

# SBUlife



Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Fall 2010

## *PASSION FOR ONE'S WORK*

2010 Homecoming Recap





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*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

*MATTHEW 22:37-41 (New International Version)*

I wish I had a dollar for every time I have asked God to tell me what to do in a given situation. When the Pharisees tested Jesus with this line of questioning and asked Him for the greatest commandment, they received the response I cited above. Since this narrative also is repeated in Mark and Luke’s gospels, I am guessing these commandments are the greatest for us as well.

So I have made an early New Year’s resolution: I want to be a better lover. I imagine you are snickering, but I really mean it. I really want to love God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all that is left of my mind after sixteen years of raising children. But how often is my heart pre-occupied, my soul tired, and my mind concentrated more on the mundane details of my earthly life than on the Lord my God? More often than I would like to admit.

As if the first commandment was not difficult enough, Jesus gave us the second: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. I am humbled by the loving service my SBU colleagues have given to their neighbors at home and around the globe, and I want to be a better lover in this regard, too.

In this issue, you will read about Minda Cox, Class of 2011, who was born without arms or legs. While Minda could be bitter about her lot in life, she has chosen to be a better lover. Born in India and adopted and raised in the U.S., Minda is an Intercultural Studies major at SBU with the goal of working on the mission field to help amputees and others without limbs. Read about her first mission trip on page 8. Her love for the economically and spiritually impoverished Native Americans of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota will break your heart.

In other feature stories, learn more about the passionate work of alumnus Doug Roller ’76 along with SBU faculty members Dr. Tim DeClue and Dr. Kevin Hopkins. They all love the Lord, music, and mathematical pursuits! All of these men are servant leaders, too.

Also, in this issue, is a tribute to President C. Pat Taylor’s devotion to loving the students at SBU. Dr. Taylor has just begun his 15<sup>th</sup> year of service at SBU. Dr. Taylor truly cares for the students at SBU and considers their graduations among the University’s greatest accomplishments during his tenure as President. He and First Lady Judy Taylor have served at SBU since October 1996.

As this magazine goes to press, we celebrate reaching the \$1.4 million goal for the Mabee Chapel renovation! Reaching this goal assures us the opportunity to receive the \$280,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation (See story on the inside back cover). It is through the financial generosity and prayer support of SBU alumni and friends that this goal has been met. God truly has blessed SBU with outstanding alumni and friends.

Peace to you as you celebrate this blessed Christmas season,

Sharina Smith  
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Senior Director of Marketing & Communications

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or disability. Any person having inquiries  
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*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”*

JAMES 1:2-3

The Southwest Baptist University family has persevered through many challenges during its 132-year history. A study of the history of our University would show that many times in our history, the future of SBU appeared to be very grim. The only reason we are here today is because men and women of faith have answered God’s call to serve at SBU. We have persevered through many trials down through the decades. Today, I consider it a joy to work at SBU and to be a member of the SBU family and part of a University that has survived many challenges.

It is very gratifying to recognize our accomplishments and to declare that last year, the 2009-2010 academic year, was a very successful year. But at the same time we compliment ourselves, we must recognize that we face numerous challenges. We must be prepared to deal with a myriad of challenges during this current year and in future years.

Every day we must remind ourselves that *“Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.”*

If we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and if we continue to focus on our mission statement, we will meet our challenges and we will continue to do great things for the Kingdom of God.

For the past fourteen years, I have been fortunate to work here at SBU. It is humbling to know that I have been president of SBU longer than any other president in our 132-year history. We have an outstanding University! We have great colleagues who genuinely care about each other. Twenty-two people from SBU chose to make the long trip to Kentucky for my father’s recent visitation and funeral. That kind of love and loyalty fully demonstrates the word “caring” in our mission statement. The flowers and cards, emails and text messages sent from the SBU family, including Board members, donors and friends of the University, are so meaningful. This demonstration of love for me and my family is inspiring and increases the passion I have for our University.

During the final hours I spent with my father, I thought a lot about legacy. What do we want our legacy at SBU to be? We certainly desire for SBU to be better than it was when we started. We want SBU to get better every year.

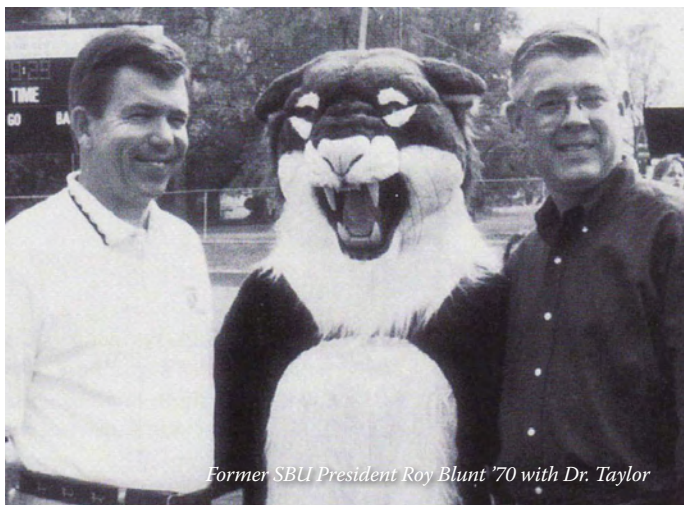
Buildings are important and I am proud of the capital improvements we have made during the past fourteen years. We have better facilities today than we have had in the past. Buildings and good facilities are important and we have spent a significant amount of time fundraising to make capital improvements. I also am pleased with the growth of our endowment – from approximately \$4,500,000 fourteen years ago to more than \$18,000,000 today.

However, I believe the legacy all of us want to leave deals directly with our calling, which is to graduate students who are prepared to be servant leaders in a global society. Our calling is all about mission and students. We build and renovate buildings to enhance our ability to meet our mission with our students. We desire to increase the endowment so we can ensure that we can fulfill our mission for years to come. We want to improve the work environment so all of us can be better prepared to influence our students, and to prepare them to make a difference for the Kingdom.

Everything we do should point to our students, past, present, and future. Our current students, our graduates, and how we have influenced them is our legacy. Our most significant accomplishment over the past fourteen years is the 11,337 degrees awarded!

We truly are blessed at SBU. Because of your support and the Lord’s blessing, our University continues to fulfill our mission of graduating students who are prepared to be servant leaders in a global society.

C. Pat Taylor  
President



Former SBU President Roy Blunt '70 with Dr. Taylor



First Lady Judy Taylor and Dr. Taylor

## It's All About the Students: Dr. Taylor Begins 15th Year at SBU

BY MARCY GREENWADE, CLASS OF 2010

The start of the 2010-2011 school year marked the beginning of Dr. C Pat Taylor's 15th year as president of Southwest Baptist University. Dr. Taylor, the longest serving president in the history of the University, reflected on his tenure.

"It's a big deal to me," Dr. Taylor said as he gazed across the campus from his second floor office. "I am the first president in our 132-year history to start my 15th year. I take pride in that, but it also tells me that I've been around for a long time."

Dr. Taylor smiled. "I'm getting old," he said. "When I came here I had black hair; look at it now. But despite the color of my hair, it's been good. Judy [Taylor] and I have enjoyed our time and feel like this is where God has placed us."

Prior to becoming president of SBU, Dr. Taylor served as chief academic officer at Oklahoma Baptist University. As senior vice president and provost, Dr. Taylor was responsible for OBU's five colleges. He had decided to stay at OBU until his daughter, Charla, graduated, but Dr. Taylor's plans took a slight change in direction when a good friend nominated him for the position as SBU president.

"Well, spring of Charla's freshman year I got a call from an old friend named Howard Barefoot, who was president of Union University at the time. He said, 'I'm looking at this job description at Southwest Baptist University, and I think it would be a good fit. I'm going to nominate you for it. Now we can do it one of two ways; you can send me an updated resume, or I can send this old one and embarrass the both of us. I knew he meant it, so I sent him a resume,'" Dr. Taylor explained.

Dr. Taylor said he had no intention of filling out the application that he received in the mail from SBU, nor did he return the first phone call from SBU's search committee.

By the second time the search committee called, Dr. Taylor realized something, "When opportunity knocks, you open the door to see what's behind it. You may not want to do it. It may not be right. It may not even be God's will, but if you are serious about doing what God wants you to do, you pay attention. I had this realization that I wasn't paying attention."

After a long discussion with his wife, Judy, Dr. Taylor decided to pursue the presidential position at SBU.

After a seven-month nationwide search, Dr. C Pat Taylor was selected as the 24th president of SBU by the board of trustees on Aug. 20, 1996. Dr. Taylor described his presence at SBU as "a God thing." He said it was where God was telling him to be, and he listened. He assumed his duties as president on Oct. 21, 1996.

Since his arrival in 1996, Dr. Taylor has been instrumental in the success of the Partners in Excellence campaign, a ten-year fundraising effort which surpassed its \$50 million goal. More than \$62.5 million was raised during the campaign, which ended in June 2006.

One of Dr. Taylor's first contributions to SBU was the development of the school's mission statement. He described it as one of the most important assets contributing to the consistency of the University since his arrival. "I feel really good about our mission statement," Dr. Taylor said. "For 132 years we've been the same institution. We've always been driven by the great commission. We've always been

driven to be Christ-centered, but we had never really captured the essence of that mission in a sentence."

"When I came, I felt like that was one of the first things that should be done. I'd ask people, what is our mission statement? I would get answers like, 'Well, we have one. It's in the catalog somewhere. It's good. It's a page and a half long, and nobody knows it.' So, I challenged our planning and advisory committee to sit down and write. We worked a year to develop that one sentence."

That one simple sentence has been memorized by hundreds of students and is lived out each day on the SBU campus, but the president's accomplishments do not stop there.

Under Dr. Taylor's leadership, the endowment funds have increased from \$4.6 million to a value of \$18 million today.

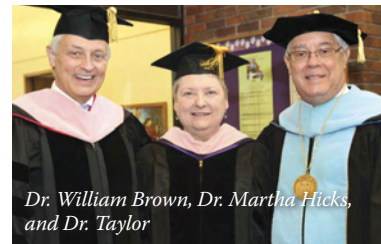
Dr. Taylor has committed himself to bettering the University through on-campus development, increases in the endowment funds, the mission statement and so much more, but he explained that none of these achievements was his greatest accomplishment. If you know Dr. Taylor, you will not be surprised by his answer:

"We've built new building so we could better fulfill the mission statement with our students. We've built our endowment so we can ensure that we can continue to fill the mission statement for our students for years to come. But my greatest accomplishment is that I have handed out 11,337 diplomas.

"After all, it's all about the students."



Welcome Week 2010



Dr. William Brown, Dr. Martha Hicks, and Dr. Taylor



Dr. Julie Bryant



Ken Spurgeon, Dr. Taylor, Levi Bridge

# Fall Semester Begins with Third Largest Enrollment

BY STEVIE SPENCER, CLASS OF 2014

Southwest Baptist University began its 2010-2011 academic year with a formal convocation Aug. 25 in Pike Auditorium and its third largest enrollment.

The formal convocation is a tradition meant to honor faculty and their achievements. This once-a-year convocation began with the call to order by Kurt Caddy, director of university ministries, and was followed by the processional of the SBU faculty gowned in the colors of their respected colleges.

Dr. Duke Jones, associate professor of church ministry studies, led the invocation, and Andrew Campbell, assistant professor of music, accompanied by Melinda Jones, professor of music, led the student body in the singing of the Alma Mater.

President C. Pat Taylor welcomed students and faculty to the convocation, and everyone joined in singing the hymn "To God Be the Glory." After President Taylor introduced the executive cabinet members, Provost Bill Brown introduced the deans and new faculty members.

Award recipient Dr. Julie Bryant, assistant professor of education gave the Chapel address. She credited her award to

her the influence of her past teachers, and she spoke on God's purpose for each person. Dr. Bryant shared an acrostic for the word PURPOSE, telling students that God has "P" plans to prosper them and made them "U" uniquely. She said God has a plan for them "R" right here and right now, gives them "P" promise and possibility, and all of this comes "O" out of his great love. Dr. Bryant told students they are called to be "S" seeking Jesus and imitating him, and each person has "E" eternal impact. Dr. Bryant challenged the students to use their gifts to serve others and to point them to an eternity in Christ.

President Taylor and Dr. Brown presented Dr. Bryant with the 2010 Orient Hendrex Distinguished Teacher award after her speech.

They also recognized Dr. Martha Hicks as the 2010 Parkway Distinguished Professor, awarded by Parkway Baptist Church each year. Dr. Hicks has been teaching for 14 years.

The Newcomer of the Year awards were given to Kenneth Spurgeon, an instructor for the Department of Education, and Levi Bridge, an admissions counselor.

Following the Newcomer of the Year Award, Dr. Andrew Campbell, accompanied by Melinda Jones, led students in the benediction, "The Lord's Prayer," arranged by A. Malotte.

Last Wednesday, students saw SBU faculty and staff members demonstrate the mission of SBU--"a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society."

"Wednesday's chapel showed me how my professors really care about students. It's inspiring to see how they support us and love what they are doing," said freshman Stephania Pecina.

## Fall 2010 marks SBU's third highest enrollment year

<b>First time freshmen:</b>	437
<b>Bolivar Campus Undergraduates:</b>	1,588
<b>Graduates:</b>	727
<b>Mountain View Campus:</b>	168
<b>Salem Campus:</b>	240
<b>Springfield Campus:</b>	640
<b>Total enrollment:</b>	3,669

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# Dr. Tim DeClue & Dr. Kevin Hopkins

BY TRICIA COOR, CLASS OF 2010

Dr. Hopkins

Dr. DeClue

## Dr. Tim DeClue

It's not every day that you hear about a student who graduates from college with a music degree and ends up as a computer information science (CIS) professor. But for Dr. Tim DeClue, that is exactly what happened.

Dr. DeClue has embraced his interest in computer science and has grown with it over his 25 years at SBU. He now is the chair of the CIS department and has taught nearly every course in the department.

After graduating with a degree in music, Dr. DeClue decided he did not want to pursue a career in music. He was then left clueless as to what he should seek as a career.

At the time he was working as an admission recruiter for his alma mater, Northwest Missouri State University. As a result of working for the school, he had the opportunity to take some graduate classes for free. Little did he realize that his casual attitude of just picking classes that looked fun would change the course of his career.

"Honestly, I kind of flipped through the catalogue and said 'Huh that [computer science] class looks interesting, I think I'll do that.' and so I did and it worked out well. As a 50-year-old, I am horrified to look back and think that I left that to chance," said Dr. DeClue.

Even though at the time it seemed like a flippant decision, Dr. DeClue has discovered how much his music background really did prepare him for computer science:

"Musicians tend to be very creative and software developers are very creative. You get the same kick out of writing a piece of software

*WE WANT TO  
SERVE OTHERS  
BY WRITING THE  
BEST SOFTWARE  
AND BY BEING  
THE BEST  
SOFTWARE  
ENGINEERS THAT  
WE CAN BE.*

*-Dr. DeClue*

that you get out of ... writing a song. It's a very creative work that you do, so there are a lot of things that musicians can connect with."

He is also involved with SBU's competitive

programmers. This year, the team placed second at the Consortium for Computing Sciences Midwest Region Programming Contest Sept. 25 at Franklin College in Franklin, Ind.

The team also competed at the IBM-sponsored International Collegiate Programming Contest (also called the "Battle of the Brains") in November, ranking 24<sup>th</sup> and placing within the top three schools from Missouri.

Dr. DeClue enjoys being involved in the team because it allows him to practice other aspects of teaching.

"Much of teaching is coaching and motivating," said Dr. DeClue. "I would consider those a couple of things I do well."

Dr. DeClue uses his teaching position as an opportunity to show the importance of ethics in computer science information. Because technology is rapidly changing, he said, laws do not necessarily keep up. As a result, ethics is sometimes all that programmers have as guiding principles.

"I think the argument is even stronger for a computer science software engineer to have a very thorough grounding in their faith and in the ethical practice of their faith in what they do," said Dr. DeClue. "We find ourselves as computer scientists frequently doing things

for which there are no written laws for right and wrong. So where does that right and wrong come from? How do we know what is ethical and not ethical? That is where our faith can give us great guidance.”

In addition to emphasizing ethics in the area of computer science, Dr. DeClue helps students see how their field can be used to help advance the Gospel. Seniors in the department are required to do a senior project. Last year, the seniors created software for the Salvation Army.

“We see great opportunity to integrate faith

[with computer science],” said Dr. DeClue. “We could have built a client management system for any one, but we chose The Salvation Army because their missions is similar to our mission. We want them to be effective in their mission of reaching people for Christ and serving people.”

Dr.DeClue emphasizes to his students that no matter what project they are working on, they are to do their best and pick a project that will be serving the Lord.

“You must seek out ways to be what God wants you to be, then you must seek out ways

to be the absolute best at that,” said Dr.DeClue. “So if you are the best, you are showing leadership and if you’re doing what God wants you to do, you’re being a servant.”

He then explained how as software engineers his students can achieve being servants by being the best at what they do:

“We want to serve others by writing the best software and by being the best software engineers that we can be,” said Dr.DeClue. “I want to be the best teacher that I can be; I want to make myself available. I want to serve my students in that way. I want to provide the best software engineers to organizations that I can. I want to serve the organization, and I want to serve their [the organization’s] clientele.”

While music is not his career, Dr.DeClue has not completely abandoned his love for music. He plays in a band with Duck Creek Technologies founder, Doug Roller ‘76, and SBU alumni David Hacker ‘73. Dr.DeClue also plays and organizes the music for First Baptist Church’s Wednesday night Esquire Ministry.

Even though Dr. DeClue may have ended up in computer science because of a whim while in his twenties, he has made his career about serving his students and helping them achieve their best.

### *Dr. Kevin Hopkins*

While many teachers take a break during the summer, Professor and Chair of the SBU Mathematics Department Dr. Kevin Hopkins has discovered a fun way to keep young students interested in learning.

Dr. Hopkins began hosting Math Contest Camp in the summer of 2006. Campers are only required to “like math and be willing to look at hard math problems.”

“I never set out to run a camp,” said Dr. Hopkins. “But God has just opened doors and it seems to work.”

The response has been tremendous from students in grades 5-12. Over the 5 years of the summer camp, 176 campers have attended. For the last three years, Dr. Hopkins has offered two weeks of camp in order to accommodate



**DR. DECLUE** received his Bachelor of Science in education in 1982 and a Master of Science in school computer studies in 1985 from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. in instructional technology from Southern Illinois University in 1996.

He is married to Gina and they have three children: Ty, a senior graphic design major at SBU; Tarah, a junior math education major at SBU; and Tori a senior at Bolivar High School.

Dr. DeClue is an active member at First Baptist Church in Bolivar and plays in the worship band for the Wednesday night Esquire Ministry.



the number of students interested.

Dr. Hopkins uses the camps not only to teach math to young students, but also to teach life lessons.

He uses an “easy” button to illustrate that in math contests, there is no “easy” button to make the problems simple. The problems are difficult. He then transitions to show the students that life’s problems are hard as well, but God sent Jesus to solve the problem of sin’s eternal consequences for us.

Dr. Hopkins also uses juggling to teach life lessons to the students. As he juggles, he explains to the students that juggling is following a predictable pattern of operations. Once those operations are learned, juggling can go on indefinitely. However, juggling indefinitely never occurs.

Dr. Hopkins explains that juggling ceases when known operations are not followed flawlessly every time. The problem is not with understanding what should be done, but in actually doing it. Dr. Hopkins then uses this principle to teach the students a lesson applicable outside of math.

“Similarly in life, my problem is not in knowing what I should do, but in actually doing what I know I should do,” said Dr. Hopkins. “Again, God knew we would have that problem, which is why He sent Jesus.”

However, it is not just the children that are excited about the summer math camps.

“Parents are thankful for the opportunities of the summer math camps because there are not many like that for kids to go for a week and study what they’re interested in,” said Dr. Hopkins.

As a father of two children, Dr. Hopkins understands the importance of having opportunities for young learners. In addition to having summer math camps, Hopkins also hosts several math contests during the school year.

When his daughter was in middle school she was working toward competing in contest and found out the night before the competition she couldn’t go because only five students were allowed to go, and she was number six.

“There needs to be an opportunity [for students] so that if you’re willing to do the extra work and put in the time, you get to do a

contest,” said Dr. Hopkins.

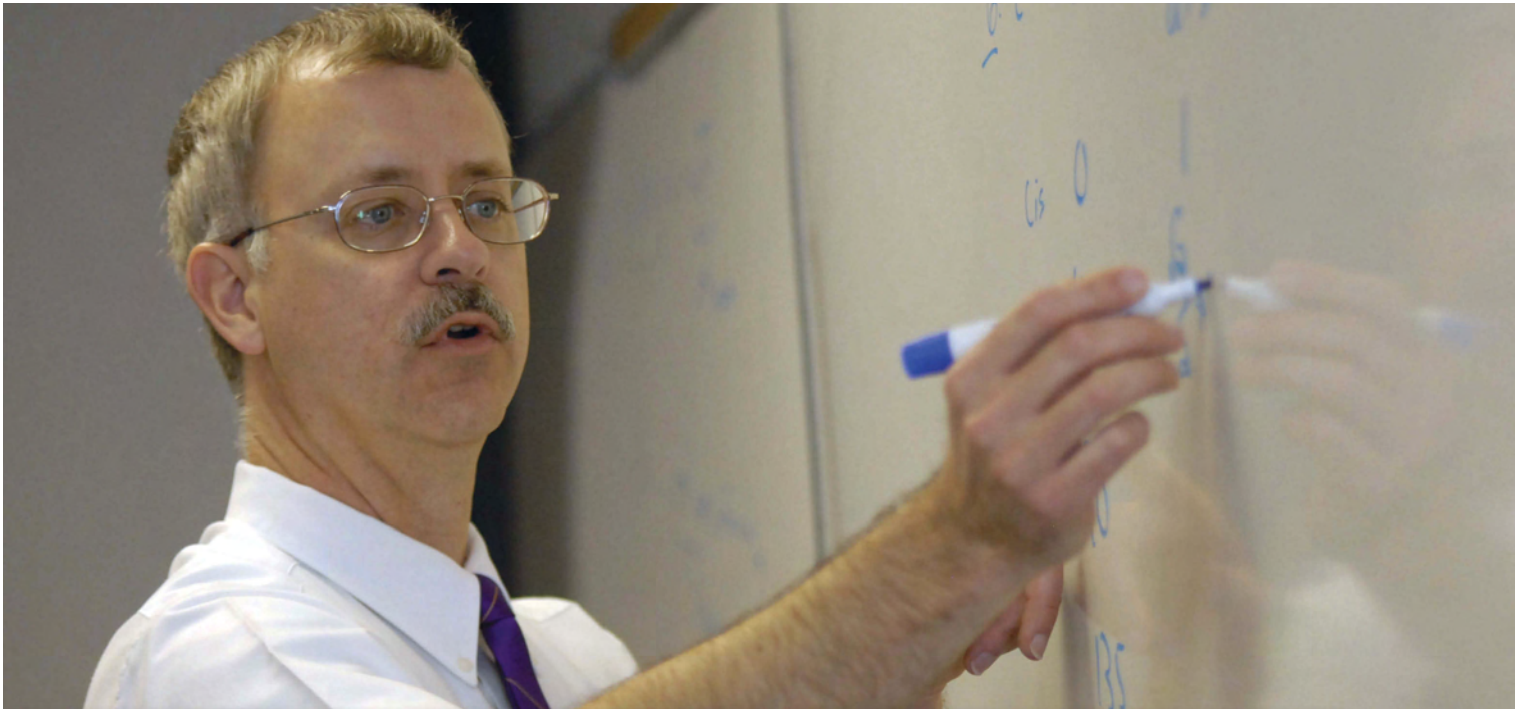
Dr. Hopkins held the first math contest in 2001. Since then, over 6,500 students have come onto the SBU campus for an opportunity to compete. Dr. Hopkins designs the contests so that there is not a limit to the number of students a team can bring. This allows any students to participate if they want to.

“Everyone who has been working on it [competing] can come and not find out the night before they can’t come,” said Dr. Hopkins.

Dr. Hopkins joined the SBU family in January of 1989.

Dr. Hopkins gives students opportunities to learn by teaching a variety of classes which includes: calculus, linear and abstract algebra, and math technologies. In addition to teaching, he also oversees departmental responsibilities like class scheduling and changes within the department.

“This is my first real job,” joked Dr. Hopkins since SBU was the first place he worked at after finishing his education.



**DR. HOPKINS** received his Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and physics from Greenville College in 1983, a Master of Science in 1986 and a Ph.D. in 1989 in mathematics from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign.

He and his wife Lori will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2011. They have two children. Megan is a sophomore at Oklahoma Baptist University and Eric is a senior at Bolivar High School.

Dr. Hopkins is an active member at First Baptist Church in Bolivar. He is the secretary of the deacons. He sings in the adult church choir, he helps with the youth handbells, and plays in the adult handbells.

Dr. Hopkins received the Faculty Life Beautiful Award in December 2006.

# God makes everyone differently:

## Bringing hope to the Lakota

BY MARCY GREENWADE, CLASS OF 2010



Minda Cox (center) with Lakota children.



Minda Cox, class of 2012, was set to leave on July 4, 2010. Her bags were packed, her wheelchair charged and her bottled water and nonperishable food were stored in the car. The phone rang just a few days before her departure date, and the news delivered discouraged her. “Three more deaths,” the voice on the line told Cathy Cox, Minda’s mother. “We’ll have to push back Minda’s departure from the fourth to the sixth. The tribe will be mourning the loss of their children, and we must not interfere.”

Minda knew that the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation struggled, especially the children, but she had not yet fully understood the pain and suffering they were enduring until she learned of the teenage suicides that pushed back her arrival.

After hearing the news, Minda, who was born without arms or legs, vowed to do all she could physically, spiritually, and mentally to help the Lakota people.

The 15-hour drive was a long one. When Minda finally arrived, the beauty of the land consumed her. She sat outside the unfinished Dream Center admiring the miles of Badlands

that stretched to the horizon.

The Dream Center is owned by Wings as Eagles Ministries (WAEM) and led by Pastor Lori McAfee. Through WAEM, Minda was able to arrange a three-week mission trip to South Dakota to volunteer at the Center. The trip served as her initial required mission before pursuing six months abroad for SBU’s Intercultural Studies (ICS) program directed by Dr. Jim Frost.

Minda’s main objective was to understand the Lakota people’s culture, history and spiritual beliefs while sharing her life with the people, serving God, and journaling each day’s experiences.

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### DAY 1:

Minda writes, “After resting and meeting members of the other volunteer groups, I feel excited and anxious. I’m not sure what to expect for our journey into the small towns on the rez (reservation,) but I’m ready to take any challenge that comes my way. I pray to the Father that I may be an encouragement in not only my words but in my actions as well.”

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Pastor Lori took a handful of the volunteers to Wounded Knee. The community is poor and in serious need of job opportunities and community development. One of the team members described her feelings when she arrived as, “walking into a poverty-stricken country, not the United States.” In fact, according to the 2000 census, 61% of the individuals on the reservation are living below poverty level.

Each of the battered homes was awash in graffiti from the 18 gangs that roam the reservation. The black, white, and blue spray paint that covered the homes and the decaying propane tanks reminded the volunteers of the danger of each gang’s presence. But it was not the spray paint, the mangled piles of clothing and trash or even the drunk men scattered about that caught Minda’s attention, it was the children.

The beautiful, helpless children who were caught in the middle of the gangs, alcoholism, drugs, and sexual and mental abuse were the only ones upon whom Minda could focus. Many wore dirty clothes; others had no shoes. Some sported short hair that bore

Each year Director of University Ministries Kurt Caddy takes a team to Wings as Eagles Ministries for a mission trip that is sponsored through Southwest Baptist University. For more information, please call 417.328.1902.

silent testimony to lice infestation. But no matter how great the parents' anxiety or the grandmothers' care, the children seemed to be at the mercy of the violence and despair that surrounded them. For many, the only way out was death.

Most of the Lakota children reacted similarly when they first saw Minda. The groups of volunteers would travel into the community, honking the horns on their vehicles, and kids

## **“You have the choice to follow and trust in God just like I did. He is in control of everything, and he will not lead you astray.”**

would come running from houses all across the neighborhood. As soon as one of the young adult volunteers opened the car door, the native children would cling to him or her. But with Minda, their initial reaction was shyness or fear. The sight of someone so different caused them to avoid her, but eventually, their curiosity overcame their hesitation. “What happened to you, Minda?” some of the children would ask. “I was born this way,” Minda would say. “God makes everyone differently.”

----

DAY 12:

*“I got to speak to the children today. It was cool for me because only a few of the kids were uncomfortable with my disability. It's like it's normal [to them]. They have seen so much in their own lives that this just seems like another thing, another sadness perhaps. I want them to know that God loves them for who they are. They don't have to change themselves to please*

*Him. If they trust Him, He can change the struggles of their lives and turn them into something good. He did it for me.”*

----

Cole, a young Lakota boy who recently lost his best friend to suicide, wheeled Minda to the middle of the outdoor concrete

basketball court at Evergreen, a small community on Pine Ridge. Missionaries and Lakota kids gathered onto the court and formed a circle around her.

As Minda began to speak, everyone fell silent. “I was born in India, and because I had no arms or legs, my parents knew that they would not be able to take proper care of me. The hospital placed me in an orphanage, and I was adopted into a multicultural Christian family and taken back to the United States.

It was hard for me growing up, and I felt that I was always noticed for my disability. Other kids could do things I couldn't, and it made me more aware of my handicap.”

“I always felt like I had to explain myself. I felt rejected. I struggled because there was so much that I wanted to do but couldn't. Though my life was difficult, I had God on my side. When I felt sad, I would pray. I knew that I could either let my disability define me, or I could overcome it. It was hard to see my disability as a gift from God, but ultimately I knew that it was. It gives me the opportunity to say that God has made my life beautiful.

“I chose to place my trust in God and overcome my circumstances. He helped me discover my talent and love for art. He brought me to Southwest Baptist University and has helped me to do everything I need to do. I want you each to know that God can be trusted, that God loves you, and though bad things may happen to you, good things will also come.

“You have the choice to follow and trust in God just like I did. He is in control of everything, and he will not lead you astray.”

A Lakota girl walked over to Minda and hugged her. “Thank you,” the teenager simply said.

### **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**



*Marcy Greenwade (center) with Lakota children.*

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel with Minda on the mission trip to Pine Ridge.

It began in the most ironic way, but it seems that the best things in life are never planned or typical. I met Minda through my communications internship at SBU. We traveled to Jefferson City to lobby against changes to Access Missouri, a financial assistance program for undergraduates. A few months after our trip, I saw Minda in the Jester Learning and Performing Arts Center on campus. Though we were always courteous, neither one of us was well-acquainted with the other. Minda stopped her wheelchair and told me that she needed to talk to me. I was a bit surprised, but I agreed.

“I'm going on a mission trip this summer, and I've really been praying about what I should do,”

Minda said. “I need someone to travel with me, and I would love if you could come. I just feel it could be a great experience for both of us.”

Although I normally consider myself to be a control freak who finds it necessary to uncover every detail before making a decision, for some reason, I did not think about where I would be going, who I would be helping, or even when I would be arriving. I replied with a simple, “Yes, I'd love to.”

After saying our goodbyes and with Minda promising to fill me in on the details, I plopped down on one of the couches in Jester. What did I just agree to? Why was I so excited for something that I did not have a clue about? I would later chalk it up to God's grace and perhaps his humor.

I had never been on a mission trip before. When Minda told me where we were going and to whom we would be ministering, I was terrified. The trip seemed dangerous, and in all honesty, I consider myself to be a bit high maintenance and selfish. Could I sleep in the outdoors, help to take care of someone other than myself, and really share the gospel with children?

Once I arrived at the Dream Center, my doubts began to fade. Being around Minda is like a breath of fresh air. She is genuine and honest. The things

that she achieves on a day-to-day basis are a constant motivation to those around her. Her outlook on life is contagious. I found myself striving to be better physically, emotionally, and mentally. She has that affect on people, and the most amazing part is that she is completely unaware how her actions inspire others. Minda does not see herself as anything special or extraordinary. She just sees herself as a child of God.

Though Minda and I participated in the same mission, we had very different experiences. I struggled with patience, humility and fear, but I learned more about myself in a few weeks than I ever thought possible. The Lakota people showed me the importance of taking time to appreciate even the smallest blessings, while Minda taught me that God calls people from every realm of life to serve Him. She once said, “God wants all kinds of people to serve Him in His kingdom. You don't have to be a certain kind of person to help others or follow the Lord for his sake. My wheelchair will never interfere with God's ability to use me, of that I am sure.”

Thank you, Minda. Thank you for teaching me the power of God's love.



Quarterback Steve Gachette, Class of 2010 (center); Photo by Brittny Wilkerson '08

## A Point to Prove: SBU Football Finishes with Winning Season

BY JEFF WESELOH '09

The Southwest Baptist University Bearcats football team entered the 2010 season with a point to prove. There were many skeptics who believed last year's results were a fluke, which sparked a motivation within the players and coaching staff.

"We challenged our kids," head coach Keith Allen stated, "let's show these people that we're getting better every year."

His athletes responded, as SBU completed the most successful season in school history.

SBU finished the 2010 season with a 7-4 record, and won a record seven straight games during the season. This marked the second consecutive year the Bearcats have finished the season with a winning record.

Head coach Keith Allen has turned around the SBU football program, moving the Bearcats from 0-11 his first year as interim coach, to 5-6 in 2008, to the winning record of 6-5 in 2009.

All-American quarterback Steve Gachette was nothing short of spectacular in his final season at SBU. Gachette's play ranked him as one of the top 15 players in the nation in the following categories: total offense (6<sup>th</sup>), passing yards per game (14<sup>th</sup>), points responsible for (4<sup>th</sup>), passing (11<sup>th</sup>), and total passing yards (12<sup>th</sup>).

Gachette also set school records including total offensive yards (4,088) and total touchdowns scored (39). "The biggest thing with

Steve Gachette is that he wants it more than anybody I've ever seen," said Allen, "He's a one-of-a-kind player."

As a team, the Bearcats also found success in the national rankings. SBU was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in total offense, 2<sup>nd</sup> in punt returns, 4<sup>th</sup> in first downs, 7<sup>th</sup> in scoring offense, 8<sup>th</sup> in third-down efficiency, and 12<sup>th</sup> in total passing offense. SBU set school records in total team offensive yards (5,552) and total points scored (435).

The Bearcats will look to continue to build upon their success and strive for a third consecutive winning season next year.

For more SBU sports news, visit [www.sbubearcats.com](http://www.sbubearcats.com) for the latest updates and information.

# SBU athletics announces 2011 Hall of Fame class

Five inductees include two new honorees along with three from 2001

BY JUSTIN WOLLARD '97

SBU athletics is pleased to announce the Hall of Fame Class of 2011. On Saturday, February 12, 2011, SBU will induct Michael Obertop '94, a former tennis All-American and national singles champion along with Jack Funderburk '97, a multi-time All-MIAA and All-Region honoree in baseball as a catcher and designated hitter.

While the class technically includes two members, the actual ceremony on February 12 will include five total honorees. In 2001, John Willis '88, JoAnn Harrison '84, and Ronnie Miller were scheduled to be inducted,

but their induction ceremony was never held. They have previously been counted as members of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame. Now on the ten-year anniversary of their induction, they will rightfully be recognized during the Honors Night ceremonies.

The 2011 SBU Athletics Honors Night will not only recognize Hall of Fame members, but will also honor Bearcat senior student-athletes. Each senior from all 16 sports sponsored by SBU will be presented with framed certificate by their head coach. The Rex Brown Award for Excellence will

also be given to the top male and female senior student athlete, based on character, service, academic, and athletic achievement.

This is the third year for the Honors Night event. The 2011 edition will follow Bearcat men's and women's basketball games earlier that day against Washburn University. The women's game with the Lady Blues tips at 1:30 p.m. with men's contest starting at 3:30 p.m. The Honors Night event will begin at 7 p.m. from the SBU intramural gym.

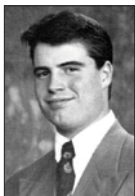
## 2011 Hall of Fame class



### Michael Obertop - Tennis 1991-94

- Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division II singles national champion in 1993
- Three-time ITA All-American
- Two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American
- 1993-94 MIAA Ken B. Jones winner and the first ever KBJ winner in the conference for any school

- Earned MIAA singles and doubles championship three times
- All-MIAA all four seasons as Bearcat
- Received 1994 Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award
- Ranked in top 10 nationally twice in both singles and doubles
- Was a double major in business and math and an honors graduate.



### Jack Funderburk - Baseball, 1994-97

- Catcher and designated hitter for four seasons
- Hit .382 for his career with 221 hits, 155 RBI, 150 runs scored, 42 doubles, 18 triples, and 28 home runs in 172 games
- Career leader in hits, triples, homers, runs, walks
- SBU single season record holder in triples with 10 in 1996 which also led Division II

- All-MIAA all four seasons including two times with dual honors (catcher and DH)
- MIAA Freshman of the Year in 1994
- Three-time ABCA All-Central Region including two First Team honors.

## 2001 Hall of Fame class



### John Willis - Basketball, 1982-84, 1986-88

- NAIA All-American honorable mention as a junior in 1986-87
- School record holder with 1,752 career points; 674 field goals made and 1,374 field goals attempted in four seasons and fourth with 296 free throws made and fifth with 366 free throw attempts

- Also holds junior single-season scoring record of 621 points in 1986-87 and senior record of 622 points in 1987-88 which also are the top two single-season records in SBU history.



### JoAnn Harrison - Basketball, Softball, Volleyball coach - 1966-84

- SBU's winningest softball and volleyball coach and the pioneer of three women's sports programs
- SBU's first women's basketball coach in 1967-68 and also coached team in 1972-73
- Harrison also was SBU's first softball coach in 1966, and coached for 18 years
- Her coaching record is 255-161, by far the most victories by any SBU softball coach

- From 1979 through 1982, SBU softball won 117 and lost just 46 games and played in two AIAW National Championship tournaments
- She was also SBU's first volleyball coach in 1965, and her coaching record is 314-235-4 (.571)
- Harrison's remarkable record includes 13 consecutive winning seasons from 1966-78, and a total of 14 winning seasons among her 18 years as a volleyball coach.



### the late Ronnie Miller - Friend of Athletics

- Camdenton businessman who was a great friend and contributor to the university and former trustee
- A graduate of Stoutland High School, he also attended Drury and Christian College (in Columbia) for one year each
- Among he and his wife Billie Max's contributions were the athletic training room in Meyer Wellness Center

- Millers had three daughters including Stacey who was a standout basketball player at SBU
- Also had several grandchildren attend the university, including Colt Blair who was MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2005-06
- Miller served as deacon and teacher at FBC-Camdenton until his passing in 2003.

## Passion for Computers Leads to Duck Creek

BY TRICIA COOR, CLASS OF 2010

If you have ever driven down Jones Street in Bolivar, you may have noticed a little building before you reach Killingsworth Ave. The building has a peculiar yellow street sign out front with ducks on it. A passerby may not gather much about the building or the business it contains as they drive by and see the name, Duck Creek Technologies, but the business inside the building is a result of a man discovering a new passion and having the audacity to pursue it.

Doug Roller, a founder of Duck Creek technologies, graduated from Southwest Baptist University in 1976 with an English degree and later got his master's degree in English from Pittsburg State University. It is not exactly the typical start for a founder of a technology business, but Roller does not regret getting his degree in English instead of science or business.

"I think that the impact of their [my English professors] opening my eyes to a much larger world was a big part of what prepared me for the business world," said Roller.

When Roller first came to SBU he planned to go into the sciences, but after taking English classes, he changed his mind. "I was exposed to a lot of ideas

and concepts that until that time I had been unaware of and in many ways those classes were a stepping stone," said Roller.

His professors in the English department had a huge impact on his perspective while at SBU. "I always felt they took a very personal interest in me," said Roller. "I have always had an enormous respect for professors I had in my department in English. In fact, I became an English major as a result of Tom Padgett and Betty Gipson."

However, the study of languages did not just impact his academic life but also his personal life. Roller met his wife Linda while in German class. Ironically, Roller knew Linda's mom, Betty Gipson, and uncle, Tom Padgett, before he met Linda because he had them as English professors. Roller was also a part of an English class that Gipson took to Europe.

The couple moved to Dallas, Texas, both with the intent on pursuing a doctorate. After taking a job at a bookstore, Roller began to discover his interest in business. So they moved back to Missouri and bought a small insurance business in Seymour, Mo. Through this business venture, he was introduced to computers.

"At that time the Apple, one of the first

consumer computers came out, and I became obsessed with computers," said Roller.

He bought a computer and taught himself to write software for his insurance business. As the software became popular, other insurance agents wanted to purchase it. As a result, it "sort of accidentally started my first business, Micromagic," said Roller. Once this business began to grow, Roller sold the insurance business to focus on developing the computer software business.

"I have always had sort of a mathematical mind," said Roller. "I love English and I love reading. The combination of reading everything I could get my hands on in the computer world and just a passion for computers, which I had no idea I had, sort of propelled me in that direction. I taught myself to program, and the rest is history."

The history of Duck Creek Technologies began in January of 2000 with founders Doug Roller '76, John Roller '79, Rebecca Roller '79, Andy Yohn '87, Kerrick Tweedy '86, Jeff West, Barry Tate '89, Ken Toler, and Devin Clasby.

The company has since grown to nearly 200 employees in the Bolivar office. Duck Creek Technologies also has offices



Doug Roller '76



in South Carolina and Connecticut and overseas in the United Kingdom.

As the business continued to grow, Doug Roller made the decision to step down as CEO and became the Chairman.

“We’ve been growing rapidly and the management process has never been my passion. My passion has been more about building the business and developing software,” said Roller. “So, I made the decision at that point that it was better for us to find someone who was good and experienced [at management].”

The name of the business, Duck Creek, may seem like an odd name for a technology business. Roller explained that when the founders were creating the business they did not want something that sounded too tech-y. So they looked at different rivers, creeks and other geological features in Missouri, but they did not find anything that seemed to fit. This led them to decide on Duck Creek, which was a creek that ran by Roller’s grandfather’s farm in Oklahoma. Since three of the original

founders were in the Roller family, they were attracted to the family-related name.

The company has not only fostered family relationships, but Roller also has maintained close ties to SBU. Roller approximated that between 30-50 SBU alumni work at Duck Creek Technologies.

SBU also was one of the main reasons Roller chose to keep the business in Bolivar. At the time, SBU had just begun its computer information science (CIS) department, and Roller thought it would be a great opportunity to find employees from the programs. This has proven true as Duck Creek Technologies has a very active internship program with SBU and does hire many of the CIS students.

“They’ve been great employees,” said Roller. “We work closely with Dr. Tim DeClue.” Dr. DeClue is SBU’s CIS department chair and shares Roller’s passion for computers, music, and running. (see Faculty Focus on p. 5 for more about Dr. DeClue)

Roller plays in a band with Dr. DeClue and David Hacker ’73, a fellow SBU alumnus. Roller also is dedicated runner and runs every morning with DeClue. Roller recently completed the Baltimore Marathon and also ran the Boston Marathon earlier this year. He has run about 30 marathons. His reading hobby is

what got him interested in business and a job as a manager of bookstore in his early years and also helped him teach himself about computer.

As Roller looked back at the history of Duck Creek Technology, he attributed passion as one of the key factors:

“My own father, when I asked him what I should do, as he often did, answered me with a question, ‘What would you do if money was no object?’” said Roller.

At the time I thought it was a confusing question, but when we started Micromagic, we really faced a point in time when what I wanted to do was write software, but what I was actually doing at the time was selling insurance. My passion was software, and there was certainly, at that point, more money in selling insurance than writing software, but after talking to my wife, we decided that we would take the risk.”

Roller found that his father knew best and that satisfaction has come not from making a successful business, but because he pursued his passion.

“As you look back at your life, if you’ve done those things that you enjoy, you’re going to look at it as being successful.”

So now if you drive down Jones Street and see the yellow street sign with ducks on it, you will see it not just as another business, but instead as the result of a man discovering a passion and taking a “quack” at it.



The Local Folks left to right: Doug Roller, David Hacker, and Dr. Tim DeClue



2010 Homecoming Queen, Tiffany Harrell.



# Cruisin' THROUGH THE Decades

S B U H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 1 0



All-Alumni Breakfast



1960 Homecoming Queen Marilyn Black Cantrell

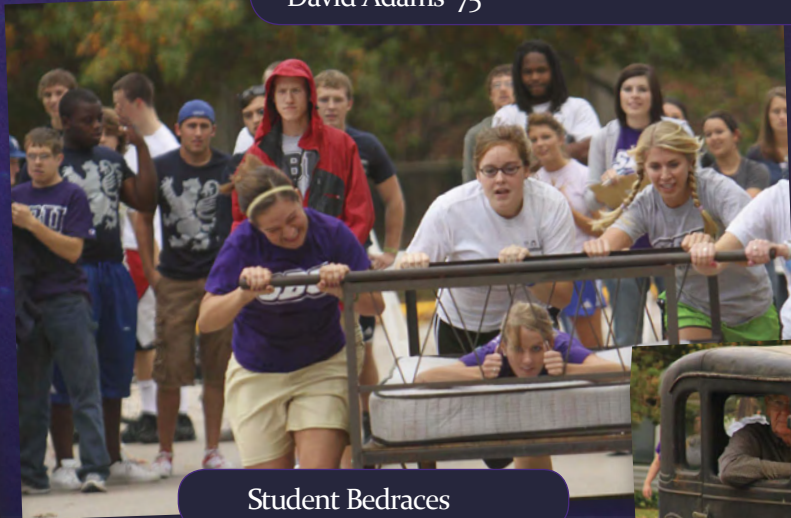




Class of 1960



Charles Renno '54, Bill Fisher '43, SBU President Pat Taylor, Ruth Pittenger Glaze '78, Gratia Rinehart Sammons '53, David Adams '75



Student Bedraces



Lightfoot Alumni Award  
SBU Alumni Association  
Gratia Rinehart Sammons '53



Lindsay (Lewis) Schindler '04, M.B.A. '09  
Director of Alumni Relations

It was a joy and a pleasure to welcome so many of you back to campus in October for *Homecoming 2010 – Cruisin' Through the Decades!* We ended up having great weather which helped make for a wonderful weekend. SBU was proud to honor four graduates with the Life Service Award: Dr. Bill Fisher '43, Dr. Charles Renno '54, Mr. David Adams '75, and Dr. Ruth Pittenger Glaze '78. Gratia Rinehart Sammons '53 was the recipient of the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award. Friday night we had wonderful attendance at our Alumni Banquet, Alumni Dessert Fellowship, and Music Through the Decades Concert. The students outdid themselves on their parade floats this year, the food and fellowship were great at the alumni/student tailgate party, and the Bearcat football team defeated Central State University (Ohio) 52 – 0!

## Save the Date • Homecoming 2011

If you were not able to attend homecoming this year, I invite you to save the dates October 28-29, 2011, and join us for Homecoming 2011.

## Nominations please . . .

The SBU Alumni Relations Office requests nominations from alumni and friends for the 2011 Life Service Awards and Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award. If you have nominated a person who has not yet been selected, it is not necessary to re-submit their name. New nominations will be processed and combined with nominations currently on file. Please include a letter indicating why you believe this nominee deserves to receive the award and the name of the person making the nomination.

### LIFE SERVICE AWARD

Final selections are made by the Life Service Award committee of the National Alumni Association Board and then ratified by the entire board. A nominee should be at least 50 years of age. Nominees must be graduates who: (1) have lived exemplary Christian lives; (2) were in good standing as students at SBU (SWBC); (3) are or have been outstanding in their field of service; and (4) are or have been making a significant contribution to mankind.

### LIGHTFOOT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The National Alumni Association Board annually selects the recipient of this award. The recipient of this award is a graduate who has: (1) remained enthusiastically and actively involved in leadership within the Alumni Association; (2) continued to support SBU in a variety of ways, including financially; (3) demonstrated genuine interest and concern for young people; and (4) been faithful and active in the work of a local church. This award is distinct from the Life Service Award in that nominees must have been continuously involved with the University through alumni activities since graduation.

### The deadline for nominations is February 4, 2011.

Please send your nomination(s) to: SBU Office of Alumni Relations, 1600 University Avenue, Bolivar, MO 65613. Or email them to [lschindler@sbuniv.edu](mailto:lschindler@sbuniv.edu). If you have any questions please contact me at 417.328.1806.

## 1943

**Dorsey Detienne** has many friends with whom she still corresponds. She is very active in her church, First Baptist, in St. Charles. The Lord is her refuge and guide. 1237 Cunningham Ave., St. Charles, MO 63301

## 1947

**Crystal (Phelps) Horne** is married to a preacher, and goes with him wherever he goes. 529 Anthony Dr., Clovis, NM 88101

## 1957

Jimmy Edwards and **Duetta (Knier) Edwards** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May. They live on a farm near Salem, Mo. Jimmy served as director of the SBU Campus in Salem for nine years. They have three children and 12 grandchildren.

## 1969



On July 11, 2010, **Raymond Lewis** and his wife Loretta celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the church where Raymond had been the pastor for the last four years. 3469 Benton-Birmingham Rd., Benton, KY 42025

## 1975

**Brian Kenney** began serving as pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Beardstown, Ill., on June 6, 2010. Prior to coming to Beardstown, Brian served as the chaplain of the Wesley Willows Continuing Care Retirement Community in Rockford, Ill. 212 West Tenth Street, Beardstown, IL 62618 [b-tkenney@att.net](mailto:b-tkenney@att.net)

## 1981

**Dora Lea (Snead)** married Tony Duffy in 1982 and moved to California in 1990. 2500 Kamm Ave., Kingsburg, CA 93631 [doralead@yahoo.com](mailto:doralead@yahoo.com)

**Robert Stamper** accepted an early retirement offer from Chrysler, LLC after nearly 27 years of service as a production control analyst and an industrial chaplain for the administrative office staff at the Fenton, Mo., assembly complex for minivans and trucks that was suddenly and permanently closed July 3, 2009. Robert welcomes all direct personal and social networking correspondence from all of his friends among past students and staff of SBU.

PO Box 1170, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357 [robertmstamper@aol.com](mailto:robertmstamper@aol.com)

**Steven Thornton** is working as a North American Mission Board endorsed Hospice Chaplain with Odyssey Hospice.

## 1991

**Kristi (Stiles) Williams** and her husband **Jeff '91** recently celebrated their 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 15, 2010. They are the parents of three great kids: Kalli, Jayci and Spencer. Kristi teaches second grade at Lee Hunter Elementary and Jeff is the principal of Morehouse Elementary. [jwilliams@sikeston.k12.mo.us](mailto:jwilliams@sikeston.k12.mo.us)

**Steven Pierce** is currently living in Douglas, Mass. His oldest son Brian, 19 finished his first year at Quinsigamond Community College and transferred to SBU in August 2010. Youngest son Sam, 18, will graduate in 2011. 45 B Franklin Street PO Box 45, Douglas, MA 01516 [tsposap45@charter.net](mailto:tsposap45@charter.net)

**Jody "Joe" Rogers** has taken a position with the Arkansas Rice Depot, the state's largest food bank. Joe coordinates volunteer activities to help supply free food for needy Arkansans. He would love to hear from old friends or alumni who would like to join in the fight to end hunger in Arkansas. His wife Laura and two daughters love this new ministry. [arkrogers@att.net](mailto:arkrogers@att.net)

**Chaplain (Major) Douglas Gibson** moved to Lawton, Okla., a year ago in July after receiving promotion from captain to major. Current duty position is the 6th ADA Brigade chaplain. Son Brian has just completed AIT and is currently serving in the Army National Guard. Daughter Heather graduated basic in August. Daughter Theisi graduated from University of Missouri-Kansas City in May. CH Gibson's plans are to retire in December 2011 after 35 years of service. 502 Hallwood Drive, Fletcher, OK 73541 [chaplaing2003@yahoo.com](mailto:chaplaing2003@yahoo.com)

## 1993

**Leon Wirth** has been appointed to the role of executive director of family ministries at Focus on the Family where he has been serving since December 2007. Leon and his family are entering their 15th year in beautiful Colorado Springs. [lcwirth@msn.com](mailto:lcwirth@msn.com)

## 1994

**Greg Marsden** is the director of operations for Paul Davis Restoration, a nationwide company specializing in fire and water restoration services. **Danelle (Lewis)** earned her doctorate

in educational leadership from Saint Louis University in May 2010. She is currently an elementary principal in the Kansas City metropolitan area. [gmarsden@everestkc.net](mailto:gmarsden@everestkc.net)

**Kristen (Morrow) Feola's** first book, *The Ultimate Guide to the Daniel Fast*, will be released nationwide by Zondervan in December 2010. It is an inspiring resource that provides recipes and devotions for anyone doing the Daniel Fast. She also has a blog, [www.ultimatedanielfast.com](http://www.ultimatedanielfast.com). **Justin '98** is Director of Rehabilitation at the US Medical Center for Federal Prisoners. 3303 S Kimbrough Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807 [feolafitness@yahoo.com](mailto:feolafitness@yahoo.com)

## 1995

**Scott Hamilton** and his wife **Jennifer (Hollcraft) '96** have been married for 15 years. Scott is a senior art director for Staples, Inc. He got his Master of Arts in advertising at Illinois University. Jen got her Master of Social Work at Boston University and is getting her independent license for social work in the fall. She works for MSPCC with families. She is also the New England WMU President. They have three kids and are living the life! 1847 Middlesex St #8, Lowell, MA 01851 [j.jenhamilton@comcast.net](mailto:j.jenhamilton@comcast.net)

**Karen (Simpson) Flanigan** moved in June 2010. She would love to hear from friends from the class of 1995. 707 South Ave. Apt 4, Springfield, MO 65806 [paralegalmouse@hotmail.com](mailto:paralegalmouse@hotmail.com)

**Mark Zaragoza** recently passed his national certification exam for medical assisting and is employed as a Certified Medical Assistant at two clinics in Houston, Texas. He will be starting classes to become a registered nurse in the fall of 2010. 14220 Park Row, Apt. 1413, Houston, TX 77084 [zaragoza.mark@gmail.com](mailto:zaragoza.mark@gmail.com)

## 1996

**Ben Kendall** is the new worship pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Republic. Ben and his wife **Carrie (Knapp) '01** are foster parents who plan to adopt their first son in September. 3917 W Parkridge Circle, Springfield, MO 65802 [carsy1219@yahoo.com](mailto:carsy1219@yahoo.com)

## 1997

**Amber Slayton** would like to announce the formation of Lafferty & Slayton, PLLC, offering legal services to businesses and governmental entities in the areas of litigation and appeals, business transactions, and municipal

law. 507 Monte Vista Dr., Dallas, TX 75223  
[aslayton@LS-Law.net](mailto:aslayton@LS-Law.net)

**1999**

**Jenni (Morton) Fansler** recently published her first book, a children's music book entitled *The Shape of Music*. The book is available on Amazon.com. Jenni also homeschools their four children and helps with her husband's new graphic design business, Judah Creative Studio ([www.judahcs.com](http://www.judahcs.com)).  
[jennifansler@gmail.com](mailto:jennifansler@gmail.com)

**2002**

**Charity McGill** is the policy administration product manager for Duck Creek Technologies. She recently published an article in the *Insurance Networking News magazine, Policy Administration 2010 edition*.

**Andrew Keller** Recently graduated with a Master of Arts in acting from the Liverpool (UK) Institute for Performing Arts and is an adjunct professor at Ferrum College. 110 Northview Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060  
[andrewkeller.actor@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkeller.actor@gmail.com)



**Former Bearcat Matt Rogers '10 drafted by Texas in NBA D-League Draft**

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The NBA Developmental League draft was held Monday night, where SBU All-American center Matt Rogers was picked fourth overall, to the Texas Legends. Rogers was waived after spending training camp with the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats, where he made three pre-season appearances last month.

The Legends are based in Frisco, Texas, in the Dallas metro area, and are preparing for their first season as an expansion team. Their inaugural season kicks off Sunday, November 21, against Rio Grande Valley.

**2005**

**Nichole (Harlin) Turnage** has joined Oklahoma Baptist University as assistant professor of computer information science in the Paul Dickinson School of Business. She began teaching with the 2010-11 academic year.

**2007**

**Ashley Butler** earned a Master of Social Work in May 2010. Ashley graduated from Azusa Pacific University in Southern California. 1938 N Prairie Ct., Nixa, MO 65714

**Matthew Overturf** is beginning his third year of teaching oral communication and theatre and his first year at Wynne High School in Wynne, Ark. 2216 Union Ave W, Wynne, AR 72396  
[mooverturf@gmail.com](mailto:mooverturf@gmail.com)

**Marriages**



**Lindsay (Lewis) '04, M.B.A. '09** married **Anthony Schindler '04** on May 29, 2010, after meeting at the 2009 Missouri Baptist Convention. They currently reside in Bolivar, Mo.

**Crystal (Frock) '09** married **Dustin Dick** on October 3, 2009. 6517 NW Platte Hills Rd, Kansas City, MO 64152  
[clf1984@yahoo.com](mailto:clf1984@yahoo.com)

**Micah Titterington '10** married **Crystal (Jordan) '10** on July 24, 2010 in Tonganoxie, Kan. Micah is currently pursuing an M.Div. at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas.

**Future Bearcats**

**Daniel Bogart '97** and his wife **Melody (Dawdy) '98** announce the birth of Marie Bogart born on December 29, 2009. She joins big brother Wade Daniel, 6. 297 Shellbark, Troy, MO 63379

**Dani Sue (Hodgins) Peterson '95** and her



Daniel & Melody Bogart



Angela Henry



Dani Peterson



Eric Washington

husband David announce the birth of Samuel Blaine Peterson on May 28, 2010. He weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and was 20 in. long. He was welcomed home by big sister Leanna, 2.

**Jackie (Miklos) '95** and **Scott Mathys '95** announce the birth of Gabrielle Mathys on February 18, 2010. She joins proud older siblings: Tyler, 13, Braedon, 10, and Brooke, 7. Jackie works part time as a registered nurse at a local hospital, and she also home schools her three children. Scott works as a home health physical therapist.  
[themathysfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:themathysfamily@yahoo.com)

**Christy (Wright) '00** and **Christopher Grimes '00** announce the birth of Carter Leland Joseph Grimes who was born on August 19, 2009. He was welcomed by his older brother, Cameron. 13 Benton Court, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368  
[christopherandchristy@hotmail.com](mailto:christopherandchristy@hotmail.com)

**Jason Williamson '00** and his wife **Carrie (Fitzwater) '00** announce the birth of Josiah Emrys. Josiah was born on January 28, 2010, the day before big sister Jayna's 4th birthday. 7318 Red River Dr, Richmond, TX 77469  
[jwilliamson36@comcast.net](mailto:jwilliamson36@comcast.net)

**Danielle (Breshears) '07** and her husband **Andrew Lawman '07** announce the birth of their first son. Weldon Eric Lawman was born July 27, at 1:15 p.m. He weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz., and was 20 in. long. 4184 S 135<sup>th</sup> Rd, Bolivar, MO 65613  
[daniellelawman@hotmail.com](mailto:daniellelawman@hotmail.com)

**Michelle "Shelley" (Falcone) '93** and **Leon Wirth '93** announce the birth of their eighth daughter, Jenna Pearl, on June 8, 2010. She is healthy and happy and joins seven older sisters: Hannah, Rebecca, Emma, Olivia, Leah, Clara, and Alicia.  
[lcwirth@msn.com](mailto:lcwirth@msn.com)

**Mark Zaragoza '95** and his wife, Jami, wish to announce the birth of their first child, Lily Grace, born at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Katy, Texas on April 27, 2010, at 4 lbs. 8 oz., and 16.5 in. long. Their little miracle was born six-weeks premature, but she is happy, healthy, and getting bigger and stronger every day.

**Eric Washington '93** and his wife, Elizabeth, would like to welcome their third son, Denzel Eli Washington. He was born on October 27, 2010, and weighed 7 lbs. oz., and was 20.5 in. long.

**Angela (Hodges) Henry '97** and her husband Eric announce the birth of their son, Elijah Stephen, born on August 3, 2010. 4818 E 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508  
[angelahenry2005@yahoo.com](mailto:angelahenry2005@yahoo.com)

### In Memory

**Rev. William Henry Betts '69**, age 63, of Brentwood, Tenn., passed away Saturday, June 12, 2010, at his home after a long battle with cancer. Rev. Betts was pastor of First Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg from 2005-2008. He was preceded in death by his mother Grace Piper Betts, and brother, David Betts. Survivors include: his wife Barbara J. Betts of Brentwood, Tenn.; sons Jerram C. Betts of Los Angeles, Calif., and Geoffrey Betts of Franklin, Tenn.; daughter Regina Rathbone (Charles) of Spring Hill, Tenn.; father Wilben R. Betts of St. Louis, Mo.; brothers Robert Betts of St. Louis, Mo.; Bruce Betts of Tulsa, Okla.; and Steve Betts of Rolla, Mo.; grandchildren, William, Kayelynn, and Jacob Rathbone.

### Charles "Sug" Taylor

**Charles "Sug" Taylor**, 90, of Salem died Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 at Crittenden Hospital after a brief illness.

He was born April 27, 1920 on a farm just north of Salem. He lived in Salem all of his life. Taylor was a member of Salem Baptist Church for 79 years and was involved in many church activities. He was a farmer and also worked at Air Products in Calvert City.

Surviving are his wife of 69 years, Georgia Patmore Taylor; a son, Dr. Pat Taylor and wife Judy of Bolivar, Mo.; two granddaughters, Marijo Taylor Gronewold and husband Tom of El Paso, Texas, and Dr. Charla Taylor Austermann and husband Dr. Adam Austermann; two great-grandsons, Drew Charles Austermann and Luke Taylor Austermann, all of St. Louis, Mo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Taylor and Lillie Hord Taylor; a sister, Elizabeth Taylor Wooldridge; and two brothers, C.H. Taylor and Frank Park Taylor.

Services were Monday, Sept. 20, at Salem Baptist Church with Rev. John East and Rev. Mark Combs officiating. Burial was at Salem Cemetery.



Georgia Patmore Taylor and the late Charles "Sug" Taylor

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) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include maiden name if applicable) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

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*You can also complete this form online at [www.SBUniv.edu/alumni](http://www.SBUniv.edu/alumni) if it's more convenient.*



Heather (Wall) Gilion

# Dancing on My Ashes:

## Joy added to blessing

BY JESSICA OLIVER '09

Heather (Wall) Gilion '99 and sister Holly (Wall) Snell lost their husbands and father in the same year — their husbands together in a boating accident in Vermont in 2000, not long after Heather had married James Brill '00.

Five years after the tragic accident and the loss of their father, the sisters started on a journey to write the story of their grieving and about the God who turned their mourning into dancing.

"The book goes through our journey, our tragedy, and how through that God showed up," Gilion said. "The first half is our story, we tried to be painfully honest. The second half deals with the lessons we learned."

Throughout the book, the sisters take turns writing about the fear they felt when they discovered their husbands were missing and the journey with God they each took as they dealt with the men's deaths.

"The hope is people will find themselves in the pages, whether they've gone through the same tragedies or can relate to aspects of the book," Gilion said.

Writing the book, titled "Dancing on My Ashes — Learning to Love the One who Gives and Takes Away," was not something the sisters intended to do.

"My sister (Holly) called me (five years ago)

and said she felt like we needed to share the story," Gilion said. "We had been going to events and found ourselves sharing our story. I laughed at her. I never thought about that."

Gilion said she could not sleep because the thought of writing their story was on her mind.

"One night I just got up and started writing," she said. "As I started, I knew it was what I was supposed to do. I didn't know what it would be for, if it would be for me or other people."

The three-year writing process, including the time it took to publish, was not an easy one.

"It was heart-wrenching," Gilion said. "During some of the painful moments, I couldn't write anymore. When I was writing the story, I was mentally going back and seeing it all again. It was excruciating at times, but I know I had to be honest."

Gilion said there has been some response to the book that she did not expect.

"It's been amazing, the feedback," she said. "It's joy added to the blessing of writing the book — joy knowing that God is using it. I didn't expect the heaviness I would feel, because I hear so many sad stories of people that are embarking on their dark times. That's one thing I didn't think about when I

started writing."

Gilion, a 1999 SBU graduate, lives in Ozark with husband Dallas and their two sons. Dallas, she said, is her greatest cheerleader when it comes to this book.

"God knew what he was doing," she said.

Also supportive, Gilion said, is James' family.

"They're excited to share a little part of their son with the world," she said. "They are still my family. I wouldn't have felt comfortable sharing what I shared if they weren't behind me."

"This life I'm living now — even though it's painful at times, there's joy. Not that I'm not sad (James and Scott Nesbitt, Holly's husband) they're gone, but the Lord has done such a work in me."

"Dancing on My Ashes is published by Tate Publishing and is available at CPO and Barnes and Noble. For more information, search the book title on Facebook or visit [www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com).

*This article first appeared in the Bolivar Herald-Free Press on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010*

## Dancing on My Ashes

Heather (Wall) Gillion '99  
Holly (Wall) Snell

It was only supposed to take a few hours to scout out a good canoe route. But when James Brill '00 and Scott Nesbitt weren't back in time for dinner, their wives, sisters Heather and Holly Wall, started to pray. They didn't stop—even when the bodies of their beloved husbands turned up a day later in the rushing river.

Their new book, *Dancing On My Ashes*, is a true story that details the painful passage of two young widows out of the ashes and into their dance with the Almighty God.

When tragedy strikes, we often discover that we have been living with a false sense of who God is. *Dancing On*

*My Ashes* is a call to stop living wounded and accept the presence of God's hand in our lives.

Heather Gilion is passionate about women finding the love of their life—Jesus. She is a speaker, worship leader, and author. She lives in Ozark, Missouri, with her husband, Dallas, and their precious son, Noah.

Holly Snell and her husband, Aaron, are the worship pastors at Abundant Life Community Church in Arvada, Colorado. They have three children: Emma, Malachi, and Ava. She is a speaker, writer, and singer.



## Reflections on Wisdom and Folly

Dr. Fred Winters

## Reflections on Wisdom and Folly

Fred Winters '85

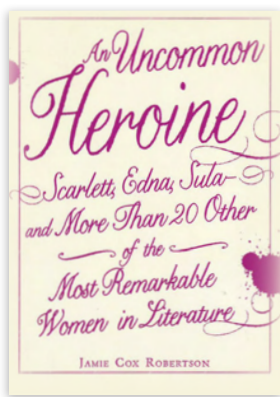
In March 2009, Pastor Fred Winters was shot and killed while leading a Sunday morning service at First Baptist Church in Maryville, Illinois, a tragedy that made headlines across the country. He will long be remembered as someone whose life ended too soon at the hands of a gunman. But Winters will also be remembered as the man who, at the age of twenty-three, became pastor to a withering church of thirty worshippers and help it grow into a vibrant congregation of fifteen hundred by the time of his death.

A skilled and inspiring leader, "Pastor Fred," as he was affectionately known, also took the time to write, producing this collection of thirty-one days of devotions from the book of Proverbs while on sabbatical in 2007. Each devotion consists of the day's verse, a "mini-sermon" illustrated with anecdotes from Winters' personal life, questions for individual reflection, and a prayer. You'll learn

something from each mini-sermon and deepen your understanding of what the verse means for your own walk with God as you meditate on the thought-provoking questions.

Author Robert Cunningham has added a brief biography of Fred Winters that illuminates the devotions further, showing how God can do great things with one person who surrenders his life to Him despite a troubled childhood and difficult challenges. From how to deal with fear and anger to the importance of completing things we've started, Winters found guidance in Proverbs and was moved to share these devotions. His story and his writings will strengthen and inspire you, too.

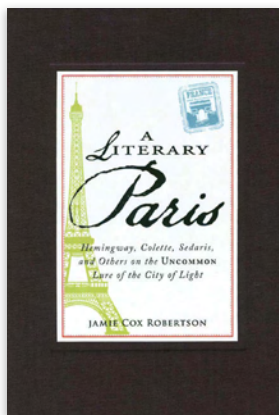
Missouri native Fred Winters was pastor of First Baptist Church in Maryville, Illinois, from 1987 until his death in 2009. He earned his doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2002. Winters is survived by his wife Cindy and two daughters. Robert Cunningham worked with Winters for seventeen years as Sunday school director and minister of administration.



### **An Uncommon Heroine** Jamie Cox Robertson '91

Literature has provided us with some of the most unforgettable women in history. Wives and mothers, daughters and lovers, these women all have one thing in common – they're *uncommon* heroines. With more than twenty excerpts from great classic novels such as *Gone*

*with the Wind*, *Bel Canto*, *The Bean Trees*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, this captivating collection celebrates the women we admire, envy – and are inspired by.

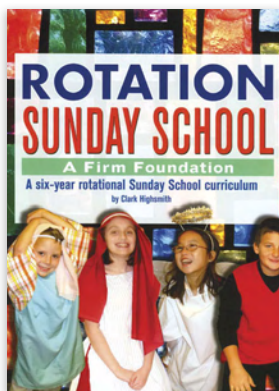


### **A Literary Paris** Jamie Cox Robertson '91

You don't have to live in Paris to experience her unique beauty, allure, and enchantment. With this dazzling literary celebration of the City of Light, you can stroll along the Seine with David Sedaris in *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, sample croissants in a patisserie with M.F.K. Fisher in *As They Were*, and savor Mona Lisa's smile at

the Louvre with Mark Twain in *The Innocents Abroad*.

With fascinating annotations on the works, the writers, and the wonders of one of the world's most beautiful places, *A Literary Paris* takes you on a *bon voyage* through this incomparable city – one *mot juste* at a time!

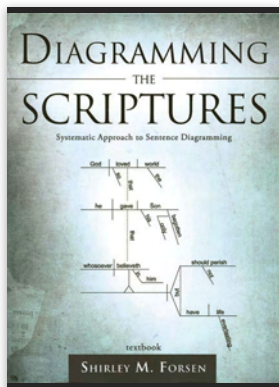


### **Rotation Sunday School: A Firm Foundation: A six-year rotational Sunday School curriculum** Clark Highsmith '92

Originally written for Oak Crest Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist church in Midlothian, Texas, *Rotation Sunday School: A Firm Foundation* is the starting point for a six-year Sunday School curriculum. In this book you will find a comprehensive scope and sequence on which to build a rotation Sunday School.

Inside this book you will find seventy-two

monthly lessons for teachers. Each lesson includes lesson objectives, Bible background, memory verse, suggested hymns and songs, and student age considerations. Also included is a sample six-year lesson cycle calendar that can be used as a starting point in planning your Sunday School.



### **Diagramming the Scriptures** Shirley M. Forsen '52

*Diagramming the Scriptures* is a workbook of the diagramming of over 300 sentences taken verbatim from the King James Version of the Bible. Starting with the subject-verb pattern, it progresses to the compound-complex sentence. Examples, practice sentences, and review sentences are given for each sentence pattern, part of speech, clause or type of sentence. At the end of each unit is a test of

the preceding lessons. A final test over all the sentences completes the book. Upon completing *Diagramming the Scriptures* the student will not only have a better understanding of the Scriptures but also a tool for understanding any literary work as well as a firm foundation for speaking and writing.

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.



*SBU Board of Trustees tour the Warren B. Davis Family Physical Therapy Center*

## Physical Therapy department expands

University buys building and adds classroom to increase capacity

**BY JENI FEHR, CLASS OF 2012**

The physical therapy graduate program is expanding beyond the Wheeler Science Center this semester. A new classroom that can accommodate 60 new students has been added in the Jester Learning and Performance Center this semester, and the University bought a new building that should accommodate more.

“The goal is to expand to 80 a class, literally double each class,” said Dr. Steve Lesh, director of the physical therapy department. “We’ve done a transition this year by creating the new classroom space over in Jester.”

Until this semester, the program could only admit 40 new students a year, making a total of 120 students a year. Lesh hopes that by the end of the spring 2011 semester the new building will be ready for classes.

“We have applicants from all over the country,” said President C. Pat Taylor. “This year we have two students from Alaska.”

According to Dr. Taylor, nearly 400 students applied to be in the physical therapy program this year.

“We’re in the process now of designing,” said Lesh, “and so we’re meeting with the architect, we’re going through all that and we’ve got to get everybody happy in terms of our needs for PT and obviously the city, safety and security. Everybody has a say-so now on the process. I’ve been given an estimate of probably next summer [to move in].”

The process to expand the physical therapy

department began over two years ago when the Board of Trustees met with faculty and students that were part of the physical therapy program.

“It became identified very quickly that we’re landlocked,” said Lesh, “We’ve outgrown our facilities [so] that we had waiting lists of students wanting to get in to our program, and so [we were] literally turning people away who might want to ... have the opportunity to come to this campus. We are landlocked; our classrooms are physically locked in. We can’t squeeze any more people into the classrooms. Our labs were locked in terms of physical space.”

In the mean time, students have been using the new classroom in Jester. “There used to be a door, and you didn’t know what was behind it,” said Lesh.

“There’s been a whole new area created there [now]... there’s a new classroom that holds 60 students, and we’re occupying that now as kind of a transition until they can get the new building [finished] for us. For the future, it’s a new classroom, and the campus is always in need of new classrooms that are able to hold larger groups of students, so this is another nice thing for the University.”

The building purchased by SBU is located at 2103 S. Springfield Ave. It currently houses a Dollar General store. The rest of the building is empty and will be remodeled for use by the University.

“The Dollar General store has one

fourth of the building,” said Dr. Taylor. “We plan to honor the contract and hope they’ll be there eight or 10 more years.” “[Dollar General] will stay unchanged ... SBU becomes their landlord,” said Lesh.

“On the empty space, the unfinished side, we’ll finish about 25,000 [sq. ft.], and toward the back of it the physical plant will then use the unfinished space as storage.” Dollar General had a long term lease agreement with the previous owner. The lease was transferred to SBU when the University purchased the building. The revenue generated from the lease will go toward paying for the building.

The building was purchased from the Warren B. Davis family and will be named the Warren B. Davis Family Physical Therapy Center. The purchase price was \$1.6 million and SBU has budgeted \$1.7 million to renovate the building. An additional \$200,000 has been allotted for purchasing furniture and equipment, making the total cost of the project \$3.5 million. According to Dr. Taylor, the University plans to pay the purchase and expenses off over the next seven years. Tuition will not be increased more than normal.

“We will double revenue by doubling enrollment,” said Dr. Taylor. “The only additional cost we expect is adding new faculty.”

*This article first appeared in The Omnibus on September 1, 2010.*

# Mabee Chapel

## *Renovation*

# *Worship...*

... has always been at the heart of Southwest Baptist University--from the prayers of co-founders J. R. Maupin and Abner Ingman in the 1800s to current chapel services in Mabee Chapel. In 1926 a newly-completed Pike Auditorium located on the Stufflebam Campus became the site for worship services at Southwest Baptist College. After the fire in 1962 when Pike Auditorium was completely destroyed, the College temporarily lost its worship center. A permanent worship location was re-established when Pike Auditorium was replaced with the completion of Davison Fieldhouse in 1964. Chapel services were conducted there until Mabee Chapel was completed in 1978.



*Photos courtesy of Southwest Baptist University Archives*



# Mabee Chapel Thanksgiving

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*“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

*II CORNITHIANS 9:11*

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**D**uring this season of Thanksgiving, we want to thank you for being a part of the Mabee Chapel renovation project. God truly has blessed Southwest Baptist University with outstanding alumni and friends. It is through the financial generosity and prayer support of SBU alumni and friends that we are able to celebrate reaching the \$1.4 million goal! Reaching this goal assures us the opportunity to receive the \$280,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation.

Renovation of Mabee Chapel is scheduled to begin December 8, 2010. Mabee Chapel was built in 1978 and has had only one minor renovation during the past 32 years. The renovation will include a new roof, HVAC system, lights, sound system, curtains, paint, bathrooms, floor coverings, and most important of all, new seating. Currently, there are 1,146 seats. Seating will be increased to 1,321. Due to the increasing enrollment, the expansion of seating is very important.

Bob Glidwell, Director of Physical Plant, will serve as general contractor for the renovation project. The renovation will be in progress throughout most of the spring semester. A dedication service is tentatively scheduled for May 9, 2011, during the spring Board of Trustees meeting.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this project, there are additional needs in the chapel that can be funded with your help. If you would like to make a gift to the chapel renovation project, please contact Theresa Daniels at 417-328-1835 or [tdaniels@sbuniv.edu](mailto:tdaniels@sbuniv.edu).

# SBUlife

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Bolivar, MO 65613

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