FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 5, 1995 Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

#### VIETNAMESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCES TWO HOMECOMINGS

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Sixteen years have passed since Cu Phung fled Vietnam on a boat. Thus summer he returned to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, to visit his mother.

Shortly after his return from Vietnam, Dr. Phung experienced a second homecoming at Methodist College in Fayetteville, his alma mater. He recently joined the faculty there as assistant professor of chemistry.

It's been quite a summer for the 31-year-old. He had not seen his mother since 1979, when she paid a large sum in gold to have her 15-year-old son smuggled out of the country on a boat. The print shop owned by Cu's parents was confiscated in 1975, when the Communists took control of Saigon.

"We were happy to see each other," he said. "She lives in the Cholon section of the city. I was there eight days. She is all the family I have now, except for an uncle in China. My father died in 1978."

An American citizen since 1985, Dr. Phung is pleased that the U.S. has reestablished diplomatic relations with the Republic of Vietnam. It will simplify his efforts to bring his mother to America. In addition, he believes it will open up vast new markets for American goods and services.

He said his hometown is already experiencing a new prosperity. "There seemed to be more people on the streets and more motorbikes than I remember as a child," he noted. "I also visited China, Thailand, and Hong Kong."

The story of Cu Phung's deliverance 16 years ago is remarkable. After reaching Malaysia by boat, he was removed from a refugee camp and brought to Peoria, Illinois by the Catholic Social Services Program.

U.S. Army First Sergeant John Moore and his wife Diana met Cu at the CSSP center and accepted him as their foster son. When John Moore was transferred to Fort Bragg in 1983, Cu enrolled at Methodist College.

Cu excelled at Methodist, graduating "cum laude" with a double major in chemistry and mathematics and a minor in computer science. As a student, he was active in the Student Government Association, Lambda Chi Alpha, Alpha Chi, ODK, and Tri Beta. In 1987, the

faculty awarded him the Stacy Weaver Award, given annually to an outstanding member of each graduating class.

Cu Phung became a naturalized citizen in November, 1985, in a special ceremony held in the college's Reeves Auditorium. His Lamba Chi fraternity brothers sponsored the swearing-in ceremony, which was conducted by U.S. Magistrate Wallace Dixon of the U.S. District Court for Eastern North Carolina.

After graduating from Methodist in 1987, Cu entered the Ph.D. program in chemistry at Duke University. He was a graduate teaching assistant there and did his doctoral dissertation on computational chemistry, using nuclear magnetic resonance and quantum mechanics to describe the electronic structure of molecules and how these structures affect the magnetic fields around them.

Cu said he enjoyed the mental challenge of graduate school and learned a lot about computers. "It got my mind working and taught me how to be an independent thinker," he explained. He credits his high school chemistry teacher (Mr. Sharp at Pontiac High School in Illinois) with getting him hooked on chemistry. "Everything around us is chemistry," he noted.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Duke in December 1992, Cu accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Utah, where he continued his research. In the spring of this year, he saw an ad in *Chemical and Engineering News* for a chemistry teaching position at Methodist College. He applied and was hired to fill what is essentially a new position.

After a week on the job at Methodist, Cu said he felt right at home. "What really brought me back to Methodist is its people," said Cu. "I consider the faculty and staff my second family."

Cu is teaching two general chemistry classes and one class in physical science. "Memorization is not what I will stress," he said. "I want to make my students think. I want them to get something out of my class that will help them in other ways."

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: We will be glad to send you a photo of Dr. Phung upon request.

- Enclose photo **REVISED JULY 1995** Methodist College PUBLIC RELATIONS Date Topic 630-7043 BASIC MEDIA LIST FOR PRESS RELEASES LOCAL/REGIONAL **CAMPUS** SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION ✓MC Today \_\_Fay. Observer-Times Fay. Area Conv. & Artsline Features / Education Pride Visitors Bureau FSU Sports Religion Business

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 1995

Bill Billings

Director of Public Relations

#### HARRIS TEETER PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP TO METHODIST COLLEGE

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—John Freeman, manager of Fayetteville's new Harris Teeter store, presented a \$1,000 Harris Teeter/Kraft Scholarship to Methodist College this morning at the store's grand opening.

Jay Dowd, Methodist's vice president for institutional advancement, accepted for the college. "We are grateful for this expression of support," said Dowd, "and we will have no trouble finding a worthy recipient."

Harris Teeter awarded an identical scholarship to Fayetteville State University.

Harris Teeter's new store, located in Highland Centre on Raeford Road, totals 62,000 square feet and includes a delicatessen (with an Irish chef), a grill and gourmet coffee bar with restaurant-type seating, a wide variety of specialty foods, and a full-service floral shop. Approximately 300 employees will staff the store's 24-hour operation.

Headquartered in Matthews, N.C., Harris Teeter, Inc. is a subsidiary of Ruddick Corporation. The grocery store chain employs more than 16,000 people and has 139 stores scattered across North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee.

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 6, 1995

Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

#### METHODIST COLLEGE CONTINUES TO GROW

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Methodist College began its 36th academic year by enrolling 1,779 students, the second highest number in the history of the college.

The college enrolled 1,265 students in the regular day program, 28 more than last fall. An additional 514 students registered for Fall Term I of Evening College.

Methodist experienced continued growth in its day program, registering 578 new students (331 freshmen, 247 transfers) and 697 returning students. That's 28 more new students and 10 more returning students than last fall. Six hundred twenty-three (623) students are living on campus, down slightly from last fall's 656.

Several major capital projects were in evidence as the fall semester began—a new 56-student residence hall, a realigned main entrance at Ramsey Street, new lighting, and new ramp/sidewalks for the physically challenged. Work had just begun on the \$450,000 Richard L. Player Golf and Tennis Learning Center.

In a "state of the college" address to the faculty Aug. 17, Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, college president, announced that construction will begin later this fall on the Allied Health Building/ Family Medicine Clinic, the first part of a proposed office park for south campus. He said the building will be built by a private health care corporation and will augment the college's new physician assistant program.

Dr. Hendricks also reported that the college was finalizing plans for the sale of \$10 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds at a very favorable interest rate. He said \$6.5 million would be used to restructure existing debt, leaving \$3.5 million to be spent on infrastructure (to reroof six buildings) and new capital projects—a science building annex (for math and computer science) and an enrollment services building (to house the admissions and financial aid staffs).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 20, 1995 Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

#### METHODIST COLLEGE PRESENTS DAVID IVES COMEDY

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC—**All in the Timing, a David Ives comedy which received rave reviews in New York last year, is coming to Methodist College Oct. 5-8.

Ives' collection of six one-act comedies was picked by *Time* magazine as one of the ten outstanding theatre productions of 1994. Dr. Jack Peyrouse will direct the Monarch Playmakers production, which features 10 Methodist College students and several college professors.

The six one-acts deal with a variety of subjects: how conversations can go awry, three monkeys conversing over their typewriters, a universal language lesson, a parody of Philip Glass's music, how to get through a bad day, and "Variations on the Death of Trotsky."

Methodist College students who will be playing one or more roles include: Sam Williams, a sophomore from Burlington; Bethany Surridge, a senior from Fayetteville; Denise Shuey, a freshman from Tower City, Pa; John C. Lupton III, a freshman from Aurora, N.C.; Jacqueline Leach, a junior from Fayetteville; Summer Gilmore, a freshman from West End, N.C.; Rob Devlin, a sophomore from Fayetteville; Stacie Cheers, a junior from Hope Mills; Ernest Travis, an evening student from Fayetteville; and Martha Sisk, an evening student from Fayetteville.

All performances will be held in Reeves Auditorium. Show times are 8 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7 and 2 p.m. Oct. 8. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens.

A school matinee is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. Admission to that performance is \$1 per person. For more information, phone 630-7483.

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# Public Service Announcement

All in the Timing, a collection of six one-act plays by David Ives, was picked as one of the ten best comic productions of 1994 by *Time* magazine. Fayetteville now has the chance to see this hit at Methodist College's Reeves Auditorium. Monarch Playmakers will tickle your funny bone October 6 & 7 at 8 pm and October 8 at 2 pm. Admission is \$3 for children and senior citizens and \$6 for adults.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 22, 1995 Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

# DR. STANLEY HAUERWAS TO LECTURE ON 'THE ETHICS OF WAR' AT METHODIST COLLEGE

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, professor of theological ethics at The Divinity School of Duke University, will deliver two lectures on "The Ethics of War" Friday, October 6 at Methodist College.

The lectures will be held at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. There is no charge and the public is invited.

Dr. Hauerwas is the third guest lecturer in the Samuel J. and Norma C. Womack Lecture Series which was inaugurated in October 1994. The series was endowed by friends of Dr. Sam Womack, former religion professor and academic dean at Methodist, and the late Mrs. Womack, who was director of library services at the college.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Dr. Hauerwas taught 14 years at the University of Notre Dame before joining the Duke faculty in 1984. He has lectured and written extensively about the application of Christian ethics in political theory, medical ethics, the care of the mentally handicapped, and questions of war and peace. He is a member of the Society for Christian Ethics, the American Academy of Religion, and the American Theological Society.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Walsh, professor of religion, at (910) 630-7077.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 1995

Bill Billings

Director of Public Relations

# METHODIST COLLEGE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—The Center for Entrepreneurship at Methodist College is seeking nominations for two business awards to be presented at the Economic Outlook for 1996 Symposium November 9 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux.

The Business Person of the Year Award recognizes an executive who has made outstanding contributions to a local business or industry and to the civic and cultural life of the community. The 1994 award went to Frederick A. "Fritz" Healy, Sr., president of Healy Wholesale Co.

The Entrepreneur of the Year recognizes a "risk taker in the free enterprise system, a person who sees an opportunity and then devises strategies to achieve specific objectives." Mr. Lewis Jourden, president and CEO of Hercules Steel Co., received the award last year.

Award recipients are chosen from nominees submitted to a committee appointed by the Center for Entrepreneurship. Anyone wishing to nominate a person for an award should send a nomination form and supporting material to: the Center for Entrepreneurship, Methodist College, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28311. Nomination forms can be obtained by phoning 630-7032. The deadline for nominations is October 20.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 26, 1994 Bill Billings

**Public Relations Director** 

# METHODIST COLLEGE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

rations for two business awards to be presented at the Economic Outlook for 1995 Symposium November 1996 at fac Holiday Inn Bordeaux.

The Business Person of the Year Award recognizes an executive who has made outstanding contributions to a local business or industry and to the civic and cultural life of the community. The 1993 award went to Richard L. Player, Jr., President of Player, Inc.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes "a risk taker in the free enterprise system, a person who sees an opportunity and then devises strategies to achieve specific objectives." Dr. John Henley president and the of the cules sheet to achieve specific objectives." Dr. John Henley and Dr. Franklin Clark, founders of four local health care centers, received the award last year.

Award recipients are chosen from nominees submitted to a committee appointed by the Center for Entrepreneurship. Anyone wishing to nominate a person for an award should send a nomination form and supporting material to: The Center for Entrepreneurship, Methodist College, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28314. Nomination forms can be obtained by phoning 630-7032. The deadline for nominations is October 21.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 29, 1995 Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

# METHODIST COLLEGE RELEASES SUMMER PRESIDENT'S LIST

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Nine students were named to the President's List at Methodist College for the summer semester.

To merit inclusion on the President's List a student must achieve a 3.7 grade point average on 12 or more semester hours of course work. This is the equivalent to an "A" average on the college's 13-point grading scale.

Student's named to the President's List are:

Fayetteville: Robert G. Jenkins, Felice E. McNair, Scott E. Mulhare, Dana Edwin Overdorf, Kathy Earlene Pabin, Ha Quach, Robert Lewis Reeves.

Hope Mills: Tara Michelle Ellis, Stefanie Johnson.

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_Fay. Observer-Times	MC Today	Fay. Area Conv. &	Artsline
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Billings

September 29, 1995

**Director of Public Relations** 

# METHODIST COLLEGE RELEASES SUMMER DEAN'S LIST

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—Thirteen students were named to the Dean's List at Methodist College for the summer semester.

To merit inclusion on the Dean's List a student must achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average on a 13-point grading scale while taking a course load of at least 12 semester hours.

Student's named to the Dean's List are:

### Cape Fear Region

Fayetteville: Bilinda Sue Boatwright, Donna Joy Boivin, Jennifer Leigh Dunn, Rhonda Michelle Duryea, Susan H. Johnson, Jason E. Martin, Jose C. Rodriguez, Bethany Dawn Surridge.

Cameron: Suzanne Davis, Stephanie Garris

Other Areas of North Carolina

Murphy: Julie Kahl

Other States

Timothy Mueller—Ocala, Fla.

Other Countries

Ruth Keegan—Dublin, Ireland

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