclaimed Feb. 18 as "Joe W. Hightower Day in Houston."

He is a member of Bering Drive Church of Christ in Houston. **H**



SUBMITTED PHOTOS, ALLEN PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

journalism professor at Pepperdine University and a writer/producer at KTLA News in Los Angeles, and Ian is a law student at Pepperdine. (1230 Wellesley Ave., #203, Los Angeles, CA 90025)

Kevin and **Katrina Courson Trusler** announce the birth of a daughter, Callie Elizabeth, Dec. 2, 2008. They also have a son, Carter. (19318 Otters Wick Way, Land O' Lakes, FL 34638)

Matt and Diana Grogan Wisdom announce the birth of a son, Jackson Dean, Dec. 28, 2008. They also have two daughters, Rachel and Rebekah. Matt is a demand planner for Smith & Nephew, and Diana is a medical technician for Baptist Memorial Hospital. (220 Plum Pointe Ave., Southaven, MS 38671; mwwisdom@yahoo.com)

2001

Michael and Natalie McNeese Arnold announce the birth of a daughter, June Lightfoot, June 2. They also have a son, Owen. Michael received his master's in Christian leadership and Psy.D. in clinical psychology from Fuller Theological Seminary June 13, and Natalie is a high school math teacher at Roosevelt High School. (5085 N. Wishon Ave., #47, Fresno, CA 93704)

Chad Hethcox married Meghan Henson Aug. 9, 2008. Chad is a fulfillment coordinator for Healthways Inc., and Meghan is in sales for Choice Medical. (601 Old Hickory Blvd., #119, Brentwood, TN 37027)

April Meeker married Justin Mattox Oct. 18, 2008. April is an emergency room registered nurse at St. Vincent Medical Center Northeast in Fishers, Ind., and Justin is a firefighter for Fishers Fire Department. (2305 E. 550, S. Anderson, IN 46017)

Cody and **Christy Orr Oldham** announce the birth of a daughter, Andi Renae, Aug. 9, 2008. Cody works in Civil Engineering for Crafton, Tull, Sparks in Little Rock, Ark., and Christy is a homemaker. (9102 Marquis Drive, Benton, AR 72019)

Sam and Shauna Lee Sanders announce the birth of a daughter, Georgia Claire, Sept. 12, 2008. Sam is a partner at the law firm of McCamy, Phillips, Tuggle and Fordham LLP, and Shauna is a media specialist for Dalton City Schools. (1009 Prince Way,

Dalton, Georgia 30721)

2002

Bryan and Dana Sloan Dill announce the birth of a daughter, Asher Ryne, Dec. 31, 2008. Bryan works at Holly Hill Church of Christ, and Dana teaches kindergarten in Shelbyville, Ky. (245 Meadow View Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601)

Jason and **Roseann Hittlet Heckendorf** announce the birth of a daughter, Josephine Lily, Feb. 6. They have another daughter, Jillian Rose. Jason is manager for The Diamond Center, and Roseann is a homemaker. (3413 Tennyson Drive, Janesville, WI 53548)

Ryan and **Daniela Ciliberti Nichols** announce the birth of a daughter, Rachele Anne, Aug. 28, 2008. (5028 Ashley Drive, Nashville, TN 37211)

2003

John ('04) and Jamie Beecher Bradshaw announce the birth of a son, William Douglas, Feb. 11. John works for Baptist School of Nursing, and Jamie works for Dillard's Inc. (10 Mine Hill, North Little Rock, AR 72118)

Jeremy ('01) and Kylie Powell Cochran announce the birth of a son, Ezra, Aug. 25, 2008. Jeremy is a licensed marriage and family therapist. (149 Whitetail Road, Statesville, NC 28625)

Lee and **Kimberly Post Davey** announce the birth of a daughter, Ashlynn Faith, March 23. Lee works for the highway department for the town of Coventry, and Kimberly is a departmental grant administrator for Connecticut Children's Medical Center. (397 Mark Drive, Coventry, CT 06238)

Micheal and Sandy Felker announce the birth of a son, Hewson Micheal, May 19. Micheal is a youth minister at Lakeside Church of Christ in Mansfield, Texas, and Sandy is an art teacher at Erma Nash Elementary. (3010 Scenic Glen Drive, Mansfield, TX 76063)

Christy Holloway McCullough received her Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer credential in July. Her husband, **Aaron ('04)**, works for Xavier University School of Medicine. (306 Hunterian Place, Newnan, GA 30265)

Caleb Pagel graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a master's in computer information systems May 3. He and his wife, **Jessica Palmer**

('04), have a daughter, Riley. (12190 Eagle Pointe Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33913)

Casey and Mary Beth Stanford Picker announce the adoption of a son, Josiah, July 24, born, Jan. 21 in Ethiopia. They have another son, Caleb. (3112 Maggie Drive, Benton, AR 72015)

David ('02) and Anna Smith Scharff announce the birth of a daughter, Callie Elizabeth, Oct. 26, 2008. (4457 Koblan Court, Hixson, TN 37343; david.scharff@tnpg.com)

Warren ('02) and Lacey Nelson Shepherd announce the birth of a son, Phoenix Nelson, April 3. They also have a daughter, Addison. Warren is a youth minister at Waterview Church of Christ, and Lacey is a teacher at Richardson Independent School District. (2017 Crabapple, Plano, TX 75074)

Jarod Varner was promoted to vice president of bus operations for Denton County Transportation Authority. His wife, **Paige Tenery**, is a first-grade teacher in Carrollton, Texas. They have a daughter, Allie. (1702 Circle Creek Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067)

2004

Jennifer Cole married Dustin Vaught June 13. They both teach second grade. (3277 N. 825 W., Boggstown, IN 46110)

Jason ('99) and Jana Weaver Edens announce the birth of a daughter, Rachel Brooke, Jan. 10. They have another daughter, Emma. Jason is employed by Montgomery County Sheriff's Department as a deputy, and Jana is a volume analyst for Gulf South Pipeline. (29110 Red River Loop, Spring, TX 77386)

2005

Christopher ('03) and Jennifer Wisecarver Brainard announce the birth of a son, Jackson Christopher, Feb. 19. Christopher is director for Service Integration with Tanner Health System, and Jennifer teaches fifth grade at Carrollton Middle School. (113 Creek Side Drive, Carrollton, GA 30116)

Daniel ('07) and Rebecca Chaffin Hill announce the birth of a son, Caleb Neil, June 11. They have another son, Caden. (6301 Camp Robinson Road, H207, North Little Rock, AR 72118)

Kyle and Melissa Ward Vath announce the birth of a son, Asher Dalton, March 31. Kyle is director of care delivery at Heartland of

Madiera, and Melissa is a homemaker. (912 Matinee Blvd., #1A, Cold Spring, KY 41076)

2006

Jeremy and Andrea Copeland Harper announce the birth of a son, Christian Andrew, Nov. 27, 2008. (616 Ash St., Heber Springs, AR 72543)

Chad Nicholson was promoted to senior designer at Wal-Mart creative services. He is responsible for circular and in-store seasonal programs nationally. (4077C Glenstone Court, Springdale, AR 72762; cenicolson@gmail.com)

2007

Jason and Rachel Javellana Eades announce the birth of a son, Elias Hezekiah, March 26. (6969 W. 90th Ave., #932, Broomfield, CO 80021)

2008

Travis Fletcher ('06) married Erin Plemmons June 7, 2008. Travis teaches seventh-grade social studies at Randall G. Lynch Middle School in Farmington, Ark., and Erin teaches fourth-grade literacy at Ledbetter Intermediate. (11409 Old Apple Hill Road, Prairie Grove, AR 72753)

2009

Ethan Bryant ('08) married Anna Langston May 10. Ethan is an accountant for Thompson-Dunavant. (2481 Crescent Glen Circle, #203, Memphis, TN 38133)

Katie Witter married Michael Kintz April 18. Katie is a middle school math teacher, and Mike is a history and social studies teacher and football coach. (3040 New Haven Place, Mt. Dora, FL 32757)

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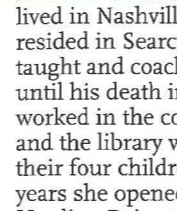
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Passages

Dorothea Smith James ('33), 96, died April 30. She received her bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University and her master's from Hardin-Simmons University. She was a retired teacher and a member of Elliott Street Church of Christ in Breckenridge, Texas. She is survived by two daughters, Clarita Bryan and Maunie Lou Alkire; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Rheba Stout Berryhill Mattox ('34), 96, died June 10. She married "Pinky" Berryhill following graduation from Harding. Except for a short time during the early 1940s when they lived in Nashville, Tenn., she resided in Searcy where Pinky taught and coached at Harding until his death in 1972. She worked in the college infirmary and the library while also raising their four children. For many years she opened her home on Harding Drive to help house students and/or visitors to campus. In 1989, she married Billy Mattox, a former schoolmate at Harding and longtime family friend. They enjoyed 12 years together traveling, gardening and entertaining family, friends and neighbors. She cared for Billy during his final months following an accident, which eventually took his life. The past few years of her life were spent at Harding Place. On her 90th birthday in 2003 she was honored by Harding with a plaque recognizing her many years of service and support. She was preceded in death by her first husband, M.E. Berryhill, and her second husband, **F.W. Mattox ('33)**. She is survived by three sons, **Don ('62)**, **Dick ('70)** and **David ('72)**; a daughter, **Naita Tate ('64)**; 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.



Ollie Z. Couch Golleher ('38), 93, died June 21. She did post-graduate work at Southern Arkansas University while a social studies teacher at Barton Junior High in El Dorado. She was a charter member of College Avenue Church of Christ where she taught Sunday school for many years. She was a member of Porcelain Artists of El Dorado,

South Arkansas Medical Center Auxiliary, and Arkansas Retired Teachers Association. Since moving to Searcy in 1999, she was a member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, James, and infant twins. She is survived by a son, **Dr. James H. Golleher ('66)**; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. (1 E. Blackberry Road, Searcy, AR 72143)

Louise Terry Hester ('38), 91, died Feb. 8. She was *Petit Jean* queen in 1938. She is survived by a daughter, Linda Wright.

Norman Keith Smith Sr. ('39), 90, died Dec. 28, 2008. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from University of Arkansas in December 1944. During World War II, he served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army's 5th Air Force where he was assigned to the occupation of Japan. He was one of several medical officers assigned to the quarantine of returning Japanese troop ships. He married in 1948 and began a medical practice in Pocahontas, Ark., that lasted until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of Arkansas Medical Society and Harding University Athletic Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jane Lee Bankson; a son, Norman Jr.; a daughter, Melinda Raley; and two grandchildren. (4921 Hawthorne Road, Little Rock, AR 72207)

Hugh H. Rhodes Sr. ('40), 93, died Feb. 25. A former Harding faculty member, he was among the founding faculty of Lubbock Christian University in 1957. He taught and coached for 50 years. He also preached for churches in Arkansas and Texas and served as an elder for Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, for 35 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Norma Ruth Moser, and youngest son, Charles. He is survived by two sons, **Harvey ('70)** and **John**; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert M. Cronin ('43), 87, died Dec. 25, 2008. He was in the U.S. Army during World War II. Previously employed at Industrial Rubber Products in Wheeling, W. Va., he was president of Wheeling Rubber Products Inc. until his death, having worked there since its establishment in 1948. Cronin served as an elder at National Road Church of Christ in Wheeling since 1962. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club,

was on the board of trustees of Ohio Valley University for 44 years, and served as chairman of that board. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Mary Alberta "Abbo" Ellis ('41)**; a son, **Patrick ('77)**; two daughters, **Mary Gardner ('74)** and **Era Cox ('71)**; a brother, John; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. (20 Beehaven Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003)

Blonnie Doree Fitzgerald Krewson ('43), 88, died Dec. 15, 2008. She worked in a small arms plant during World War II in St. Louis. She moved to Phoenix in 1956, completing her bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Arizona State University. She taught in public schools for 23 years before retiring in 1983. She served many years as a Sunday school teacher at Eastside Church of Christ in Phoenix. She was preceded in death by her husband, Murel. She is survived by a son, Richard; a daughter, Peggy Skinner; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

C. Wymer Wiser ('45), 85, died Dec. 21, 2008, in Murfreesboro, Tenn. He earned his Master of Arts from George Peabody College in 1946 and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1956. He was a retired professor emeritus of biology at Middle Tennessee State University. In addition to MTSU, he also taught at Jacksonville State University, Lipscomb University and Vanderbilt University. He taught Bible classes at Minerva Drive Church of Christ, where he preached when the minister was away. He preached 65 years, including 36 years at Fairfield Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Laura F. Gribble; two sons, Cy and Gary; a brother, Vernon; two sisters, Mildred Frazier and Eunice Driver; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. (814 Minerva Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37130)

Mae Shull Holloway ('47), 95, died July 2. She was a retired school teacher and a member of the Arkansas Retired Teachers Association, the Van Buren County Historical Society, and the Van Buren County Home Extension Club. She is survived by a stepson, Robert Holloway; two stepdaughters, Jo Ann Hall and Christine Florence; five step-grandchildren; and five step-great-grandchildren.

Ruth Benson Crowder ('48), 82,

died March 29. Ruth worked as a substitute teacher and a teacher's assistant in the Macomb area of Illinois. She attended Macomb Church of Christ where she taught Sunday school. She was a member of the McDonough District Hospital Auxiliary. She was preceded in death by her husband, Numa. She is survived by two sons, **George ('73)** and **Stephen**; three daughters, **Elaine Kushmaul ('72)**, **Marcia Rogers** and **Sally Talbert**; a sister, **Lois McEuen ('50)**; 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Louise Roberts McCluggage ('48), 84, died Aug. 10. She held numerous jobs in accounting but spent most years as a homemaker while working in various volunteer activities including treasurer of Oklahoma Christian Women's Association Board and Enterprise Square Patriots. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Estel McCune McCluggage ('48)**, and a son, **David ('74)**. She is survived by a daughter, **Nancy Louise Cook ('72)**; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Nelda Sarah Chesshir Hawley ('49), 83, died March 31. She met her husband, Roger, while at Harding, and the two married Dec. 25, 1949. Over the years, the couple lived in Arkansas, New York, Nebraska, Texas and Missouri. She was an elementary school teacher as well as a noted speaker for Christian women's groups. She and Roger also were active in marriage encounter and marriage enrichment programs. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, **Roger ('50)**. She is survived by three sons, **Dave ('75)**, **Steve ('77)** and **Scott**; two daughters, **Cecelya Keller** and **Sandy Massey**; a brother, **Bill Chesshir**; a sister, **Jordine McNutt**; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Howard Dean Curtis ('51), 82, died Dec. 25, 2008. He was a school teacher and principal and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in summers and after retirement from teaching. He was on an independent baseball team for several years. He led singing for worship services, funerals and Gospel meetings, was a Bible class teacher, and served as an elder for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Glenave Eubanks ('67)**; a son, **Randy ('81)**; three daughters, **Donna Root ('74)**, **Kathy Haugh**

(76) and **Carol Kell** ('95); three brothers, **Frank** ('46), **Burl** ('50) and **Ervin**; and 12 grandchildren. (820 Donnie Stevens Road, Judsonia, AR 72081)

Norma West Frank Morgan ('53), 78, died June 3. She worked many years as an insurance adjuster for Travelers Insurance Co. and was a member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her first husband, **Kenneth Frank** ('51). She is survived by her husband, **Gerald Sr.**; a son, **James Frank** ('77); a daughter, **Sharon Falaster** ('75); two stepsons, **Jerry Morgan** ('77) and **Jeff Morgan**; three stepdaughters, **Terry Johnson** ('69), **Carla Patterson** and **Shelley Trotter** ('77); six grandchildren; 14 step-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren. (409 River Oaks Blvd., Searcy, AR 72143)

V. Ponder Wright Sr. ('53), 79, died March 29 from complications due to heart disease. He worked with young people on college campuses where he taught religion, history and political science. His two master's degrees were in religion from Harding and political science from East Texas State University. He earned his doctoral degree in political science and education at Oklahoma State University. He was known as a Bible scholar and for his research on the emergence of the American two-party political system. Among the universities and colleges he taught at were East Texas State University (Texas A&M-Commerce), University of Houston, Lamar University, Harding University, Oklahoma Christian University, Philander Smith College, Southeastern Oklahoma University and Trinity Valley College. He served as senior professor for 12 years at Southwestern Christian College. He also served as minister for more than 50 years, preaching in congregations in Arkansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas, where he ended his work in the pulpit at Chandler Church of Christ. He was a member of West Erwin Church of Christ and also attended Westlake Shores Church of Christ. He was a life-long member of Lions Club. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Wanda Adair** ('53); a son, **V. Ponder Jr.** ('81); two daughters, **Margie Wright** and **Carolyn Cameron**; two brothers, **Dallas** and **Winfred** ('56); a sister, **Lola Risener**; and a granddaughter. (8570 Country Road 3409,

Chandler, TX 75758)

Dale Flaxbeard ('58), 73, died May 6. He taught and coached at Purdy (Mo.) High School. He next took a position with Phillips Petroleum Co. in Tulsa, Okla. In 1973, he became owner of Telecheck Midwest, a franchise operating in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Tennessee. He sold the business in 1993 and retired to spend time traveling, fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, **Shirlene Vaughn**; three sons, **Tom**, **Larry** and **Chuck**; two daughters, **Becki** and **Beth**; a sister, **Donna Dickson**; and eight grandchildren (10709 W. 108th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66210)

Clarene "Clara" Cornish Dallas ('62), 69, died Sept. 20, 2008. She was a member of the church of Christ in Dumas, Ark. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, **Danny**; two sons, **Todd** and **Darin**; and a sister, **Aileen Cornish Castlebury** ('60). (1060 E. Waterman, Dumas, AR, 71639)

Maurine Burch Summitt ('62), 102, died June 26, 2008. She was a homemaker and retired teacher, having taught for 16 years in the elementary schools of Missouri and Arkansas. Affectionately called "Mar" by family and friends, she was the wife of the late Dr. William Knox Summitt, former head of the education and psychology departments at Harding. She lived in Searcy from 1934-2000. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1965 and her son, **William Weston** ('53), in 2003. She is survived by two sons, **James Knox** ('60) and **Paul Clayton** ('61); nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Williams Simmons ('64), 66, died June 19, from mantle cell lymphoma. Because he always had an interest in airplanes and aviation, he took flying lessons, made a solo flight, and earned his pilot's license just one week after his 16th birthday. After college graduation, he settled behind a microphone at KWCB, Searcy's radio station (now known as KWCK), where he had spent time during his college years. In 1965, he enlisted in the Air Force. Assigned to the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services, his first year and a half was spent in Peshawar, Pakistan. He was next sent to Seville, Spain, for three years where he met his wife, **Angie**, who worked at a local Spanish radio station.

Upon completion of full-time military service, he opted to continue in the Air National Guard for 15 more years. Eventually settling back in Searcy, Simmons became a familiar voice on KWCK radio for 27 years. He then returned to his first love by becoming manager of Searcy Municipal Airport, a position he held 10 years. The final two years of his work life were spent in the administrative offices of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock, Ark. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, **Angie**; two sons, **Robert** and **David**; a sister, **Ruth** ('60); and two granddaughters. (3 Kevin Circle, Searcy, AR 72143)

Joe Timmons Clary ('66), 84, died April 10. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Elaine**; a son, **Steve** ('74); two daughters, **Velda Matheny** and **Vonica Burrow** ('78); six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. (2015 Old Forge Drive, Little Rock, AR 72227)

Robert David Fant ('71), 59, of Glasgow, Ky., died Dec. 31, 2008. He graduated from the University of Louisville Medical School. He was a family physician in Glasgow and the Fountain Run community for 30 years and served as the medical director for Glenview Health Care and Metcalfe County Nursing Home. He also served on the board of directors for Community Health Care in Glasgow. He was a member of South Green Street Church of Christ, where he served as song leader. He also led singing for the services at NHC Health Care. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Shirley Jean Stafford**. He is survived by two daughters, **Charli** and **Jessie**; his mother, **Ethel**; a brother, **Dennis** ('72); a sister **Suzanne**; and a foster sister, **Carolyn Bautista**.

B. Dianne Holland Hixson ('74), 56, died Wednesday, May 31, 2006. She was a media specialist at East Coweta High School and a member of Peachtree City Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, **Kevin**; two daughters, **Megan** and **Katelyn**; and two brothers, **James** and **Gary Holland**. (375 Northcrest Drive, Newnan, GA 30265)

Karen Blackman ('80), 51, died Feb. 2. She was a long-time swim team coach and academic support faculty member at Greater Atlanta Christian School. She was involved in the planning of the Freeman Aquatic Center at the school. She was preceded in

EVENTS

OCTOBER

29-31 Homecoming and Bison Daze II

30-31 President's Council meeting

NOVEMBER

12 ASI speaker Cynthia Cooper

19 Jazz pianist Bill Carrothers with the University Jazz Band

21-29 Thanksgiving recess

DECEMBER

19 Fall graduation

20-Jan. 10 Winter recess

JANUARY

11 Classes begin

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

25 Pianist Di Wu

FEBRUARY

9 Chamber Orchestra Kremlin

16 ASI speaker Laura Ingraham

MARCH

6-14 Spring recess

APRIL

1-3 Spring Sing and Bison Daze III

MAY

8 Spring graduation

For a complete list of events and contact information, visit www.harding.edu/calendar.

death by her sister, **Debra**. She is survived by her mother, **Jane**.

William Keith Goree ('80), 49, died July 16, from acute myeloid leukemia. He served as a child abuse investigator for the state of Florida and as an associate minister in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was certified as a law enforcement ethics trainer by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute, and the Institute for American and International Law. Since 1986, he taught applied ethics at St. Petersburg College and has written books, articles and curricula on ethics. He was the winner of the 1999 National Carol Burnett Prize for Ethics in Journalism, the 1997 Florida Professor of the Year, and the National Teacher of the Year Award in 2005. He was also the director of the Applied Ethics Institute since 2005 and was instrumental in establishing its first advisory board. Under his leadership, the Institute developed programs for students such as the Ethics Bowl, the High School Leadership Academy, and the "Characters with Character" library story-time program for children. He is survived by his wife, **Anna L. Scears** ('83); a son, **Michael**; a daughter, **Leann**; his father, **Bill** ('64); and a sister, **Kay Walker** ('84). (4019 Eighth Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713)

Christopher Alan Thompson ('83), 52, died April 24. He is survived by his father and stepmother, **Robert** and **Nancy Thompson**; his mother, **Connie Pope**; three brothers, **Robert Jr.**, **Michael** and **Daniel**; and two sisters, **Kariline** and **Michelle**.

Sean Allen ('87), 44, died Aug. 25. He was sales manager at Blue Shield of California. He was known for an amazing array of skills and interests: surfer, harmonica player, bicyclist, backpacker and billiards player. He showed his love for others by his participation in church missions that offered rescue, relief and compassion to those in need after suffering from fires, hurricanes and lack of medical attention. He is survived by his wife, **Cynthia Brazzel** ('84); two sons, **Tyler** and **Parker**; a daughter, **Hailey**; his parents, **Raymond** and **Yvonne Allen**; and two brothers, **Frank** ('90) and **Troy** ('94). (2171 Pilot Creek Court, Gold River, CA 95670)

Curtis McMurtry ('90), 68, died

May 1. Curtis was the business office manager 18 years at College Church of Christ and an avid sports fan. Prior to moving to Searcy, he farmed in Willow, Okla., and operated McMurtry Agency, an accounting and income tax service and insurance agency. He is survived by his wife, **Zelda Anderson** ('90); two sons, **Curt** and **Casey**; a daughter, **Chris Ann**; and a sister, **Norma Hill**. (1700 E. Park Ave., #27, Searcy, AR 72143)



Micah Denise Rine Pate ('06), 26, died from a tragic shooting April 30 in Bartlett, Tenn. She grew up in Searcy, gradu-

ated from Harding Academy, and was a long-time camper and counselor at Camp Tahkodah. She served as a women's health nurse in Bartlett. On June 20, Camp Tahkodah dedicated a bell tower and gazebo in her honor. Survivors include her parents, **Dennis** ('78) and **Terri Pittman Rine** ('82); a brother, **Casey** ('01); and her grandparents, **Floyd** and **Patty Rine** and **Jerry** and **Delores Pittman**. (1816 Stonecrest, Searcy, AR 72143)



Corinne Harrison Hart, 100, died June 19. She began her career working at The Peoples Bank in Searcy in 1928 which she was

given the privilege of renaming "The Security Bank." She was legal secretary at the J.E. Lightle Law firm in Searcy, assistant court reporter to White County Courts, and her last employment until her retirement was director of food services at Harding University. A member of First United Methodist Church, she was the first woman to be elected to the official board of stewards. She organized the Murray Sunday school class, which she taught for 15 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, **E.V. "Dick" Hart**. She is survived by a daughter, **Anita Corinne Fuller** ('58); two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. (209 Shiloh Road, Greers Ferry, AR 72067)

ENHANCING THE MISSION
Let your values be your guide

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

ASK YOURSELF THIS: How can my family perpetuate our values? Consider creating an endowment at the University — a fund bearing your family name and reflecting your family's values.



Ted Hackney

Discover how to build a values-based legacy through a Harding endowment.

Your family's values

During the Enhancing the Mission campaign, we are focusing on four Pillars of Purpose to fortify the University's endowment. These Pillars of Purpose develop Harding's mission through affordability, ministry training, financial stability and academic enrichment. Upon your request to participate in Enhancing the Mission, we will work with you to develop a written Family Mission Statement and a Family Charitable Stewardship Philosophy Statement. These statements will reflect your family values and guide you in your general estate planning as well as creation of an endowment at the University. Some choose not to develop these statements yet still desire us to assist them in developing their endowment at the University. Your values are reflected by the stipulations you provide in your endowment. During the process of working with you, all matters are confidential.

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choose to provide ongoing financial support to further the University's mission for years to come, you may fund your endowment during your lifetime, through your estate or with both.

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Your family legacy

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Call upon us

If you wish to know more about creating your family endowment at Harding using values-based estate planning or if you would like a copy of the new *Pillars of Purpose* publication describing the University's endowment campaign, please contact us at 501-279-4210; thackney@harding.edu; or Harding University, Box 12283, Searcy, AR 72149-2283. You may also visit www.hgift.org. H

Chasing my wildest dreams

By TRIXIE LEE ('06)

AS A CHILD, I HAD AN INSATIABLE CURIOSITY ABOUT NATURE. I ASKED

questions and explored, but I didn't understand how to find answers until I understood the scientific method.

Linda Niccoli, biology teacher at Fleming (Colo.) High School, taught me how to focus my interest to investigate a question thoroughly and find an answer by giving me the opportunity to do science fair projects while I was a student there.

My experiences in science fairs shaped who I have become as I learned to think critically, design experiments, and reach my own conclusions about the world around me. I was also challenged to present my findings to a range of audiences through science fair that taught me how to communicate what was important and gave me confidence to continue pursuing my passions, as well as exposing me to a wide range of ideas and people from around the world who gave me invaluable connections.

After graduating from Fleming High School in 2002, I went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in biology at Harding University in 2006 where I engaged in research for three years, studying the hatchling ecology of soft-shell turtles with Dr. Mike Plummer.

This experience only confirmed the interest I had found in research through science fairs, and I set out on an even greater journey into graduate school. I am now a Ph.D. student at University of Alaska-Fairbanks, studying the hibernation physiology of Arctic ground squirrels, the only mammals known to maintain body temperatures below freezing without harm. My research involves working with state-of-the-art technology both in the lab and in the amazing Arctic ecosystem as I explore new facets of nature that no one understands. I can't imagine doing anything else in life right now, but I would not have

found this path without the opportunities science fair opened for me.

Science fairs had the greatest influence on the direction of my life of any activity in my "younger" years, and I believe all students should have the opportunity to engage in a project that really interests them. For students who have an interest in pursuing research or medical training, this experience is critical for them to understand what is involved. It may also inspire other students to consider these fields for which we are in a continual need of more dedicated professionals.

Not all students will pursue science as a career, but science fairs can greatly benefit all students who have the opportunity to participate. Thinking deeply about a problem and how to solve it is a skill everyone needs to be productive in life, and designing and completing such a challenging task lets students know that they can succeed when they focus and pursue something. All students should have an understanding of the scientific method so they can understand and apply new findings and technology to their lives, and the most effective way to make this happen is through mentored programs like science fairs that engage students early in their education.

When I was collecting eggs to measure cholesterol as a sophomore in high school, I never imagined that someday I'd be hiking across the Arctic tundra and publishing scholarly articles to share new knowledge about this amazing creation with the world. I've been given the opportunity to chase my wildest dreams, and it all started with science fairs. **H**

Courtesy of the Feb. 27, 2008, *Journal-Advocate*, Sterling, Colo.



ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH ALEXANDER '03

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FINAL FRAME

PHOTO BY NOAH DARNELL

Heston Wingfield from Warren, Ore., scrapes a rusty basketball goal at Sidney Deener Elementary School during Bisons for Christ April 22. The afternoon of service involved more than 2,000 students and is one of many reasons the University was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third consecutive year [Page 4].

