



Purple and the Bearcat: What is the history behind these SBU traditions?

While the first use of purple and white at Southwest Baptist University can be traced to a specific date, the SBU Bearcat's history is much less clearly defined.

Purple and white were first used Sept. 25, 1913, to recruit students for Southwest Baptist College. The college reopened in the fall of 1913 after being closed from 1910-1913 to regain financial solvency and to recover from a devastating fire that destroyed the college's only building.

"On September 25, classes were dismissed so that faculty and students could attend the Polk County Fair," Mayme Hamlett wrote in *To Noonday Bright: A History of Southwest Baptist University*. "This was an opportunity to

advertise the school. A squad of students dressed in purple and white and wore badges that said 'ASK ME.' They were prepared to answer questions. ... Purple and white have remained the College colors to this day."

Pinpointing the origin of the Bearcat as SBU's mascot, however, is not so easy.

Former SBU faculty member Sandra Brown, who also served as University Archivist, said she never was able to find any definitive history concerning the origin of the Bearcat mascot.

The few clues she was able to uncover suggest that it became the mascot about 100 years ago, give or take a few years. If the Bearcat was established as the mascot prior to the 1910 fire, any records of that likely would have been lost in the fire.

Hamlett's *To Noonday Bright* includes a baseball team photograph with the caption "Baseball Bearcats: 1908," but it is not clear if that had become the college's official mascot or if it was the mascot chosen by the baseball team. During the early years of athletics, each team chose its own mascot.

Hamlett also refers to the "Bearcats" when writing about the 1916 basketball team. By the late 1930s, Hamlett said the college's basketball teams were described as the "fighting Bearcats."

Through the decades, the Bearcat graphic has changed many times, often varying among sports. The image was standardized in 2010, when the athletics department led an initiative to design a set of new logos for Bearcat Athletics.

Director of Alumni Relations

You, as a Southwest Baptist University alumnus, play a vital role in the present and future life of SBU. The Office of Alumni Relations seeks to foster the relationship between our alumni and your alma mater. Engaged alumni support the university, to the extent of their ability, through their time and personal resources. They build positive awareness of the university by supporting admissions efforts, creating internship and job opportunities, forming bonds with other alumni, serving as volunteers, and giving to annual and capital campaigns. Developing strong, lifelong relationships with our alumni is essential to the future of the university.

The Office of Alumni Relations seeks to develop those relationships by regularly coordinating and hosting alumni events, such as Homecoming, regional gatherings and student-oriented events, to connect with alumni. Your engagement can take many forms, from event attendance to volunteer activities, contacting SBU officials, updating your information, or interacting on Facebook.

In addition, it is my goal and our joint responsibility to shape the next generation of alumni. It is their character, talent and leadership abilities that will define and chart the future of SBU.

I look forward to the upcoming school year and the opportunity to serve as your Director of Alumni Relations. Make plans now to connect with us this year at Homecoming, October 4 and 5, and join us as we celebrate 100 Years of

Purple! If there is ever any way the Office of Alumni Relations can serve or assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lindsay Lewis Schindler MBA '09, BS '04
Director of Alumni Relations



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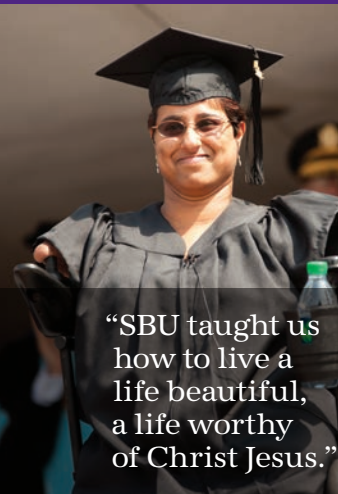


497 graduates at Spring Commencement

With 497 graduates, Southwest Baptist University's May 2013 graduating class was the largest in the University's 135-year history.

Chaplain Col. Gary D. Gilmore, a 1979 SBU graduate and former member of the University's Board of Trustees, presented the commencement address.

Graduation 2013



"SBU taught us how to live a life beautiful, a life worthy of Christ Jesus."

Minda Cox, Life Beautiful Award recipient

Minda Cox, who delivered the Bob R. Derryberry Senior Address, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Intercultural Studies and Speech Communication and Theatre. She is the daughter of Cathy Cox, pastor of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Bolivar, Mo.

"Mine is just one example of a life that has been shaped and directed because of spending a few years in this place, surrounded by people who love God — and who have loved us with His love," Minda said in her speech.

Minda appreciated how faculty, staff and students helped her despite her handicap, but not because of her handicap.

"I was just an ordinary young SBU woman being

mentored and encouraged and prodded to achieve — just exactly like everybody else," she said.

Minda said later that she has received many blessings from her time at SBU.

"SBU taught us how to live a life beautiful, a life worthy of Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul always says dedicate yourselves to live a life worthy of Jesus Christ. How do you do that? You persevere through life's struggles. You persevere through college algebra and science. We had teachers that prayed for us, and we had teachers that did their best to give us 100 percent of themselves."

Josiah Phipps, Life Beautiful Award recipient

Josiah Phipps graduated with a bachelor of science degree in computer science and in mathematics. He is the son of Michael and Tammy Phipps of Bolivar, Mo.

Josiah said he has benefited from the fellowship of faculty and fellow students at SBU.

"To me, SBU means community," he said. "The professors and faculty at SBU have taken a keen interest in each student's growth both academically and spiritually. This group of servant leaders is truly leading by example, and I was blessed to spend time in their classes."

Josiah asks for prayer as he begins a two-year term of service with the International Mission Board working as a software developer this fall.

"SBU gave me several opportunities to learn and grow in my faith, especially the Center for Global Connections which allowed me to attend weekly meetings and grow together in community with other believers with the common purpose of spreading the gospel," he said. "The faculty of the CGC have individually assisted me on my path and proven invaluable in my growth in Christ."



"SBU gave me several opportunities to learn and grow in my faith."



Orien B. Hendrex Award

Bing Bayer, Ph.D., received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award during spring commencement May 18. Bayer is a professor of Old

Testament and Hebrew chair of the Department of Theology in the Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry. He has taught at SBU since 1988.



Speaking Bearcats finish year in 'Superior' fashion

The Speaking Bearcats finished the 2012-2013 season in strong fashion, earning "Superior" rankings in each of the three sweepstakes categories — debate, individual events and overall — at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament March 13-16 at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

The tournament featured entries from 86 colleges and universities from 36 different states. The Speaking Bearcats finished with the third highest point total in overall sweepstakes, finishing just behind William Carey University and defending champion Boise State University.

The 2012-13 season also included two first-place Debate Sweepstakes victories, three first-place Overall Sweepstakes victories and two second-place Overall Sweepstakes finishes. The team won overall sweepstakes at the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities state tournament.

SBU CIS finishes 2nd, 3rd in competitions

SBU Computer Sciences was edged out of top honors by the University of Kansas at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Central Plains Regional Programming Competition Saturday, April 13, at Avila University in Kansas City.

SBU's A team finished in second place, and SBU's B team finished in third in the field of 31 teams from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

Thomas places third

Senior computer science/mathematics major Ryan Thomas of Tulsa, Okla., finished third in the Security Scenario competition at the Association for Information Technology Professionals (AITP) National Collegiate Conference (NCC) in St. Louis, Mo., April 6.

Thomas competed as a solo team, one of 49 teams in the competition. Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., took first place, and University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla., took second.



Enactus team finishes in the nation's top 8

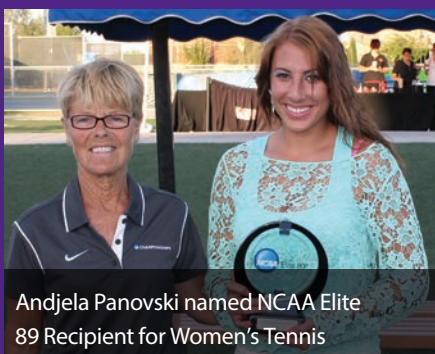
SBU's Enactus team finished in the top eight — winning first runner-up in the semi-final round — at the Enactus (formerly SIFE) National Competition May 21-23 in Kansas City.

Four speakers represented the SBU Enactus team: Seniors Aaron Meusborn and Trevor Parrish, junior Meg Goodman and freshman Tori Jones. Meusborn, Parrish and Goodman also served on the SBU Enactus officer team.

These four students memorized a 17-minute speech covering three of the SBU Enactus team's projects. Two of these projects were local businesses in the community of Bolivar, The Bean 3:16 and TMB Recycling. The last project was an international project in Zambia the team began this year.

The team has been nationally ranked at least in the top 60 for five years in a row. The regional win in Chicago in April marked the 29th time in 30 years that the team has won the regional competition.

SPRING SPORTS REVIEW



Andjela Panovski named NCAA Elite 89 Recipient for Women's Tennis

- Women's Tennis Advanced to Elite 8 in NCAA Women's Tennis Championships
- Men's Tennis Advanced to Sweet 16 in NCAA Men's Tennis Championships
- Men's Cross Country/Track & Field Named 9th Best Program in the NCAA by USTFCCA
- SBU Athletics Finished 59th in the NCAA in the Directors' Cup Standings (Top Athletics Program in the Nation)
- SBU Athletes Earned 201 Individual MIAA Academic Awards



Trenton Morris All-American in Outdoor Track & Field Mile



Cavner receives Fulbright Scholarship to teach, study in Ethiopia

Dr. Delta Cavner, an associate professor of education in her ninth year of teaching at SBU, received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach, consult and conduct research for 10 months in Ethiopia during the 2013-14 school year. She will teach education classes at Addis Ababa University and conduct research from September 2013 through June 2014.

“For the research component, I am going to visit three K-12 schools in three different size communities, do surveys, interview teachers, and observe them in the classroom,” she said.

While in Africa, Cavner also will serve at two Bible schools — both in Kenya and Ethiopia — teaching a graduate-level Research and Writing class for area pastors.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then-Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Schriver new dean of College of Education and Social Sciences

Kevin Schriver, Psy.D., will be the new dean of the College of Education and Social Sciences at Southwest Baptist University effective Aug. 1.

He has taught psychology classes at SBU since 1989 and has been chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences since 1998. Schriver graduated from SBU in 1983 with a bachelor of arts in psychology and religious studies, Central Missouri State University in 1985 with a master’s degree in clinical psychology and Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in 1997 with a Psy.D. in clinical psychology.

Schriver is the 2011 recipient of the SBU Faculty Life Beautiful Award, 2004 and 2012 recipient of the Michael Awad Scholarly Activities Award and 2004 recipient of the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award.

Linda Wooderson, Ed.D., current dean, is stepping down from the dean’s position to return to the classroom full time as a professor of physical education.

Faculty members publish books

Two SBU faculty members have recently published books.

Dr. Clint Bass

Assistant professor of church history in the Redford College of Theology and Ministry, has recently published his first book, “Thomas Grantham (1633-1692) and General Baptist Theology.”

The book, based on Bass’s doctoral thesis, focuses primarily on the doctrine of the General Baptist leader, Thomas Grantham.

The book is sold by the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage, Regent’s Park College (Oxford). It can be purchased on the Web for 22 pounds (roughly \$33.50 on today’s rate).



Dr. Kathy Brown

Professor of music, has written “Lotte Lehmann in America,” published by The College Music Society as a part of the series Monographs and Bibliographies in American Music.

Lehmann, a German-born soprano, added the role of teacher to her accomplishments in the opera house and on the recital stage in post-World War II America. She disclosed to aspiring singers insights regarding interpretation, information that Brown gleaned from recordings and transcripts held at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

The book is available for purchase at www.music.org.

- William Shell All-American in Indoor Track & Field 400
- Deneko Brown All-American in Indoor Track & Field 60
- William Shell All-American in Outdoor Track & Field 400
- Domingos Carissimo 2nd Team Capital One Academic All-American for Men’s Tennis
- SBU Baseball had first back-to-back 20 win seasons since 2005-06



William Shell named NCAA Elite 89 Recipient for Indoor Track & Field

1940

Dr. Norman and Garnet Weaver '41 celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary by taking a seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruise on Royal Caribbean's "Oasis of the Seas," the largest and most revolutionary cruise ship in the world. Norman taught at SWBC from 1950 through 1957. He was also a recipient of the 2007 Life Service Award.



1960

Dr. Charles Anderson is a half-time pastor at Nisqually Valley Baptist Church in Boy, Wash. He and his wife Janet (Gibson) '61 have been serving there since December 2011. They are also looking forward to the birth of their sixth grandchild in September. 201 Union Ave. SE #133, Renton, WA 98059

1989

Kelli (Wassan) Snyder became Kelli Pelak when she married Chris Pelak in Springfield, Mo., in February 2013. Their children are Kaitlyn, 12, Danielle, 10, Grace, 9, and Braden, 8. Kelli has worked for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a representative for 13 years. Chris has been employed by Harvey Davidson also for 13 years. They reside in Republic, Mo. kellipelak@yahoo.com

1972

Dennis Cooper has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner at DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education). He will oversee the Quality Schools Program, which consists of more than 200 government employees.

1977

Jake Warren has retired and moved back to Missouri to stay. His new address is 5505 Deer Valley Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109. jake-mobile@hotmail.com

1979

Tracy Jagers recently completed Project Dissertation for the Doctoral program at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., with a D.Min. in Church Revitalization. He graduated May 18, 2013. Tracy works at Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association. He is married to Lorna Jagers, and they have five children.

1980

Jolene Vereecke retired after 32 years of teaching in Missouri's Public School System. She has spent the majority of her career working as a first-grade teacher. Jolene is now working several part-time jobs, including University Supervisor for Student Teachers through the University of Central Missouri (UCM). Keeping up with her teenage daughter is also keeping her busy. "Life is great and so is retirement." jkv@ctcis.net

1986

Jane Ellen Brown received her Doctor of Education degree from Missouri Baptist University April 30, 2013. She is Director of Differentiated Services for the Rockwood School District. She is married to Kyle Brown '86, and they have two daughters, Mikail, 21, and Mallory, 18.

1989

Robin Fry returned to her hometown of Marceline, Mo., to be closer to her family after living in Warrensburg, Mo., for five years and in Slater, Mo., for nearly four years. She substitutes at several area school districts and especially enjoys working as a substitute paraprofessional. She also writes, keeps busy volunteering, and enjoys special times with her dog, Shiloh.

1992

David Brooks operates a petroleum pipeline at an operational center in Michigan. David is married to Marcie, and they have two kids, Hannah and Hunter. "It will be fun to hear from

former SBU classmates." 52029 Larkspur Circle, Granger, IN 46530. revdavidbrooks@yahoo.com

1995

Scott Hamilton is working as a Senior Art Director at Staples Inc. in Framingham, Mass. He works on Facebook ads and everything else you see in a Staples store. Scott's wife, Jennifer (Hollcraft) '96, is a readjustment counselor for combat Veterans at Vet Center Veterans Administration. Jennifer sees veterans individually and runs groups for PTSD and military sexual trauma. On the side Jen is the WMU President of New England and a Vice President of National WMU. She will soon join a WMU task force that will focus on Project HELP: PTSD. Scott and Jennifer have 3 children; Caleb, 13; Bathany, 11; and Sarah, 9. The whole family is planting a church in Putnam, Conn., with a NAMB church planter. Scott is treasurer, and Jen will coordinate children's programs. "Prayers are appreciated!" 36 Crescent Lane, Douglas, MA 01516. Hamiltos777@gmail.com

1997

Jeremy Casper has been living and working in Southern California for the past eight years. He has been teaching film at the Los Angeles Film Studies Center (part of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities) for the past six years. Jeremy has completed production on his first feature film as writer/director/producer, and the film has been accepted into The United Film Festival 2013. Jeremy's production "Vacant House" had its world premiere in L.A. on May 1, 2013. 1081 East Howard Street, Pasadena, CA 91104. jercasper@hotmail.com

1999

Mindy Gomez has worked for OTC for the past 13 years. She is the Coordinator of Online Instructional Design and Web Development. Mindy and her husband Jason reside at 2826 West Farm Road 76, Springfield, MO 65803. gomezm@otc.edu

2000

Erin Cobb accepted a promotion to FEMA Headquarters and moved to the Washington, D.C., Metro area in October 2011. She serves as a Program Specialist in the Mitigation Administration, helping communities understand

Murray receives Emmy Award

David Murray, D.M.A., '93, assistant professor of piano at Georgia Southern University, was pianist for a production that was recognized for broadcast excellence by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with a 2013 Emmy Award. Georgia Southern University received the honor for "Best Live Audio" during the Southeast Emmy Awards in Atlanta on June 8, according to a press release from GSU.

The award-winning video streaming production of a

performance by the University's Symphony was a collaborative partnership between the Center for Academic Technology Support and the Georgia Southern Music Department. Art Berger, Jeremiah Womble, Maestro Adrian Gnam, pianist David Murray and student musicians were honored for their work.

The selection, "Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54," composed by Robert Schumann, was performed by Murray and the Georgia Southern Symphony with Maestro Adrian Gnam Dec. 3.

and reduce vulnerability to their flood risk. She spent a few months in New Jersey and New York assisting survivors after Hurricane Sandy and helping homeowners learn how to rebuild safer and stronger. She currently attends Sojourn Church, a new church plant in Fairfax, Va. She is exploring volunteer opportunities with the Fairfax Police Department to reach out to women who have come out of abusive relationships and/or human trafficking. Erincobb4800@yahoo.com

2001

Michelle Keller is currently pursuing a Master of Educational Administration degree at Lindenwood University in Saint Charles, Mo. Michelle works for the Hollister R-5 School District. mkeller@hollister.k12.mo.us

2003

In December 2012, **Brent Lacy** released his first book, "Rural Youth Ministry: Thrive Where You're Planted," published by Group/Simply Youth Ministry. In the book, Brent examines keys to thriving in rural youth ministry, strategies for building solid relationships, tips on reaching your local schools, wisdom on surviving church politics, ideas on effectively using technology, and advice on adjusting to a new church or community. The book is available for purchase at www.simplyyouthministry.com and the Kindle Store.

2010

Amber (Akins) Moore was diagnosed in January 2012 with a very rare type of leukemia, one for which there is not a lot of research on how to treat. "Through the wisdom and grace of our Heavenly Father, I underwent an aggressive treatment of chemotherapy and radiation and received a successful stem-cell transplant on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012, and I am still in remission. Praise Jesus!" She is employed by Anpac, and she and her husband, Joe, have one child, Aidan, 9.

Marriages

Emily (Huser) '07 married Hosea Palagi on September 23, 2012. They are currently living and serving with YWAM International in Apia, Samoa. Emily.kalen.huser@gmail.com

Future Bearcats

Stacy (Batson) '97 and husband Frederick Romaine Jr. are excited to announce the birth of their child, Kalynn Sue, on June 6, 2012, at 1:59 a.m. Kalynn weighed 9 lbs., 11 oz. and was 21 inches long. Frederick is currently employed as a fifth-grade teacher at Robberson Elementary for the Springfield, Mo., Public Schools, and Stacy is the Special Education Process Coordinator at the Bolivar, Mo., R-1 HOOPS Program and middle school track coach. batson12@yahoo.com

Bonnie (Lichtenwalner) '98 and Christopher Dillabough would like to announce the birth of their daughter Jane Wilhelmina Dillabough, born November 2, 2011. The Dillaboughs have eight children, Tom, 13, Angel, 10, Summer, 10, Katie, 9, David, 7, Jacen, 5, Scott, 3, and Jane, 2. "To God be the glory." 5917 N. Farm Rd. 171, Springfield, Mo. 65803. (Also in the picture: Cousin Joey, 6, and Cousin Caleb, 3)



Kerri (Davis) Hills '02 and husband Donald announce the birth of their third daughter, Natalie Jo. Natalie was born January 23, 2013, and joins big sisters Mallory, 7, and Cassidy, 3. Kerri teaches kindergarten at Van Buren, Mo.



In Memory

Bonnie Jean Edgar, 84, of Springfield, Mo., passed away Feb. 18, 2013. She was "dorm mom" at Beasley Hall from 1983-1985.

Southwest Baptist graduate and Life Service Award honoree **Beatty P. Miller '41, 93**, passed away Nov. 14, 2012, in St. Louis.

Jim Pennington, husband of **Clydene (Halbrook) Pennington '53** passed away in July 2012 after a two-year battle with cancer. They were married for 59 years. Clydene has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She attends First Baptist Church in Independence, Mo. 17004 E. 46th St. Independence, Mo. 64055

Beryl (Becker) Trachsel '53 of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away Aug. 31, 2012. She is survived by her husband, **Fred Trachsel '53**, to whom she was married for 53 years.

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www.SBUUniv.edu/alumni

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.



Tim Clarkson '89, head wrestling coach at St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas, was named Texas Zone Prep Wrestling Coach of the Year, as voted by the high school coaches in Texas.

St. Thomas High School is 113 years old and is an all-boys preparatory high school. St. Thomas competes in the largest division of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

The team brought home three state championship trophies at the end of the season.

Tim stepped in at the beginning of the fall semester and assumed the head wrestling coach role in addition to being the Dean of Students at the school for 750 boys. He also is an Offensive Coordinator for the football team. His son Campbell (2015) is on the varsity football and wrestling teams at St. Thomas.



Inside this edition...



Brown, Taylor receive honorary doctorates from SBU

A clinical professor at Harvard Medical School and a tireless supporter of Southwest Baptist University were presented with honorary doctorates during SBU's annual Founders' Day Chapel Wednesday, April 17.

Dr. Jeffrey Brown, a 1992 graduate, is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard Medical School. He also has written books on sports psychology and how to have better mental health.

Brown told students it is important to build a solid foundation for the future.

"We're here to talk about foundations," he said. "It's my foundation that has allowed me to be able to serve others in hopefully a useful way to them. I want to encourage you to continue to use your foundation and building your foundation. That's what matters.

"Today's an awfully fun day to be a Bearcat. I appreciate this honor, and I give God the glory for all the great things that he does in our lives."

Dr. Judy Taylor, wife of SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor, is a tireless supporter of SBU programs and activities and a



friend and mentor to SBU students, said Dr. Stephanie Miller, vice president for enrollment management, when introducing Judy. Miller also described Judy as being devoted to sharing her husband's dreams for the greater good of SBU.

"Judy always has a smile on her face and actually means it," Miller said. "Judy's care for people is evident in every gesture, every smile and every action. From the executive cabinet members, congratulations and thank you for your service."