



onestepcloser





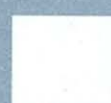
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JETIT
JEAN
2003

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A cleaner version of junior Clay Waliski emerges from a dunk tank at the Jennings Osborne barbecue Oct. 5. Proceeds from the dunk tank benefited the Society for the Advancement of Management. (Photo by Amy Beene)

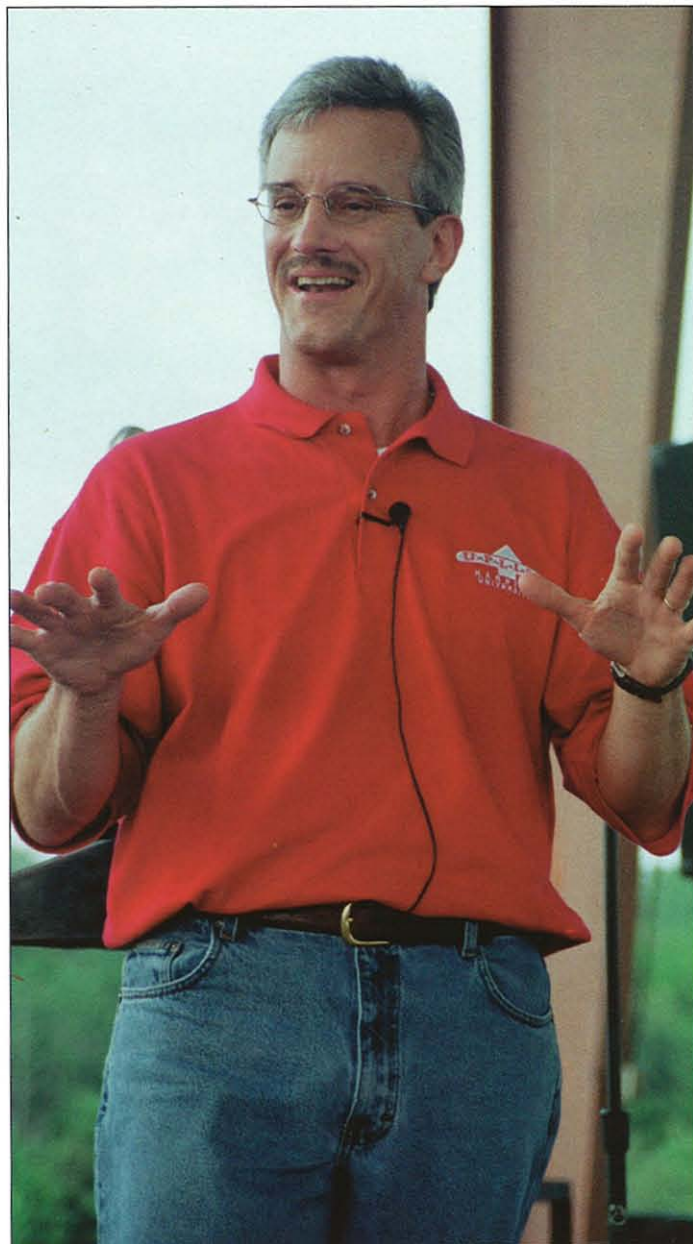


Junior Jonathan Storment and senior Nate Dutile catch up with each other in the student center after summer vacation before classes started in August. A number of students arrived on campus early to participate in Student Impact, music camps, athletic practices and other activities. (Photo by April Clem)

Between classes sophomore Brandon Bonner, freshman Lauren White and sophomore Stephen Paine discuss the social club process. As sophomores, Bonner and Paine were able to give White advice on selecting a club. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Don McLaughlin, preacher at N. Atlanta Church of Christ in Atlanta, Ga., speaks to students at the annual All-School Retreat Aug. 23. McLaughlin pleaded with those in attendance to let God work through them on the mission field. (Photo by Russell Phillips)



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As they began the year, freshmen and transfers were unaware of the strides that most were about to make towards becoming more mature Christians.

They started down the college road with Student Impact. Focused on the theme, "Follow Me," Impact leaders presented to new students the idea that Christ was calling them to follow Him.

"The theme was an act, in a way, for us to show the new students that we need to follow Christ in all that we do," junior Larry Holliman, Impact co-director, said.

From then on, freshmen and transfers were introduced, sometimes for the first time, to a Christian lifestyle that was an every day adventure.

"Harding has helped me have a more personal relationship with God," freshman Cynthia Noah said. "I've become more aware of who I am."

one year, one step, a bit closer.



Freshman Gwen Jackson strums her guitar on the front lawn. The front lawn served as a mecca for student recreation and fellowship throughout the year. (Photo by April Clem)



Freshman Julie Fitzgerald studies by the lily pool. Through classes, chapel and personal relationships, students strove to become their ideal person. (Photo by April Clem)



Dr. Monte Cox, associate professor of Bible, shares his thoughts Aug. 26. The College Church of Christ sponsored the gospel meeting in an attempt to bring students closer to Christ. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

A little muddy himself, senior Troy Helton hoses down Silly Olympics participants during Student Impact Aug. 18. New students pounced on the opportunity to relish in activities such as tug-of-war and the slip 'n' slide. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

Freshman Micah Thomason belts out Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" at Karaoke Night Sept. 20 in the student center. More than 200 students packed into the lounge area to witness their peers showcase their talents at the Student Activities Committee-sponsored event. (Photo by Renee Lewis)



One year later, the Harding Academy lawn serves as a memorial for those who died on Sept. 11. Placed on each of the flags was the name of a person who lost their life in the terrorist attacks. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



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New and returning students alike embarked upon a brand new year, one that held new experiences and opportunities that led students closer to their dreams, aspirations and, hopefully, their creator.

Some took steps forward, some took steps backward. Regardless of the direction, lessons were learned.

"I think in some areas I've taken really big steps," sophomore Kim Taylor said. "I hope that I never become too content with my Christianity. There will always be steps that I need to take to improve my relationship with God."

In May, when the dorm rooms emptied, students looked back on the previous nine months and saw that they stepped into a different frame of mind both emotionally and spiritually.

"In the past year, my relationship with God has grown to a level that I didn't know was possible," sophomore Sara Bukovatz said.

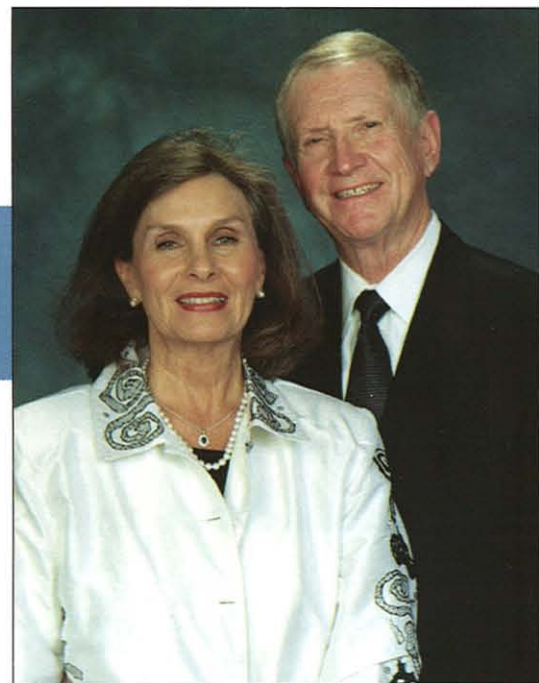


Freshman Hannah Davidson and seniors Lauren Gilbert and Zac Lambrecht share ideas for the year at the watermelon party Aug. 21. Lambrecht, who served as the Student Association President this year, challenged the student body to make a difference in the world, both on and off-campus. (Photo by Russell Phillips)



Dr. Neale Pryor, distinguished professor of Bible, addresses the crowd at the dedication ceremony for Pryor Hall Oct. 26. Pryor, who has received the Distinguished Teacher Award three times, including 2002, became Harding's 11th Distinguished Professor. (Photo by Renee Lewis)

Married in 1960, Pryor and his wife, Treva, moved to Searcy from Illinois in 1962 to begin working at Harding. The new girls' dorm was named after the Pryors in May 2002. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)



Dr. Pryor figures grades for the fall semester. Back in the classroom full time for his 41st year at Harding, Pryor taught both upper and lower level classes. (Photo by Renee Lewis)



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Those who knew Dr. Neale Pryor, distinguished professor of Bible and the recipient of the 2003 *Petit Jean* dedication, said he did more than just teach.

Pryor began teaching Bible in 1962. In 2001 he returned to the classroom full time after serving as vice president for academic affairs for 18 years.

Sophomore Reynard Graham called Pryor a man of wisdom because of his ability to make most aspects of the Bible understandable for students.

"He comes down to a level with the students," Graham said. "He makes it more understandable. The way he teaches, everyone should be able to understand it."

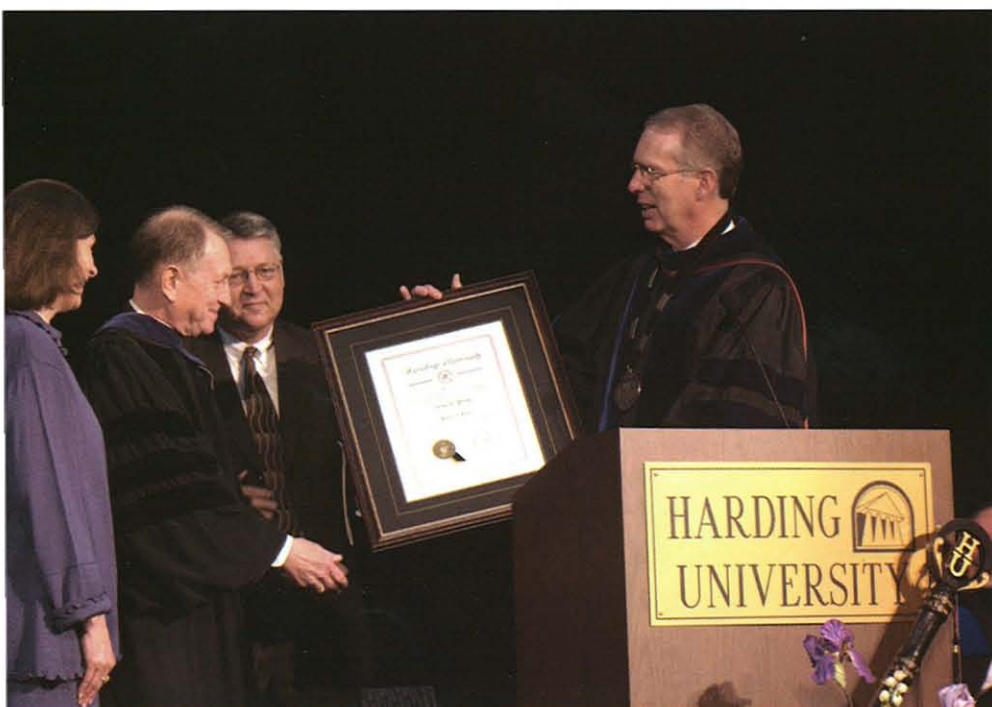
In May 2002, the board of trustees decided to honor Pryor and his wife, Treva, by naming the new girls' dorm after the couple.

At the dedication ceremony for Pryor Hall Oct. 26, board members, faculty, staff and students showed their love for the Pryors.

With a Christ-like spirit, Pryor accepted the honor.

"Thank you for loving us," Pryor said to the crowd at the dedication ceremony. "Thank you for working with us. Thank you for honoring us. Thank you for a day we will never forget."

Honoring his Christ-like spirit, the senior class chose Pryor to be the recipient of the 2003 *Petit Jean* dedication.



President David Burks presents Dr. Pryor, as his wife, Treva, stands by, with an honorary doctorate certificate at the spring 2002 graduation ceremony May 11. Pryor also received an honorary doctorate from Freed-Hardeman University in 1986. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)