Bright Young SCHOLARS

Remembering Dr. Derryberry

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University  Summer 2010
The Long Purple Line and Going Green

And when our work is done,  
Our course on earth is run,  
May it be said, “Well done;  
Be thou at peace.”
(from the West Point “Alma Mater” 1908)

At the United States Military Academy at West Point, the “Long Gray Line” of alumni is upheld to the new cadets as a legacy of leadership and sacrifice. Not unlike West Point’s “Long Gray Line,” SBU has a “Long Purple Line” that includes several former faculty and staff members to whom we pay tribute in this issue.

The late Bob Derryberry, Bill Jester, Darrell Strait, and Betty Heifner will be missed by those of us who knew them. As we encourage and equip our students to lead in troubled times, we look back at the example of the “Long Purple Line” and truly are inspired.

In this issue, we also feature some of SBU’s “Bright Young Scholars” who were selected to represent the next generation of faculty following in the footsteps of the “Long Purple Line.” As you read about them, we hope you will get a sense of their energy and passion for teaching our students.

Speaking of students, you should be proud of them! The list of their achievements goes on and on. Read about the Dannon team on p. 13 and see what some of our business students recently accomplished in a national competition. To keep up with our amazing students throughout the year, visit our news blog at SBUNewsroom.blogspot.com.

We also are going greener in this issue of SBU Life. By reducing the size of this issue alone, we will save approximately 325,000 sheets of 8.5” by 11” paper! We invite you to explore the many ways to connect with SBU online (see purple box on this page).

Finally, we hope you will join us on campus for Homecoming 2010: Cruisin’ Through the Decades on October 22 and 23. It will be a great time of reuniting with old friends and perhaps meeting new ones. You can see some highlights on pp. 14-15.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we continue to appreciate your prayers and financial support for our students and the mission we embrace. We truly could not do what we do without our alumni, donors, and friends.

Thank you for all you do to make “The Long Purple Line” possible!

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Is there a future for Christian higher education?

I was challenged to ponder this question during the recent annual meeting of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) held in Nashville. Dr. Jim Denison, president of the Center for Informed Faith, was one of the featured lecturers for the meeting, and he challenged the gathering of Baptist university administrators to consider how and if Christian higher education can impact students of today.

I believe Christian higher education has never been more relevant than it is today. As Dr. Denison described the world in which our students live, “a world of cultural pluralism, moral relativism, and political polarization,” he provided us with a call to action in our Christian colleges and universities.

I have no doubt that SBU is well-positioned to prepare students for engaging the challenges of today’s world.

SBU is actively engaged in what Dr. Denison presented as a three-pronged response to the post-modern world issues listed above:

1. Christian higher education can counter the moral trends of our day.
2. Christian higher education can prepare students to present the gospel on the missional frontlines.
3. Christian higher education can produce culture-changing leaders for this generation.

While moral relativism is the rule in the world in which our students live, SBU students learn to counter the moral trends of our day. SBU’s caring, academic community provides our students with biblical expression in a relevant community. Our faculty and staff actively seek ways to intentionally create a relevant community for biblical truth in the classroom, in athletic pursuits, and in residential life. While the relativistic world tells our students that there are no absolute truths, the Bible is upheld as the Truth at SBU. “In this post-modern culture, our calling to share biblical truth is more critical to the culture than it has ever been.”

Our students face a global society which is increasingly pluralistic, and they need to know how to face the many challenges of different world religions in the U.S. and across the globe. Today’s “Millennial students want to make a difference. They want to matter.” By helping SBU students prepare to share their faith and commit their lives to Christ, we equip them for the missional frontlines.

Political polarization has divided the people of many countries. Even the Christian community in the U.S. is polarized. We must recognize that “winning elections doesn’t change the culture.” We change culture by preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society, and by doing this we empower them to “change the culture top down through networks of power and leadership.” Servant leaders change society by “engaging the culture, identifying needs and problems, offering hope and acceptance, and sharing sacrificial love.”

In conclusion, Dr. Denison asked the assembled IABCU leaders to consider what their institution would be like if it was started today. When asked about my vision for the future of SBU, I often comment that it is my goal not to change our mission and not to change our core values. If SBU was starting today, I believe we would have the same goals for our mission as our two founders, James Rogers Maupin and Abner Smith Ingman, had in 1878.

I am pleased to say that 132 years after our founding in 1878, SBU is still on mission and absolutely committed to encouraging and equipping students who can have the greatest cultural influence by being well-prepared as servant leaders. I ask you to join me in praying that SBU never forgets our mission:

Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

Pat Taylor
President

“All quotes are from Denison, J. (7 June 2010) “From Truth to Relevance: An Apologetic for the Biblical Worldview” presented at the IABCU annual meeting, Nashville, Tenn.”
May 2010 Commencement

The Southwest Baptist University spring commencement was held on Saturday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. on the Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum on the main campus in Bolivar. Approximately 400 undergraduate and graduate students crossed the stage and received their diplomas.

The commencement address was given by guest speaker Roy Blunt. Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt came to the United States House of Representatives in 1997 with a background as a public servant, university president and administrator. He became the Majority Whip earlier in his career than any Member of Congress in the last eight decades and also served as Majority Leader. Blunt is now the second-highest Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is also a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The people of Southwest Missouri have overwhelmingly sent Blunt to Washington to represent them seven times, most recently reelecting him to Congress with 68 percent of the vote.

Before coming to Congress, Blunt was elected in 1984 as Missouri’s first Republican Secretary of State in more than 50 years, a position he held for two terms, and served four years as the president of SBU.

Blunt was named Missouri’s Republican of the Year in 2001. As Whip, the second highest Republican in the House, he led a team of deputies and assistants that columnist Robert Novak described as “the most efficient party whip operation in congressional history.” In one of Novak’s last regular columns with the Washington Post he wrote about Blunt’s efforts to ensure that the votes of our military men and women serving overseas are counted.

Other legislation Blunt championed in recent Congresses includes the Combat Meth Act, the Charitable Giving expansion and legislation to enhance transparency in federal spending by establishing a searchable database of all federal grants and contracts. Blunt has become a recognized leader on energy issues and led the fight for more American-made energy in 2008. He also played a key role in helping negotiate an update of our nation’s foreign intelligence surveillance laws. Blunt is a member of the Smithsonian Council for American Art.

The Congressman is married to Abigail Blunt. They have four children: Matt Blunt, Missouri’s 54th Governor; Amy Blunt, an attorney in Kansas City, Mo.; Andy Blunt, an attorney in Jefferson City; and Charlie (age 5). Blunt has six grandchildren: Davis Mosby, Ben Blunt, Branch Blunt, Eva Mosby, Allyson Blunt, and Brooks Blunt.

In addition to recognizing the graduates, the 2010 Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award and the 2010 Life Beautiful Awards were presented during the ceremony. The Distinguished Teacher Award is chosen by the current and three previous graduating classes and is presented annually to a faculty member for “outstanding teaching ability and personal guidance.”

Rosalee Mills Appleby, a career missionary to Brazil, established the Life Beautiful Award in 1937. This award is given annually to an outstanding man and woman in the Southwest Baptist University spring graduating class. These individuals have demonstrated, by their scholarship and character, that they are living a “life beautiful.” The faculty selects the recipients whose identities remain confidential until the announcement at spring commencement.

2010 Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award: Dr. Julie Bryant

Dr. Bryant said, “I enjoy teaching at SBU for many reasons. One is that I am a graduate from here and now have the privilege of teaching with some of my former professors. I am surrounded daily by God-fearing men and women of integrity who continue to serve as role models and friends. Another reason I love SBU is that I get to teach the most wonderful students in the world. I love coming to work each day because I have the pleasure of helping to touch the future teachers and their future students. Because of the position I am in, I am able to influence more children through my students than I ever could have on my own in the public school classroom. A third reason I love teaching at SBU is that I am given some flexibility in scheduling so that I may go...
home between classes to spend time with my precious children.”

Graduating from SBU in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary and early childhood education, Dr. Bryant then completed a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Missouri—Columbia in 1999. In May, 2008, Bryant obtained a doctor in education degree from Liberty University in the areas of educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, and reading. Her dissertation research included an analysis of the past decade of Newberry Award winning children’s books for character traits. From the research, Bryant’s dissertation outlines the character traits (positive and negative) that are revealed in each of the Newberry Award books from 1997 to 2007.

Dr. Bryant has been given an opportunity to co-author a series of international discipleship curriculum for Global University that targets children ages 8-11. The first set of the three part series has been published and are available for purchase at www.globalkids.net.

Dr. Bryant and her family attend and are actively involved at Lakeside Assembly of God in Pittsburg, Mo. Her uncle is the pastor of the church, her husband plays various instruments in the worship team, and Dr. Bryant sings in the choir. Additionally, she is a “fill-in” singer at the Esquire ministry where her husband Robbie is a faithful member of the Esquire worship band.

**The female recipient of the Life Beautiful Award for 2010 is: Marita McCampbell.**

Marita is from Marshall, Missouri, and graduated *summa cum laude* and received a Bachelor of Science in physical education. She was recognized in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*, and has received the Baker Book Award, Greek Scholar Award, and Hebrew Scholar Award. Marita has participated in SBU mission trips to Guatemala, Brazil, and Baja, and she led the trip to Baja over spring break this year. She attends Southern Hills Baptist Church in Bolivar where she plays the piano and sings in the college worship service and leads a women’s accountability group. Marita teaches several aerobics classes at the Meyer Wellness Center and is very active in intramural athletics.

Dr. Taylor said, “Marita is a servant leader. One faculty member described her as a great representative of the SBU mission statement. She is caring, hard working, and very involved in her classes and community. She consistently exhibits Christ-like character as she extends grace to others.”

Marita’s parents are Roy and Margaret McCampbell.

**The male recipient of the Life Beautiful Award for 2010 is: Micah Titterington.**

Micah is from Tonganoxie, Kansas, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies and communication, and a minor in biblical languages, with a 4.0 GPA. He was recognized in *Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*, is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, and has received the Baker Book Award, Greek Scholar Award, and Hebrew Scholar Award. Micah has participated in SBU mission trips to Utah, North Africa and the Phillipines. He was a Welcome Week volunteer from 2006-2009, was a member of Symphonic Winds for four years, and was a member of the SBU debate team.

Dr. Taylor said, “Micah is a member of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield where he is a member of the praise band, a youth worker, and Sunday school teacher. He has been a Discipleship Now leader for the past four years. A faculty member describes Micah as “relentlessly pursuing academic excellence while maintaining an uncompromising commitment to Christ and His message. Micah is gracious, patient, and continually strives to spread the word of God.”

Micah’s parents are Michael and Diane Titterington.
The late SBU communications professor and scholar Dr. Bob Derrberry enthusiastically greeted his classes each day and addressed the assembled students as “bright young scholars.”

It has been said that after the first class meeting with Dr. D, this greeting instilled a mixture of joy and fear into the young people seated before him. Joy, because it was clear Dr. Derrryberry esteemed them. Fear, because they soon learned what was expected of a scholar.

The “bright young scholars” interviewed below represent the next generation of SBU faculty. Dr. D. would delight in the esteem his younger colleagues have for their students and the high expectations for scholars they have as well.

Q. When did you first feel like a scholar?

Mrs. Langford: When I interviewed for entrance to the doctoral program at the University of Arkansas, I spent an hour with two professors who demonstrated the attributes of being a scholar. At that moment, I realized my deep desire to learn from them and to grow in scholarliness.

As I have pursued my degree, conducted research on a myriad of topics in various courses, and made progress in my dissertation, I have had moments where I know I have grown in scholarliness. More than anything, however, I have realized that this process is never-ending. I don’t know if I will ever be a true scholar, but I am confident that I will always embrace the challenge of scholarly pursuits.
Dr. Zach Manis  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
(at SBU since fall of 2005)  
Hendrix College  
B.A. in philosophy, 2000  
Texas A&M University  
M.A. in philosophy, 2002  
Baylor University  
Ph.D. in philosophy, 2006

Dr. Elissa Sartwell  
Assistant Professor & Director of Theatre  
(at SBU since fall of 2006)  
George Fox University  
B.A. writing/literature and communication arts/theatre, 1998  
George Fox University  
M.A.T. secondary education, 1999  
Louisiana State University  
Ph.D. theatre history, dramatic literature, and dramatic theory & criticism, 2006

Dr. John Patton ‘99  
Department Chair, Chemistry & Physics  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
(at SBU since fall of 2004)  
Southwest Baptist University  
B.S. chemistry/ biology, 1999  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
Ph.D. biochemistry, 2005

**Dr. Manis:** It’s hard to pinpoint a particular moment. It was a gradual process, beginning with research papers I wrote as an undergrad; and then as a grad student, writing more papers and learning to teach my own classes; then beginning to attend academic conferences and present my own work. If I had to pick a first moment, it would probably be the independent research project I did as a senior at Hendrix: a lengthy essay called “A Kierkegaardian Approach to Love and Marriage.” It was similar to the capstone project that honors students do their final semester at SBU.

**Dr. Patton:** I first felt like a scholar in my undergraduate chemistry classes with Dr. Gary Gray. He helped push us to realize our full potential with challenging but interesting classes. He helped us search for the answers to chemistry problems, and he helped us develop our skill to search through the literature on our own.

**Dr. Sartwell:** I first felt like a scholar when I was invited to present a paper at a conference of the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association during the first year of my Ph.D. program. I had spent months researching an obscure topic, and I was excited to share what I had learned with experts in my field. I felt that I had contributed something to the discipline of theatre history, even if my contribution was small and relatively undeveloped. I most feel like a scholar when I am in the archives. I feel like I’m part of something important and lasting when I put on the white gloves to protect the fragile pages of a book that hasn’t seen daylight in hundreds of years.

**Q. What do you think is special about SBU students?**

**Mrs. Langford:** In my time at SBU, I have been amazed by the caring, giving attitude that SBU students consistently demonstrate. Although this is evident to many through the students’ involvement in missions and in other worthy causes, it has also been demonstrated in my own life. I have a file full of encouraging notes, thank you cards, and funny stories - all provided by students who took the time to reach out to me. Most recently, when my mother passed away, I had students stop by to see how they could help. You can tell when a student looks you in the eye and says “how are you?” that it is not just a typical encounter. These students care, and they have shown me a lot of grace, generosity, and flexibility as I balance the trials of life with my professional career. They truly amaze and inspire me.

**Dr. Manis:** One of the things I love most about the students I teach at SBU is the seriousness with which they take matters of faith and Christian commitment.

In general, I find that most are personally invested in the philosophical questions and problems that we work through in class, whenever those questions and problems can be shown to bear importantly on their Christian worldview.

**Dr. Patton:** I think SBU students want to do well and do work hard. They care about others and want to see others do well.

**Dr. Sartwell:** SBU students take seriously the university’s mission statement to be caring. I love to see students caring for one another and for their professors. I would like to encourage students to be equally serious about the “academic” part of the mission statement!
Q. What is your favorite Dr. Derryberry story? Did he ever say/do something that influences you as a scholar?

Mrs. Langford: I only knew Dr. Derryberry as a colleague. I was immediately greeted by him using that very term - "colleague" - as I served on the graduation speaker jury (he was the chairperson of the committee). His tone and manner made him believable. He not only referred to me as a colleague, but he treated me as one, and that greatly honored me.

In addition, his scholarliness, sincerity, and humility were immediately evident. When a person combines academic pursuits with a sincere heart and a humble spirit, those around him or her are drawn to the person and to what they say.

Dr. Derryberry demonstrated the attributes of a Christian scholar by combining these attributes. His example has influenced me to strive to be a Christian scholar.

Dr. Manis: I didn’t know Dr. Derryberry well, but I felt that he always made a point to make me feel welcome and appreciated at SBU. I suspected that he was making a special effort to do so because he knew how intimidating it must be for a young professor to come to SBU following in the footsteps of Dr. Dan Cochran, who taught philosophy at SBU for thirty-nine years.

Dr. Sartwell: I first met Dr. Derryberry when I came to campus to interview for the job. He was on the search committee, and I remember looking across the table at his kind face as I attempted to answer each question I was posed. I recall thinking to myself, “He looks like a wise man.” And he was.

I had the opportunity to seek his counsel several times since arriving in Bolivar. I will miss his advice. I’ll also always remember Dr. D’s “pennies.” He would always tell his students to send him a few pennies now and then.

Last summer, one of his former students made good on his promise to do just that. Starla Loertcher and I sat for hours counting and rolling those pennies. I think when it was all said and done, Dr. D made a $25 deposit to the forensics account. But I’ll bet it was the donation he was most proud of!

Q. How do you help your students feel like scholars?

Mrs. Langford: I (hopefully!) encourage students to embrace academic challenges rather than be intimidated by them. I encourage students to consider their own viewpoints and opposing views, to analyze research and consider the reliability and scholarliness of the sources, and to always consider the Christian worldview. In this process, I encourage students to be intellectually honest and humble.

Dr. Manis: The teacher-student relationship is a sacred one; it is up to a professor not simply to impart information to students, but to cultivate critical thinking and reasoning skills and, more generally, to facilitate each student’s intellectual growth.

In teaching philosophy, I introduce students to very difficult questions that, I believe, have enduring significance: questions that, while they cannot be answered empirically (with the scientific method or anything like it) are tremendously important in constructing and defending an intellectually coherent and defensible worldview.

My hope is that students begin to see themselves as scholars as they are invited into these philosophical discussions, introduced to various possible solutions to philosophical problems and then encouraged to work toward developing their own views on the matter.

Through our class discussions and through their own presentations and research papers, they enter into the discipline of philosophical scholarship and begin to see themselves as participants in that discipline, rather than mere bystanders.

Dr. Patton: I try to help students realize that while this subject might be difficult for them they can do it. I try to encourage them to work hard and search for answers to things they do not understand.

Dr. Sartwell: I have a high standard for what it means to be a scholar. I think there is a difference between a student and a scholar. For a student to be a scholar, s/he must read more than s/he is expected to read. S/he must do more research than s/he is required to do. S/he must ask questions that are not found in textbooks, which means s/he must be open to thinking in nontraditional ways.

If I want my students to be scholars, I have to model scholarship for them. I, too, have to think in nontraditional ways and I, too, have to ask myself questions not found in textbooks. I try to establish a classroom environment in which the students feel safe enough to take risks.

Q. What is your advice to the Bright Young Scholars who may be contemplating a college teaching career?

Mrs. Langford: I would not hesitate to encourage them to go for it! College can be a life-changing time for students. It is a joy and an honor to be a part of that.

Dr. Manis: Study broadly. Intentionally take classes outside your major to broaden your understanding of the world. Your undergraduate years are likely the last opportunity you will have for formal studies outside of your own discipline. Learn to think critically; develop your ability to think carefully, clearly, deductively, analytically.

Make it your habit to understand an issue from all sides, not just the one with which you agree. Hone your writing skills: being able to communicate clearly and effectively is an indispensable life skill, regardless of which discipline you have chosen to pursue in your career.

Dr. Patton: You need to love what you teach. Be sure that you love the subject matter and that you love the interactions you have with the students.

Dr. Sartwell: First, I would say that you need to keep your grades high. It can be difficult to get into a good graduate program. Second, I would encourage such students to begin now to expand and develop their understanding of philosophy and theory. Their colleagues in graduate school will be highly conversant in a theoretical language that many of our students are unfamiliar with.

There is nothing worse than being unable to participate in discourse because you don’t know the language. You cannot defend your ideas or ask important questions if you can’t communicate with others in academia.
Dr. Bob R. Derryberry often told his bright young scholars, “You learn until you die.”

Dr. Derryberry, senior professor of communication and director of the speech and debate team, lived out this truth throughout his 72 years as he loved to learn and loved to see others learn.

“The greatest part [of teaching] is to grow and learn with wonderful students,” Dr. Derryberry told the Omnibus Oct. 9. “It’s been heavenly.”

Dr. Derryberry died Tuesday, April 13, in his home.

“He lived to teach; he lived to coach; he lived forensics,” said Professor of Behavioral Sciences Dr. Richard Brewer.

Dr. Derryberry’s six-page resume testifies of his love for learning. He received his B.A. in speech in 1960 and his M.T. in 1962 both from East Central State University of Oklahoma, his M.A. in speech communication in 1966 from University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. in speech in 1973 from University of Missouri.

Dr. Derryberry began teaching in Colorado public schools, then came to Southwest Baptist College in 1961. Besides a three year break from 1978-1981, where he taught at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, he continued teaching at SBU until March.

“Teaching anywhere has been a dream come true,” Dr. Derryberry told the Omnibus last fall.

Along with his love for learning and teaching, his love for coaching was a significant part of his life. Dr. Derryberry established a long tradition of excellence in speech and debate from the beginning. Since joining the national forensics program Pi Kappa Delta (PKD) in 1969, SBU has won more than 15 superior awards at national competition, captured more than 20 Missouri State Sweepstakes and brought home innumerable first place trophies from various competitions.

Last year, the forensics team celebrated their
Dr. Derryberry was recognized for his love of learning and his love for his students. Among many honors, he received the Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1992 and 1997, the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri in 1989 and the Degree of Highest Distinction from PKD.

But, as the humble Dr. Derryberry would admit, it was not about honors. “Dr. Derryberry’s greatest accomplishment was the investment he made in the lives of his students,” said President C. Pat Taylor. “It is difficult to adequately express the impact Bob Derryberry has had on SBU students, faculty and colleagues. Bob leaves an amazing legacy...”

But anyone who knew Dr. Derryberry knew he reserved the greatest spot in his heart for the love of his life, his wife Joyce. Dr. Derryberry and Joyce enjoyed 51 years of marriage.

“I’ve had a very understanding wife who has made lots of cookies,” Derryberry told the Omnibus last fall.

“She was so incredibly supportive,” said Dr. Brewer. “I never heard anything but a positive word about Joyce.”

Dr. Derryberry is also survived by daughter and son-in-law Marian Derryberry and Adam Ackerman, grandson Miles Derryberry Ackerman of West Newton, Mass.; daughter and son-in-law Elisa and Jim Fish and granddaughters Christy and Emme Fish of Morrisville and Julie Reynolds of Ft. Worth, Texas, as well as extended family.

Dr. Derryberry’s impact on the lives of students, colleagues, friends and family was evident as approximately 400 attended his funeral to celebrate his life. The University showed their respect for the beloved professor by flying the flags at half-staff the week of his service.

Even after his death, Dr. Derryberry will continue to help “bright young scholars” gain their own love for learning. In his honor, contributions can be made to the Bob and Joyce Derryberry Tradition of Excellence Scholarship and the Bob Derryberry Endowed Chair Fund. To make a contribution, please call 417-328-1802.
SBU tennis coach John Bryant inducted into Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

SBU tennis coach John Bryant was one of 15 individuals and two teams inducted January 31, 2010, into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Bryant is in his 44th year at SBU and also serves as an associate professor of mathematics. He currently serves as the men’s and women’s tennis coach for the Bearcats.

At the event, Bryant thanked his wife Judy and family, along with his former players during his acceptance speech. Several of his current and former players were in attendance. His advice to fellow coaches was “take care of your players and they’ll take care of you.”

Bryant’s teams have played in 19 NCAA national tournaments and also 19 NAIA national tournaments. In 1984, his men’s team won the NAIA co-national championship. Bryant earned the NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1983 and also won the NCAA National Coach of the Year in 1990.

In 2008, both of his Bearcat teams won MIAA championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The women’s championship was the first ever MIAA title for any women’s sport at SBU. Bryant is proud of the 2008 teams, both of which earned awards for the highest team GPAs among teams competing in the national tournament. Bryant’s teams hold a near perfect graduation rate, with only one player who didn’t graduate during Bryant’s tenure.

Joining Bryant in the 2010 Hall of Fame class are former Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer, former Missouri Tigers and San Diego Chargers tight end Kellen Winslow, Sr., former Kansas City Royals pitcher Mark Gubicza, and former St. Louis Cardinals catcher Tom Pagonzzi.

Also inducted were Bruce Van Dyke, a former guard for the Missouri Tigers and Pittsburgh Steelers; current Northwest Missouri State football head coach Mel Tjeerdsma; former Kickapoo High School boys’ basketball coach Roy Green; former Joplin Parkwood High School football coach Dewey Combs; the late Father Martin Hagan, who coached rifle at Saint Louis University; cyclist and fundraiser Peter Herschend; Leo Harrison III, Missouri premier trap shooter from New London; Mark Musso, a sports executive and president and CEO of Special Olympics Missouri; 92-year old Ellen Gale Hopkins Green, a former swimming star in Springfield in the 1930s and 40s; and Irl Robinson, a golf club maker from Clinton.

Two teams also inducted were the Mid-State Oil softball teams from the late 70s in Jefferson City and the 1979 Southwest Missouri State national champion women’s field hockey team. White River Valley Electric Cooperative was honored with the John Q. Hammons Founder’s Award. Volunteer Ralph Biele and athlete Chet Hollingshead were inducted into the Special Olympics wing of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

NEW Bearcat LOGO

SBU President Dr. Pat Taylor and the SBU Department of Athletics launched a new logo for Bearcat athletics at a special ceremony May 11 in the Jane and Ken Meyer Wellness and Sports Center.

The previous Bearcat had been used in various forms for nearly 30 years, along with other representations of a Bearcat and the words SBU Bearcats. There was considerable discussion about changing the older logo to warrant Dr. Taylor to appoint a committee this past fall to review making a change. With input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and fans, the SBU Cabinet made a final decision on the new look of Bearcat Athletics following recommendations from the committee.

The new look borrows some elements from the previous Bearcat but was updated for a more modern design. Additional features were added including a cross built into the ‘U’ and other design elements incorporated into the lettering of SBU and Bearcats.

“I appreciate the committee’s work, especially that of T.J. John, who chaired the committee, along with Dr. Renae Myles, Mike Pitts and many others,” said Dr. Taylor. “The development of the new logo is good for athletics and entire university.”

Jim Ward Design out of St. Louis completed the artwork which also included a new family of logo marks. Strategic Marketing Affiliates (SMA) in Indianapolis will oversee the licensing of the new brand. “There is a lot of excitement and anticipation about the new logo,” added Dr. Myles, who coordinated the university’s work with Jim Ward Design and SMA.

The athletic department and the SBU Bookstore hosted a one hour “Midnight Logo Launch” on May 11, prior to the unveiling. The bookstore opened at the late night hour for a special event where fans were able to purchase apparel and items with the new look.
New SBU athletic director doubles as pastor

By Susan Mires (contributing writer for The Pathway)

Mike Pitts describes himself as the biggest cheerleader for Southwest Baptist University (SBU).

At 6-foot-2, he may not be exaggerating. As the new director of athletics, he’s enthusiastic about boosting programs at the University. Pitts said he wants to make sure the 350 student-athletes at SBU are in the best position to succeed in all areas of life.

He also offers a word of advice.
“Don’t map out your life. It can take twists and turns.”

His own path has taken him from SBU’s first graduate in economics in 1985 to a full-time pastorate and now back to Bolivar, where he also serves as pastor of an outreach ministry for First Baptist Church.

“As weird as my path has been, I wouldn’t change a thing,” he said. “Rhonda (his wife) and I love where we are and we love where we’ve been. What would I ever complain about?”

After graduation from SBU, Pitts worked on the Kansas City Board of Trade. While in Kansas City, he began playing piano for a worship service at a nursing home and the call to ministry began to develop. In 1994, he moved to Princeton, N.J., where he was founding pastor of Princeton Bible Church. The church grew from a Bible study of four people to a multicultural membership of more than 100.

But a few years ago, Pitts and his wife began to feel the call back to Missouri, where they could raise their two sons (Jack, now 11, and Brock, now 9) close to their grandparents. The move from New Jersey was one of the most difficult of his life, Pitts said.

“Of the 1,100 miles back, I think I wept for 1,000,” he admitted.

He thanks SBU President Pat Taylor for helping him to find his place at the University and feeling at peace with God’s plan. First Baptist Pastor Billy Russell connected Pitts with Wednesday Nights at the Esquire. The Esquire is an old movie theater in downtown Bolivar that First Baptist has transformed into a seeker-sensitive worship center.

“We just help people any way we can, people who struggle in life,” Pitts said. “People drag in all these problems, but they know they’re welcome.”

Most of the 200 weekly attendees at the Esquire have no other church home. They include residents of group homes with physical and mental limitations. For Pitts, the worship service is his favorite hour of his week.

“It’s the way I get my batteries recharged,” he said.

Freddie Pike, minister of education and administration at First Baptist, said Pitts brings passion to the ministry.

“The folks love him. They respond to him very well,” he said.

Pitts’ sermons are informal, interactive discussions, and Pike said the minister is never unnerved by what people might call out to him.

“In his thinking, he’s a strategist and a philosopher. He translates that into common language that people are comfortable with,” Pike said. “He’s very humble. He’s much sharper than he will ever admit to.”

As for his responsibilities as a pastor, athletic director and father, Pitts said he is grateful and humbled all at once.

“I’m in the Book every day, asking God for wisdom every day,” he said.

Pitts served as interim co-director of athletics for a year. Under his leadership, SBU’s corporate sponsorships doubled. In announcing Pitts’ appointment as athletic director May 11, Taylor said his finance background will be an integral part of his management.

“We’re happy where we are athletically,” Pitts said. “We have some good teams that compete hard. Our teams are improving.”

His personal goal is to attend as many games as he can, being the biggest cheerleader on the sidelines and at the forefront for the SBU Bearcats.


www.mbcpathway.com

For more SBU sports news, visit www.sbubearcats.com for the latest updates and information.

www.sbuniv.edu
A group of SBU students recently competed in the national Dannon TRUST Competition held at Dannon’s headquarters in White Plains, New York. SBU’s “Team Victory” placed third overall out of 14 teams, with Pennsylvania State University and Columbia University placing first and second. Approximately 30 students from the top universities in the U.S. were challenged to create new marketing techniques for Dannon yogurt products and were required to give a 20-minute presentation of their marketing ideas. Jillian Arnett ’09, SBU alumna and former SBU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team president, was assigned to be the Campus Ambassador.

Jillian’s Recap of Team Victory’s participation:

Results: SBU Team Victory placed third overall, with Penn State and Columbia coming in first and second. The competition started with 14 teams.

Team Members: Sam Birks, Rachel Levingston, Justin Wessels, Daniel Lancaster, Lauren Mcquire (and me as their number one fan).

Presentation: Team Victory was by far the best presenters during the competition. They were impressive, smooth, poised, and enthusiastic. While watching them, I felt like I was watching a SIFE level presentation, yet they were speaking without a memorized script. It was unbelievable - It blew everyone out of the water. While they were speaking you could see the judges shaking their heads in amazement, whispering excitedly to one another, and we even heard a few “Wow!” Rachel aroused the greatest passion in the room with her explanation of the School Health Day (coupled with Daniel’s video). They had everyone laughing with their wit, and floored by their “out of the box” ideas. Justin’s speaking skills are to be commended. The trio of Daniel, Justin, and Rachel acting out their commercial idea was fantastic. Lauren had a better grip on the finances than anyone else in the room. Sam was poised, and confident. Watching them was the most proud I have ever been of SBU - it even trumped standing on stage at SIFE Nationals.

Question/Answer Time: The former CFO (now VP of Human Resources) congratulated Lauren on her financial skills before asking his question. The only question was what findings did they have from the School Health Day. Justin opened by describing the enthusiasm of the kids during the event, and then handed the mic over to Rachel who described the kids’ favorite flavors. She also mentioned the success of creating kid nag through the event. There were some other teams who kept interrupting each other during answers, and one team even had a four-minute long answer. Justin and Rachel handled the question very well. At the end of the event, the CEO gave a closing speech, and we were the only team he mentioned in his closing remarks.

Market Place Booth: At the market place booth, they were the only team with such an impressive display (thanks to SBU’s marketing office). We found Sam’s talent - as he was able to interact with employees and describe their proposal in full detail. I urged the team members to get in front of the booth and offer their names and handshakes first. They did just that, and engaged people very well. Rachel met a recruiter who asked her several questions. The Dannon human resources team was highly interested in SBU’s talent.

Set Backs: If there was a road block to be faced - we encountered it. We experienced flight delays, lost baggage, no hotel reservation, misprinted documents, late shuttles, misprinted team sweatshirts, computer switch over problems, and the list goes on. After all that happened, Team Victory was still the best team on stage. Their resilience impressed me.

Improvements: There was a marked difference in the team’s dinner etiquette during this trip. Their first business dinner in January, I feel, was a learning experience for them, but they are now fully-equipped to take on the business world. It was an honor to take them out. From this past trip the only suggestion for improvement would be how they travel with others. When travelling with business colleagues it is courteous to always stay together and tend to each other’s needs. They frequently left each other behind, and weren’t watching out for each other. My guess is on their next business trip they will be the best travelling companions around. Again, these are things that a college education won’t teach you - and that I also have had to learn in the past year.

Appreciation to SBU faculty and staff: I cannot thank you enough for helping me by pulling two teams together on such short notice. Simply having a representation at this competition meant a lot to the students as well as me. The support I witnessed from SBU was phenomenal, from the advice and marketing gear, to the financial help and encouragement. Having such an incredible faculty at SBU makes it so easy to be involved as an alumna.

Thanks,
Jillian Arnett ’09
The Dannon Company
Category Analyst - Walmart Team

PHOTOS:
Top Right: Advertising artwork by Team Victory
Bottom Right: SBU students left to right: Justin Wessels, Sam Birks, Rachel Levingston, Daniel Lancaster, and Lauren Mcquire at Bolivar Middle School.
### Friday, October 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Registration Center Open</strong></td>
<td>Goodson Student Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.</td>
<td><strong>Honors Chapel</strong></td>
<td>Presentation of Life Service Award, Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award, Homecoming Court Mabee Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 A.M.</td>
<td><strong>Honorees’ Reception</strong></td>
<td>Mabee Chapel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 A.M.</td>
<td><strong>50-Yr Club Luncheon</strong></td>
<td>McClelland Dining Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Class of ‘60 Reunion</strong></td>
<td>McClelland Dining Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Bed Races</strong></td>
<td>Burnridge Memorial Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>All-Alumni Banquet:</strong></td>
<td>Recognition of LSA Recipients, Past &amp; Present (Childcare Provided) Mellers Dining Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>All-Alumni Reunion &amp; Dessert Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Night Parade</strong></td>
<td>Plaster Athletic Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 P.M.</td>
<td>** Pep Rally &amp; Bonfire**</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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(Activities, Times and Locations subject to change)
For questions or more information about Homecoming 2010, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 417.328.1806 or LSchindler@SBUniv.edu.
How quickly time passes! Another school year has come to a close, and the SBU campus is quiet for a few short weeks. It’s hard to believe I have served as your alumni director for over a year now! A full calendar of events has certainly made the time pass quickly in the Office of Alumni Relations. In addition to the busyness of things in the office, I also got married on May 29, so my personal life has been busy and exciting as well!

My goal for the Office of Alumni Relations is to facilitate alumni relationships with Southwest Baptist University, and I believe we’ve had a successful few months. I have been able to fellowship with SBU alumni at events in Dallas, Southern California, Kansas City, Nashville, Orlando, and Springfield, Missouri. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people who are connected to one another through their time and experiences at SBU. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months to come as we hold events in other cities. I am looking at possible sites for events for the fall and next spring. If you are interested in helping to coordinate an alumni event in your area, please contact me to discuss the details.

Homecoming 2010 will be October 22 & 23, and plans are well-underway. Our theme this year is Cruisin’ Through the Decades. Homecoming is a special time here on campus for the whole family, and I hope you’ll make plans to join us. You will receive a Homecoming registration form in the mail in August. Online registration also will be available beginning August 1.

Highlights of Homecoming this year will be the: Honors Chapel, 50-Year Club Luncheon, Alumni Banquet, Parade, Tailgate Party and Car Show, Football Game and several class reunions. If you graduated in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, or 2000, this year is especially important for you; it’s time for your class reunion! Please remember to return your reunion class questionnaire for the booklet by October 1. Many of us developed treasured friendships while at SBU, so be sure to call your friends to make sure they’re coming. Come home to relive memories and catch up during Homecoming weekend!

I look forward to the upcoming school year and the opportunity to serve as your Director of Alumni Relations. If there is ever any way the Office of Alumni Relations can serve or assist you, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Lindsay Lewis Schindler MBA ’09, BS ’04
Director of Alumni Relations
Southwest Baptist University
800.526.5859, ext 1806
lschindler@sbuniv.edu

Mark your Calendar

SBU Christmas Memories 2010

Join Pat and Judy Taylor for a Christmas celebration in Branson, Missouri, December 3-5. Accommodations will be at the Chateau on the Lake AAA Four-Diamond Luxury Hotel. Cost: $1200 per couple and $650 for singles, a portion of which is a tax deductible gift. Includes lodging for two nights, three shows and meals. For more information please contact Paula Livingston, Director of Major Events, 417-328-1807 or at PLivingston@SBUniv.edu.
1956
Martha (Weber) Hall and her husband Robert ’56 have moved into a senior apartment to make it easier to handle Robert’s progressive problems with Alzheimer’s. 521 Meadow Ridge Lane, Apt 211, Moberly, MO 65270 bobmarhall@mywdo.com

1961
Fred Crigler just went to his 50th high school reunion and was wondering if anyone is working on a SWBC Class of ’61 50th reunion. fbc0071@gmail.com

1964
Glenn Jent teaches full time at Torch Trinity, teaches a Bible class and oversees the English chapel at Myungji University, runs Centennial Christian School (K-12) as the Board Chair/Superintendent, and preaches at three different churches every Sunday. Glenn’s wife, Joanna, has a Ph.D. in English language and literature and teaches part-time at Suwon Women’s College. Glenn hopes to attend the 50th reunion in 2014 and would enjoy hearing from his classmates. 55 Yangjae-Dong, Seocho-Gu, Seoul 137-889 gajent1@yahoo.com

1968
Laurence Dennis Woolbright is a professor at a women’s university in Japan. woolbright@seinan-jo.ac.jp

1969
Rod Masteller has been elected President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. The annual convention was recently held at Summer Grove Baptist Church where Rod has pastored for 11 years. The International Mission Board also appointed 55 new missionaries in a commissioning service held at the church during the East Asia Summit at the same time period. Rod also served as President of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention while pastoring there as well as President of the Pastor’s Conference in Oklahoma. Rod and Linda (Jines) ’70 now have nine grandchildren. 706 Cobblestone Drive, Shreveport, LA 71106 Lmsapphire@aol.com

1972
Joanne (Robinson) Searle and her husband Jon still live in Grain Valley, Mo., Jon is retired; Joanne works part time. Jon loves reading science fiction, fishing and online games. Joanne keeps busy with taking care of her grandson, reading and scrapbooking. They would love to hear from friends. 1307 Golfview Dr, Grain Valley, MO 64029 dogcrazyjoanne@yahoo.com

Robert Seals and his wife Clarlaine ’72 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year, taking a ride into the Grand Canyon Railway and then a cruise to the Bahamas, thanks to their children who footed the bill. Robert serves as Chaplain of the Arizona Republican Party and the Maricopa Republican Committee. Clarlaine is busy with the twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They both bowl in the Christian Bowlers League and have been able to bowl in Colorado Springs, Colo., in the America Games Bowling Competition.

They still plan to get back to visit their ministries in Alaska, much as the Apostle Paul did when he revisited the churches he had established in Asia. Robert has participated in Mission to Japan, a short-term missionary venture to plant churches where there are none and where many have never heard the Gospel. PO Box 6997, Chandler, AZ 85246-6997 believerman@yahoo.com

Barbara (Pitts) Miller is currently the assistant vice president for principal gifts at Auburn University. P.O. Box 2192 Auburn, AL 36831 barbarapitts@auburn.edu

1974
Dan Allen and his wife, Jenny, were married in 2003 in Glennallen, Alaska. After living there, they moved back to the Midwest to be closer to family. We have had several friends attend SBU in the last 10 years, and have found in, of all places, Alaska, friends from Bolivar who are dear to us now. We are fans of SBU and are amazed that after 30+ years, some of his professor’s still remember Dan! 704 Questover Dr. Carthage, IL 62321 fpdocjo@yahoo.com

1975
Patricia (Engle) Martin and her husband Bill celebrated their 20th anniversary of living in South Dakota. The last 15 years have been in the beautiful Black Hills. Their small mission works with a racially diverse group of children and tries to meet the challenge of ministering in a primarily low income area.

Bill also drives a school bus and Patricia teaches music full time and maintains a private studio as well. Their involvement in school has opened many doors to ministry to the families in their rural county. In October, Patricia presented a session as a guest clinician at the first South Dakota State Music Educator’s Conference. The session featured her school recorder group “Recorder Stars” which is comprised of 25 3rd-6th graders playing soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders. recorderqueen@gwtc.net

1978
Larry Scantlan has accepted the position of manager, quality assurance for the U.S. Census Bureau local office in Ocala, Fla. for
the 2010 Census. 24860 NE 188th Ln, Salt Springs, FL 32134 lsclantl@windstream.net

Michael Rorie and his wife, Bobbie, have made a recent move to Fort Hood, Texas. Michael was assigned to First Army Division West as Division Chaplain Plans/Ops NCO. Keesing Michael was assigned to First Army Division 76522 Marti (Hatten) Mauzy wants to reconnect with college friends. Marti’s son, Evan and his wife, Bobbie, have Michael Rorie and his wife, Bobbie, have a son named Wes who is attending SBU and is a member of the SBU baseball team. Together with other alumni and parents we have started a SBU Baseball Booster Club. Anyone wishing to join and support the team can find us on the SBU website, or contact Pam for more information. 1842 N Farm Road 93, Springfield, MO 65802

1980 REUNION CLASS

Linda Cooper Mortimer has obtained a master’s degree from Pensacola Christian College, worked as registrar of the Bahamas Hotel Training College, has been teaching math part time at the College of the Bahamas for 30 years, and now, she owns and operates a preschool and an elementary school in the Bahamas. She also serves as education minister at her church. lingo58@hotmail.com

1983

Pam (Palmer) Burrell and her husband Jack ‘84 have a son named Wes who is attending SBU and is a member of the SBU baseball team. Together with other alumni and parents we have started a SBU Baseball Booster Club. Anyone wishing to join and support the team can find us on the SBU website, or contact Pam for more information. 1842 N Farm Road 93, Springfield, MO 65802

1984

Susan (Glover) Rizzo is moving back to France this year. suslynglo@yahoo.com

Curtis Hutcherson married Cherly Luberisco on March 6, 2006. Curtis retired from U.S. Army and Central Texas College, where he was an instructor, and he currently lives next to Osan AFB in South Korea. PSC 3, Box 3734, APO AP, APO 96266 hautahbgue@aol.com

Dan Fleischmann pastors a small Hispanic congregation about 15 miles north of the Mexico border. Dan and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in November, and they have three kids in college. Bobbi is a music education major at Texas A&M. Rondalea (Stark) Fish is a children’s librarian and enjoys the service of family literacy. She loves to teach art classes, perform story times and collect materials for young children/families. She still is creative both in the art field and the arts and crafts end. Her daughters are all grown up and doing their thing. whitecat35@hotmail.com

1985

Michele (Branstetter) King and her husband Patrick have lived in Farmington, Mo., for 10 years where she works as the senior VP & CFO at Ozarks Federal Savings. Patrick is the chief assistant prosecutor for St. Francois County. They recently moved to a new address. 401 Woodshire Lane, Farmington, MO 63640

Huston (Hugh) McComb has recently accepted a position at First Baptist Church, Houston in the Counseling Department. Hugh is a Counseling Ministry Associate, and he has started his own practice, Compasspoint Counseling. hdllmcc@sbcglobal.net

1988

Paula (Bishop) Gronninger is the director of the support services department at The Arc of the Ozarks. Paula has worked there over 17 years.

1989

Scottye Adkins received a Master of Music in vocal pedagogy and performance in August 2009 from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. She is teaching voice lessons with the Taylor School, a preparatory division of the music dept. of Mississippi College.

Rodney Noel is teaching special education at Springfield Central. 124 Prairie Lane, Marshfield, MO 65706 rnoel@spsmail.org

1990 REUNION CLASS

Rondalea (Stark) Fish is a children’s librarian and enjoys the service of family literacy. She loves to teach art classes, perform story times and collect materials for young children/families. She still is creative both in the art field and the arts and crafts end. Her daughters are all grown up and doing their thing. whitecat35@hotmail.com

Terrie Murdock recently moved back into the area and would like to locate her past roommate. Her name is “Shelly Davis” and she was from Oklahoma originally, and last Terrie knew, Shelly had friends in Colorado or might have moved there. If anyone would have any information on how Terrie can reunite with Shelly, please call, email, or Facebook Terrie. 2240 S. Kansas Ave. Springfield, MO 65807 tiggertee71@netzero.com

Jane and Ken Meyer Wellness and Sports Center
1991
Ernest Hall has not heard from some of his friends from SBU. He is a former premiere basketball player at SBU. Best team ever at the school. He is doing well in Las Vegas. Would love to hear from college friends.
3315 E. Russell Rd. A-4#130, Las Vegas, NV 89120 hallreal@hotmail.com

Douglas Gibson has moved from Fort Benning, Ga., to Fort Sill, Okla., in August 2009. Douglas was promoted June 1, 2009, to Major, Brigade Chaplain for 6 Air Defense Artillery Brigade. 502 Hallwood, Fletcher, OK 73541 chaplaing2003@yahoo.com

Russell Walje is serving as a youth pastor in South Texas. 26011 Pagemill Ln, Richmond, TX 77406 rwalje@riverbendbc.org

Jamie (Cox) Robertson has two books coming out in 2010: A Literary Paris (in August) and An Uncommon Heroine (in October), both published by Adams Media.

1992
Chris Garrett was recently promoted to GS 13 LMSB Revenue Agent working for the IRS. 12902 Misty Lantern Lane, Houston, TX 77044 bowie3232@yahoo.com

Larry Gingrich and his wife Kimberly have recently accepted positions at First Baptist Church Harvester. Larry is serving as worship pastor, and Kimberly is the children's ministry director. 1349 Bradford Dr, Saint Charles, MO 63304 larry.gingrich@fbch.com

1994
William Helsley and his wife Jill (Marsden) ’95 have been married for 13 years. They have moved many times and have settled for now in Lenexa, Kan. They attend Lenexa Baptist church and are very involved there. William just celebrated his 39th birthday in October. William works for IBS Industries through USDA and Jill works at a doctor’s office. They have no kids, but they have a cat that acts like one. 16020 W. 84TH TERR, LENEXA, KS 66219 williamhelsley@ymail.com

1995
Karen (Simpson) Flanigan Karen would enjoy hearing from friends. paralegalmouse@hotmail.com 3040 W. FR 164 Apt. F-4, Springfield, MO 65807.

Jennifer (Ricker) Utter and her husband Eric recently moved to Rocky Mount, Mo. Jennifer now works for Central Bank of Lake of the Ozarks. jenniferutter@hotmail.com

1996
Ryan Palmer is now Senior Pastor at South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo. He and his wife Paula (Worden) live with their two children in Springfield, Mo. rpalmer@south-haven.org

1997
Jennifer (Meyer) Hunter was one of 60 directors worldwide to be selected for the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab in New York, 2009. Jennifer currently is the Associate Professor and Director of Theatre at Cornerstone University, in Grand Rapids, MI. Jennifer_Hunter@Cornerstone.edu

1998
Patrick Feild returned from Iraq in February. Patrick and his wife Julia (Dyson) ’99 just moved their family to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where Patrick is a Captain’s Career Course instructor for the Air Defense Artillery School.

1999
Mindy (Walters) Gomez is the instructional technologist for the Office of Online Teaching and Learning as of July 2009. 2829 West Farm Road 76, Springfield, MO 65803 gomezm@otc.edu

2000 REUNION CLASS
In August 2009, Erin Cobb relocated to Denton, Texas, to work at FEMA’s Regional Office as a Program Specialist in the floodplain mapping and mitigation division. She looks forward to the ministries God has planned for her in sharing His love with Denton and the surrounding communities. erincobb4800@yahoo.com

2001
Ben Briney is now the Head Volleyball Coach at Truman State University. 1902 N. East St., Kirksville, MO 63501

2003
Melissa (Evans) Brennecke is now a Senior Accountant with AEP River Operations in Chesterfield, Mo., and Ben was promoted to a District Director for the Greater St. Louis Area -Boy Scouts of America. Melissa and her husband Benjamin ’03 now reside in Lake Saint Louis, Mo. 630 Green Tree Meadows Drive, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367 thebrenneckes03@yahoo.com

Brian Kaylor received an award for his doctoral dissertation. At the Religious Communication Association Awards banquet in Chicago in November, he received the “Dissertation of the Year” award. Brian is married to Jennifer (Credille) ’04.

Dr. Jordan Cofer, assistant professor in the School of Liberal Arts at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, was recently honored as the Emerging Scholar for the 2009 fall semester from his alma mater, Virginia Tech. As part of the honor, Jordan traveled back to the campus of Virginia Tech to do a keynote lecture on November 5, 2009, to talk to students about higher education. Jordan is married to Rebecca Cofer. jcofer@abac.edu
2004
Jonathon Robert and his wife Ambrosia '04 would like to share that they have bought their first home. 779 N Franklin Ave, Republic, MO 65738 jonathonrobert@yahoo.com

Joshua (David) Sepanski has been deployed to Afghanistan for another tour of duty. He will be gone for at least 9 months. PO Box 515, Greenville, GA 30222 davidsepanski@yahoo.com

2005
Adam Grayson graduated law school from Saint Louis University School of Law. Adam recently opened his own firm with a business partner. The name of the firm is "Grayson & Petersen, LLC." 117 Delord Ave, Maryland Heights, MO 63043 grayson100@gmail.com

Sandia (Brown) '88 and her husband James Cowan '87 would like to announce the arrival of Jonathan Daniel on September 9, 2008. He joins a household of other siblings: Rebekah, 12; James, 10; Rachel, 8; and Raegan, 4. He has been a great opportunity to explain that "No, we are not Catholic or Mormon. God has blessed us with a quiver full of children." Jim is currently teaching at St. Louis Public School District and Sandra is homeschooling the children. They can be reached at JCowan6061@att.net or Junebugkiller2@att.net

Deana (Kristof) Cox '98 and her husband Jeff '99 announce the birth of Naomi Rynell Cox born on March 12, 2009. 2909 Sherman Avenue, Saint Joseph, MO 64506

Mandy (Simms) Day '00 and her husband Brandtley announce the birth of Kincayd Marie born on July 7, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 18.9 inches long. 706 Mill Creek Cove, Canton, GA 30115 mandyday@windstream.net

Robbin (White) Hall '94 and her husband John '92 announce the birth of Adrianna Marie on January 24, 2009.

2008
Piper (Cox) Wright just completed her first season as the head volleyball coach at Parkview High School in Springfield, Mo. Piper is in her second year of teaching health and aerobics.

Marriages

Melanie (Sisler) '04 married Bryce Maielfd on October 18, 2008 in Eaton, Colo. They currently live in Sidney, Nebraska. Melanie works for Cabela’s as a Marketing Statistician and Bryce is currently going to school to receive his bachelor’s degree in aviation. 2440 Fort Sidney Rd Apt 9B, Sidney, NE 69162 mesisler@juno.com

Future Bearcats
Kendra (Schweer) Babcock '97 and her husband Jacob announce the birth of their first child, Nathaniel Spence, on July 25, 2009. Heather (Long) Bainum '97 and her husband Michael would like to announce the birth of their son Ethan Bainum born July 31, 2009. He weighed in at 10 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 in. long. 808 S E 3rd, Newton, KS 67114 giatwap@yahoo.com Scott Beever

Peyton Ezekiel Hostettler '04 and his wife Melissa (Trible) '04 announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Kay Beever, born on October 20, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces. 11 Archer Ave, Springfield, IL 62704 smbeever@gmail.com

Sandra (Brown) '88 and her husband James Cowan '87 would like to announce the arrival of Jonathan Daniel on September 9, 2008. He joins a household of other siblings: Rebekah, 12; James, 10; Rachel, 8; and Raegan, 4. He has been a great opportunity to explain that "No, we are not Catholic or Mormon. God has blessed us with a quiver full of children." Jim is currently teaching at St. Louis Public School District and Sandra is homeschooling the children. They can be reached at JCowan6061@att.net or Junebugkiller2@att.net

Kincayd Marie Day
Peyton Ezekiel Hostettler
Aaron John Smith

Mike Hurtgen '02 and his wife Jamie (Helms) '03 would like to introduce Abbi Grace Hurtgen who was born January 8, 2010 in Carbondale, IL. She was 6 pounds, 13 ounces and 19 inches. She is a wonderful addition to our family. Mommy, big brother, and dad are doing great. 402 E Grand Ave Carterville, IL 62918 mhurtgen@hotmail.com

Briana (Dalby) Mueller '97 and her husband Garrick are announcing the birth of Megan Elizabeth, born September 28, 2009.

Donna (Blakley) Root '95, M.S. '00 and her husband Jamie announce the birth of their daughter, Shannon Marie Root, born May 7, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Donna is a 4th grade eMINTS teacher at Humansville Schools. jdroot@winstream.net

Laura (Woody) Smith '92 and her husband Scott are grateful to God for their new baby, Aaron John. He is welcomed by siblings: Hannah, 9; Eli, 7; Jessica, 5; and Caroline, 2. 622 Bay View Dr, Mishawaka, IN 46544 mom4steelers@sbcglobal.net

David Thiessen '95 and his wife Erica are excited to announce the birth of a son, Benton David, born July 20, 2009. Benton weighed 10 pounds, 9 ounces and was 23 inches long. He was welcomed home by big sisters, Claire and Amelia. Benton enjoyed visiting SBU this fall to watch his aunt, Elsey Hopkins, play volleyball for the Bearcats! thiessend@gmail.com

Aaron Wood '02 and his wife Lindsay (Hickel) '04 would like to announce the birth of Alivia Faye Wood on January 19, 2009. She was 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 19½ inches long. 6430 Madison St, Davenport, IA 52806 amwood6@yahoo.com

Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum, Bolivar Campus
In Memory

**Jester was a mentor, friend**

By Charlotte Marsch ’97

William “Bill” R. Jester, a Bolivar native, former vice president at Southwest Baptist University and Springfield businessman, died Wednesday at the age of 61.

The son of Oby and Nina Jester, Bill grew up in Bolivar, graduating from Bolivar High School in 1966.

Jerald Andrews, president of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, said he looked up to Jester during their school years in Bolivar. Andrews later worked for Jester at SBU, where he also became a vice president.

“He was always an impressive young man,” Andrews said. “He just emulated professionalism at a young age.”

While a student, Jester worked at Bill Roberts Chevrolet in Bolivar, first working on outboard motors and then in sales.

“Bill was extremely bright and articulate and competent in about anything he undertook,” Bill Roberts Jr. said. “My mother [Agnes Roberts] really had a special affection for Bill because I think she realized in Bill Jester a lot of potential. He was a professional in all that he did. He recognized opportunity and took advantage of it.”

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in speech and debate from SBU, Jester went to work for the university as vice president for admissions and financial assistance at the university from 1971 to 1979.

**Jester Learning and Performance Center, Bolivar Campus**

In that position, he hired Andrews to work in admissions.

“We worked well together,” Andrews said. “Being a farm kid growing up in Bolivar, I had so many experiences with Bill as we traveled around the United States that were very eye-opening.”

Andrews said that Jester realized the university needed to concentrate on recruitment outside of Missouri because Missouri student enrollment was dropping. Colorado was chosen for recruitment because, at the time, public education in Colorado was expensive compared to private education in Missouri and the state had few private Christian universities. The duo then embarked on a 10-day trip to Colorado.

“We stayed in downtown Denver, which we realized was a mistake, in a highrise hotel,” Andrews said. “We each had 10 schools to visit. I got about four blocks and realized I had no idea where I was going. I’m trying to read a city map, which I’d never done before. It was those kinds of life experiences I learned from Bill.”

“He taught me so many things. I learned more from Bill Jester and working for him for four years than in any collection of classes I ever studied in.”

Andrews said Jester also initiated satellite recruitment offices for SBU in St. Louis, Kansas City and Wood River, Ill., to cut down on travel at a time when fuel prices were rising.

“He was way ahead of the curve ball there,” Andrews said.

While at SBU, Jester got involved with fundraising, and when he left the University in 1979, he founded Resource Development Inc., the company of which he was president.

RDI provides fundraising consulting services. In 1989, Jester expanded his operations and entered the real estate market. Jester owned commercial and residential developments, many of them in Springfield.

The Jester Learning and Performance Center at SBU that houses the art, communication arts, and language and literature departments, as well as the Davis-Newport Theater is named in honor of the Jester family.

“He’s a great friend of the University,” SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor.

Jester also served as SBU’s consultant during the Partners In Excellence campaign, the most successful fundraising campaign in the university’s history.

“During that time we became close friends,” Taylor said. “He was my fundraising mentor and taught me much.”

Jester received the Life Service Award from SBU in 1990 and was inducted into the Bolivar High School Hall of Fame in 1998.

Previously published in the Bolivar Herald-Free Press on Friday, June 4, 2010
In Memory

Bob R. Derryberry
See p. 8 of this issue for a special feature.

Betty Sue Heifner ’52

Betty Sue Heifner, 85, of Bolivar went to be with her Lord Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010. She was born March 24, 1924, in Huntsville, the daughter of Clarence and Esther Heifner.

Betty attended Huntsville Schools until her senior year when she moved with her sister, Anna Marie, to Shenandoah, Iowa. While completing high school, Betty and Anna sang for many shows on KMA radio. From 1940 to 1945, Betty and Anna, better known as the Heifner Sisters, would sing on countless radio programs in Columbia, Shenandoah, Atlanta, Ga., Cincinnati, Ohio, and St. Louis. Following her radio career, Betty worked for the phone company in Moberly as an operator, saving her money for college.

In 1952, Betty graduated from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, then a two-year institution. She completed her college education at William Jewell in 1955, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. Throughout her life, Betty was actively involved in church activities including teaching and leadership roles. Feeling a call to full-time Christian service, Betty enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. She graduated with a master’s degree in religious education in 1957, which was the first year women were awarded degrees as well as allowed to live on campus.

Upon graduation Betty joined the staff at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., as youth director. For the next several years, she worked in various church staff positions. While serving as educational director of Memorial Baptist Church, Columbia, Betty decided to take classes at the University of Missouri. She said it helped her to keep in touch with the education world and the students. Those few classes led her to return to school to work on a Master of Arts in sociology.

In 1969 she received her degree and planned to find a job teaching sociology. Southwest Baptist College had recently expanded its curriculum to include sociology as a major, allowing Betty to return to her alma mater.

Betty made Bolivar her home for the last 41 years. She taught hundreds of students, helping them better understand their own call to Christian service. She continued to minister through her various leadership roles in the First Baptist Church and served her community on the board of the Polk County Community Center and the Bolivar Sheltered Workshop.

Betty is survived by her sister, Anna Marie Miller of Moberly; brother Leland Heifner, also of Moberly; and many loving family members. She was preceded in death by her mother and father.

Donations in memory of Betty may be made to the Bolivar Area Community Foundation, c/o Murray Funeral Home, PO Box 506, Bolivar MO 65613.

Please note that alumni updates are published in SBU Life in the order they are received, depending on the space available in each issue. Therefore, it may take several months for Keeping in Touch submissions to be printed. Also, we will be happy to list your weddings and babies, but it is our policy not to list engagements or little expectations.

Let’s Keep in Touch!

Alumni News:

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________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________

Name: _____________________________________________ Class of: ________ Degree: ________________

(please include maiden name if applicable)

Address: __________________________________________ City: ______________ State: ______ Zip: ______

Email: ___________________________________________ Telephone: __________________________

# of Children: ___________________________ Employment: __________________________

Spouse: __________________________________________ Class of: ________ Degree: ________________

(please include maiden name if applicable)

□ Please do not publish my address  □ Please do not publish my email address

Return to: Southwest Baptist University • Office of Alumni Relations • 1600 University Avenue • Bolivar, MO 65613

You can also complete this form online at www.SBUniv.edu/alumni if it’s more convenient.
Darrell Rex Strait

Dr. Darrell Rex Strait, 68, of Bolivar died Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, at his home surrounded by family following a lengthy battle with Lewy Body Disease. He is the son of Rex Edward Strait and Eleanor Beatty Strait.

Born Jan. 1, 1942, in Fairfield, Iowa, Darrell graduated from Van Buren County High School in 1960 and Iowa Wesleyan College in 1964 where he was president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He taught chemistry for five years at Ritenour High School in St. Louis. After receiving his master’s degree and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1974, he taught at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa.

In 1967, Darrell married Susan Kennett. They have three children and two grandchildren, Jamie and his wife, Kristi, of Clinton, Jeff and his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Mitchell and Darrell “Riley,” of Olathe, Kan., and Jennifer of Oak Park, Ill.

Darrell was a long-time member of First Baptist Church where he served as deacon, Sunday school teacher and a member of numerous committees. He was an active member of the Bolivar Optimist Club since 1987, serving as club president from 1993 to 1994. A life member of Optimists, he had perfect attendance for 15 years and was a two-time Optimist of the Year.

Darrell taught at Southwest Baptist University from 1981 until his retirement in 2003. He served as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics for 12 years. He received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995. That same year he received the Parkway Distinguished Teaching Award. Darrell also was a two-time recipient of SBU’s Faculty Life Beautiful Award.

Upon his retirement, SBU and its science faculty created the Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith. The center continues to serve students today.

A devoted and loving son, husband and father, Darrell dedicated his life to serving God. He embodied that in whatever he did, whether it was in reaching out to his students, helping his community or being a role model and constant support for his family.

Darrell is preceded in death by his father, Rex. He is survived by his wife, Susan, their children and his mother, Eleanor; brother Marvin and his wife, Doris, of Keosauqua, Iowa; sister Lynnette Dunn of Glenwood, Iowa; brothers-in-law Earl Kennett and wife Mary of Dacula, Ga., Murry and wife Janet of Millersburg and Karl of Jefferson City; as well as one niece and eight nephews.

Memorial donations can be made to Southwest Baptist University in care of the Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith or the Darrell R. Strait Scholarship. To make a contribution, please call 417-328-1802.

Kathy (Birlingmair) Holleman ’92

Lewis Holleman regrets to report that his wife, Kathy (Birlingmair) ’92, passed away on December 30, 2009. She died from a stroke at the age of 40. Kathy and Lewis were married for nearly 18 years and have five wonderful kids. Kathy loved music but her heart was happiest while homeschooling the children for ten years.

Birdena “Dena” (Barnes) McLaughlin ’50

Birdena “Dena” (Barnes) McLaughlin ’50 of Winchester, Va., an alumna of Southwest Baptist College, died on August 1, 2009. She served as Church Secretary of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, from her graduation in 1950 until 1951. She was the wife of Glen D. McLaughlin who was pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Bolivar from 1982 to 1986 and who is now retired.

All of her four children, April Kierstead (’80), Dan McLaughlin (’79), Paul McLaughlin, and Penny Moran, attended Southwest Baptist University. Paul graduated from University of Missouri, Rolla, Mo., and Penny graduated from Penn State University, State College, Pa. April married Van Kierstead (SBU ’82) and Dan married Martha Lively (SBU ’82). Dan and Martha’s two sons, Caleb and Lucas, are currently students at SBU.

Dena was a much appreciated pianist and a composer of music, including Reaching Out to People, I Can See God, God Bless This Home, I Remember, The Golden Years, and a number of others. She taught children’s Sunday school and VBS, directed choirs, and did missions work and personal evangelism.

She was a great mother and a wonderful pastor’s wife.

Bill Tatom ’41

Bill Tatom ’41 passed away on July 7, 2009. He served as SBU Alumni Association Board President and was a Life Service Award recipient. He served in the ministry for 70 years.
**BOOK REVIEW**

**ALUMNI**

**The Winner’s Brain: 8 Strategies Great Minds Use to Achieve Success**  
By Jeff Brown ’92 and Mark Fenske with Liz Neporent

Have you ever wondered what it takes to really succeed at something? Is success predetermined by one's intellectual ability, or is it determined by the capacity to push oneself beyond his or her own boundaries? *The Winner’s Brain*, by Harvard-trained brain specialists Jeff Brown and Mark Fenske, shows readers how to “train” their brains to perform at superior levels.

The authors recognize eight “win factors” that enable this potential: self awareness, motivation, focus, emotional balance, memory, resilience, adaptability and brain care. Not only do Brown and Fenske show how to “develop the right brain” for success, they also provide examples of people who possess those “win factors.” The examples include everyone from the inventor of Whac-A-Mole to the fashion designer Donatella Versace. Each of the examples provides support for Brown and Fenske’s studies.

*The Winner’s Brain* teaches us that no matter our background, intellect or degree, we can be successful and consequently, accomplish great things. By following Brown and Fenske’s eight “Win Factors,” readers can “prime” their minds for success. This book inspires readers to think like a champ and to pursue their goals and dreams.

Jeff Brown, PsyD, ABPP, is a psychiatric instructor at Harvard Medical School. Mark Fenske, PhD, is a former research fellow at Harvard, and is an assistant professor in neuroscience at the University of Guelph.

**FACULTY**

**The Sword of the Spirit: How God’s Word Changes Lives**  
Kelly Malone

Spiritual change is not the result of mere human ingenuity, effort or methodology. *The Sword of the Spirit* challenges us to allow God’s Spirit to use God’s Word to transform us into the likeness of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. As God’s Word comes to life in us, he enables us to change the world for Him!

Kelly Malone is assistant professor of Intercultural Studies and the Jack Stanton Chair of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University. He served fifteen years as a missionary in Japan with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Kelly lives with his wife Molly, his daughter Maggie, and his son Kevin in Bolivar, Mo.

To have your book included here, send details and a review copy to SBU Life, 1600 University Avenue, Bolivar, MO 65613. You can order featured books from the SBU Bookstore. Call them at 417.328.1530 or 877.728.7906.
In the two most recent issues of *SBU Life*, you have read about our plans to renovate Mabee Chapel. Mabee Chapel was built in 1978 and is the center of worship and fellowship on the SBU campus. Since that time there has been one minor renovation in 2004 when a center aisle was added. More than 30 years after its initial completion, the time has come for Mabee Chapel to receive a major renovation and the plans are well underway.

Each of you can tell a story about your personal experience while attending a service or an event in Mabee Chapel:

- You told your parents goodbye and entered the Chapel for the first time with your Welcome Week family
- You sat with your future spouse
- You attended your first live concert in the Chapel
- You were called to go on a mission trip during Missions Week in Chapel
- You were called to the ministry during a Chapel service
- Your seat broke during Chapel

The funding for renovation of Mabee Chapel must come from the support of SBU alumni and friends as funding for projects on the SBU campus does not come from student tuition and fees. The projected cost for this project is $1,400,000 and considerable progress has been made toward this goal; however, we need your assistance. Our goal is to complete the fundraising by December 6 to meet a potential challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation.

While gifts of any size are needed and greatly appreciated, a gift or pledge in the amount of $750 creates the opportunity to name a seat in honor or memory of a family member or friend. Pledges to name a chapel seat can be tailored to fit your family budget: $50 per month for 15 months, $25 per month for 30 months, or $15 per month for 50 months. Please consider completing the pledge card portion of this page and mail it to the address at the bottom of the card. If you have questions about the Chapel Renovation project, please feel free to call the University Relations Office at 417.328.1801.

Thank you for your participation in this much needed campus improvement project that will touch the lives of thousands of students, faculty and staff members, alumni, local community members and guests for years to come.

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**I want to participate in the Mabee Chapel Renovation at Southwest Baptist University.**

Name: ___________________________ Home Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: __________________

Address: ___________________________ City: ______________ State: ______ Zip: _____________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________ Email: _______________

- Enclosed is my one-time gift of ____________________ payable to Southwest Baptist University.
- I pledge $ _____________ to be paid over the next ______ months/years beginning _____________.

**I would like to participate by sponsoring one or more chairs in Pike Auditorium.**  
*(Please indicate information for name plate(s) on reverse.)*

- Enclosed is my one-time gift of ____________________ to sponsor _______ chairs at $750 per chair.
- I pledge to sponsor _______ chairs at $750 per chair to be paid over the next ______ months/years beginning _____________.

You will receive appropriate reminders for your pledge.

*As your Faith Promise is a commitment between you and God, it is understood that you may revise your commitment at any time.*

**My Chapel chair name plate(s) should read:**

1. **Given by:** ___________________________

   *Optional Please circle one: In honor or In memory of:* ___________________________

2. **Given by:** ___________________________

   *Optional Please circle one: In honor or In memory of:* ___________________________

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**Detach and mail to:**

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