



METHODIST COLLEGE

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Office of Public Relations

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www.methodist.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE PA GRADUATES PASS BOARDS

Methodist College has been notified by the National Commission for the Certification of Physician Assistants that 100 percent of the December 2002 graduating class of physician assistant students has passed the national board exam. Since its inception in 1996, the Physician Assistant Program has earned a 98 percent pass rate on the test. The national average to pass the exam on the first attempt this year was 86 percent.

“A pass rate of 100 percent is extraordinary,” said Ron Foster, head of the Physician Assistant Program at Methodist. “This exam is rigorous. The students’ success speaks well for the quality of our curriculum, faculty and students.”

The PA program is seven semesters long. More than 78 area physicians and PAs work as faculty in the didactic portion of the program. More than 130 professionals support the clinical portion. Students have performed clinical rotations from West Virginia to Florida and even in Africa.

All, but one, of the Methodist College PA graduates are currently working as physician assistants. Eighty-one percent are working in North Carolina. Overall, forty-three percent are serving rural, medically-underserved areas.

“We have seen a tremendous outpouring of resources from the medical community,” Foster said. “We appreciate the support of area physicians who teach in our program and serve as clinical preceptors. We are also greatly appreciative of area facilities such as Womack Army Hospital, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Highsmith-Rainey Hospital, and the Veterans Administration Hospital of Fayetteville, which help train these students.” The Southern Regional Area Health Education Center also supports the program.

The Physician Assistant Program accepted its seventh class in August 2002. There are a total of 30 students currently enrolled. In 2000, the program became Methodist College’s first master’s level course of study.

“The success of these graduates is a tribute to the administration and Board of Trustees of the College,” Foster said. “The program has a stellar reputation and so do our graduates.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SPRING PRODUCTION

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Methodist College Theatre Department will present an “Onstage/Backstage” production of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* February 27 - 28 and March 1 - 2, 2003 in Reeves Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Seating is limited; telephone reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 630-7483.

The play is considered the first “bookless musical,” a collection of songs by one composer with no dialogue. But that does not mean there is no story – there are actually more than 20 stories, each contained within a song.

Born in Belgium in 1929, Jacques Brel moved to France in the early 1950s and became one of the best known singers and songwriters of his time. During the 1960s he was a regular headliner at the Olympia, the leading concert hall in Paris.

Brel was virtually unknown in the United States until writer/producer Eric Blau and rock songwriting legend Mort Shuman began assembling Brel’s songs into a new kind of production, a blend of concert, cabaret and theatre. Brel approved, and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* opened in 1968 at the Village Gate in New York where it ran for five years. The production became one of the longest running off-Broadway shows in history. The revue was revived several times and was made into a film in 1974 which included an appearance by Brel himself.

Translations of Brel’s songs have been recorded by a wide range of performers, from the Kingston Trio to Frank Sinatra. Artists including Judy Collins, Leonard Cohen and David Bowie have said they were heavily influenced by Brel’s music.

Before his death in 1978 at the young age of 49, Brel appeared in several French films including *L’Emmerdeur*, which was remade by Billy Wilder as *Buddy Buddy*. He also wrote and directed two films himself. A year before his death, Brel released his last album, *Brel* (a.k.a *Les Marquises*) which sold 650,000 copies on its first day of release.

For more information, visit www.methodist.edu/theatre/2002-2003.html or contact Paul Wilson, head of the Methodist College Theatre Department, at 630-7105 or pwilson@methodist.edu. Show times are 8:00 p.m. on February 27, 28 and March 1 and at 2:00 p.m. on March 2, 2003.

Due to the mature nature of some of the material, the play is not recommended for children. Photos are available by request.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

MC CENTER FOR RESORT BUSINESS TO HOST REGIONAL JOB FAIR

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Center for Resort Business at Methodist College will host a regional job/internship fair in the Berns Student Center on Thursday, February 27, 2003 from 6 to 8 p.m. for area students from Methodist, Fayetteville State University and Fayetteville Technical Community College. Employers such as Walt Disney World and The Homestead, as well as local businesses specializing in the hospitality arena, will be on-hand to discuss employment opportunities.

John Meeske, head of the Methodist College Center for Resort Business, said a similar fair was organized last year but it was only open to Methodist students and not many employers attended. Meeske said that corporations prefer regional fairs to keep their costs low and to meet as many students as possible. “Times are tough, and these resorts can’t afford to visit every school in the country,” Meeske said.

He has invited employers from as far away as Wisconsin and Florida. “We need to make sure the corporations get what they want when they come to Fayetteville,” Meeske said. “In this case, that means talented young people and we’re going to give them to them.”

Meeske has invited almost 20 corporations to participate. Among those expected to attend are: ClubCorp., Walt Disney World, Pinehurst Resort, Ross Resorts, Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, Blackberry Farm, The Homestead, The American Club, Burroughs & Chapin, Inc., Wild Dunes Resort, Hershey Resorts and Dolce International.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Bob Leffler, owner of a nationally-recognized advertising and public relations firm, will speak at Methodist College on Thursday, March 27 at 11 a.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium. Leffler’s presentation is part of The Reeves School of Business and Economics’ Executive-in-Residence Entrepreneurship Series. Seats are available to the public at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis; contact Anne Way at (910) 630-7047 to reserve a seat.

Leffler owns The Leffler Agency which numbers among its clients the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the reigning NFL champions, and has been frequently recognized with prestigious American Graphics Awards and Summit Awards. The agency was founded in 1984 and has offices in Baltimore and Tampa. To learn more about the agency, visit www.leffleragency.com.

“Attracting Bob Leffler makes a very positive statement about the Reeves School of Business and Economics,” said Michael Truesdell, head of the school. “Since the combination of our concentrations in Professional Golf Management, Professional Tennis Management, and Resort Business attract students from around the nation, and the world, to our business school, we felt that an entrepreneur with a national reputation would be very appropriate to speak with our students on the subject of entrepreneurship.”

For more information, contact Michael Truesdell at (910) 630-7320 or visit www.methodist.edu/business.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

POET JAMES APPLEWHITE TO READ AT METHODIST COLLEGE

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Noted poet James Applewhite will read from his works at Methodist College on Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium as part of the Blumenthal Writers & Readers Series. Also reading will be Mary Carroll-Hackett, a writer of prose. The event is free and open to the public.

Applewhite has written eight books of poetry, including the award-winning, *Daytime and Starlight*. He is the recipient of such honors as the Brockman-Campbell Award from the North Carolina Poetry Society, the North Carolina Award in Literature, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Jean Stein Award in Poetry.

Carroll-Hackett grew up in eastern North Carolina, earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree from East Carolina University (ECU). She will complete her Master of Fine Arts in fiction through the Writing Seminars at Bennington College in June 2003, having studied with Jill McCorkle, among others. She teaches as a lecturer in the English Department at ECU. Her work has appeared in the *Clackamas Literary Review*, the *Susquehanna Quarterly*, *Cities & Roads*, *Wellspring*, *Kimera*, *Independence Boulevard* and *Lynx Eye*, among others. She lives in Grimesland, NC.

The Series is a program of the North Carolina Writers Network and is funded through grants from the Blumenthal Foundation. The program sends writers to read at locations throughout the state and Virginia. Through competition and by invitation, up-and-coming writers are selected and paired with well-known writers to bring the finest in literary programming to audiences each spring.

The Writers & Readers Series, now in its nineteenth year, follows an earlier "Readers Circuit" operated in the late 1960s and early 1970s by the North Carolina Arts Council (NCAC) and the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1985, the Series has continued under the auspices of the NC Writers' Network and in 1990 became the Blumenthal Writers & Readers Series. To learn more about the NC Writer's Network, call (919) 967-9640.

Immediately following the reading, there will be a signing and reception in the Mallett-Rogers House. For more details, contact Robin Greene, associate professor of English, at (910) 630-7110.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP HOSTS ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SYMPOSIUM

Fayetteville, NC – The Center for Entrepreneurship at Methodist College invites the public to the 30th Annual Economic Outlook Symposium on October 21, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. The Center is part of the Reeves School of Business.

The symposium will begin at 6:30 p.m.; tickets are \$50 per person, or \$375 for a table of eight. This year's speaker, Will Spence, Jr., is the CEO for Wachovia Bank's Carolinas region. In that role, he provides executive leadership to consumer and commercial banking operations in North and South Carolina. He will present the outlook for next year's economy.

Spence joined the company in 1969. Since then he has served in various capacities such as executive in charge of Wachovia's consumer financial services division, regional retail banking manager and city executive, to name a few. He sits on the boards of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, the Winston-Salem Alliance, the Winston-Salem Foundation, NC Progress Board, UNC Charlotte Foundation, Educational Television Endowment and the Spoleto Festival USA.

He holds a bachelor's degree in management from North Carolina State University and is a graduate of the Executive Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Partners Program at the University of Virginia's Darden School. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and is a member of the following professional associations: Fixed Income Analysts Society, Inc., New York Society of Security Analysts, Association for Investment Management and Research, Financial Analysts Federation and the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts.

Dr. Larry Norris, president of Fayetteville Technical Community College, will also speak to guests on the state of Cumberland County's economy. Norris is the chair of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the keynote address, the Center will honor four business leaders with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Greater Good Award, the Business Person of the Year Award and the Economics and Business Alumnus of the Year Award. The Center's Board of Directors and representatives from Methodist College select the winners.

For more information on this, and all, of the Center for Entrepreneurship's programs, call (910) 630-7642.

*Photo attached/is available upon request.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

AUTHOR MICHAEL COREY TO SPEAK AT METHODIST COLLEGE

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Author Michael A. Corey, Ph.D., will speak on “Has Science Discovered God?” at Methodist College on Monday, April 14, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium. The presentation is part of the Templeton Lecture Series on Science and Religion and is free and open to the public.

Corey is an accomplished author in the area of science and theology. His works include *God and the New Cosmology*, *The Natural History of Creation, Evolution and the Problem of Natural Evil*, and most recently *The God Hypothesis: Discovering Design in our “Just Right” Goldilocks Universe*.

He earned a Doctorate of Philosophy of Science and Religion as well as a Doctorate of Psychology of Religion from the Union Institute and a Master of Theology from Claremont Graduate University.

The lecture is the fourth of the Templeton Lecture Series. The series’ namesake, Sir John Templeton, is a renowned international investment manager. His foundation generously supports research in such areas as spiritual information through science, spirituality and health, free enterprise, character development in education, and progress in religion. His support has made it possible for Methodist College to offer a course in its curriculum, twice annually, that considers the manifold relationships between science and religion. The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Development recognizes Methodist College for leadership in the area of student character development.

For more details, contact Dr. Lloyd Bailey, professor of religion, at (910) 630-7118.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FAYETTEVILLE, NC- Due to world events, Robert Wilkie, National Security Assistant to President George W. Bush, has had to cancel his appearance at Methodist College on April 11, 2003. A new speaker for the Terry Sanford Lecture Series will be announced shortly.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE TO HOST EARTH DAY LYCEUM

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Reeves School of Business at Methodist College will host a lyceum on April 22, 2003, Earth Day, to discuss an academic paper entitled, “Who Will Solve our Water Problems: A Case for Business” presented by Joseph Doll, professor of business, and Theresa Clark, professor of business administration. Respondents to the paper include Tim White, editorial page editor for *The Fayetteville Observer* and Lysa Hartley, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology. The lyceum will take place at 7 p.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

The event is part of the B.F. Stone Lyceum Series started in 1998 with a gift from the estate of B.F. Stone. The mission of the discussions is to foster scholarly interaction among the faculty, students and the community at-large.

Mr. Stone was an Elizabethtown, NC pharmacist, philanthropist and active layman in the United Methodist Church. The proceeds from his estate have also been used to endow student scholarships.

Immediately following the lyceum, there will be a reception in the Mallett-Rogers House. For more details, contact the event’s moderator, Spencer Davis, assistant professor of financial economics, at (910) 630-7688.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

NC LEGISLATOR TO SPEAK AT METHODIST COLLEGE

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Paul Luebke, now in his seventh term in the North Carolina General Assembly representing the 23rd District of Durham, will speak on “A State Lottery: Is it Right for North Carolina?” at Methodist College on Friday, April 11, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium. The presentation is part of the Terry Sanford Lecture Series and is free and open to the public.

When the legislature is not in session, Luebke is a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While most political sociologists are not active in politics, Luebke thrives on it. “The struggle of Tar Heel Republicans and North Carolina blacks to gain powerful positions in a state once controlled by white Democrats is both important and fascinating,” Luebke said. “Throughout my years in North Carolina, I have been active in organized efforts to gain increased political power for the state’s less affluent majority. While I doubt that this vision of citizen empowerment will ever be fully realized, I believe it is a worthy goal” (from *Tar Heel Politics 2000*, p. xi).

Luebke moved to North Carolina in 1975 from Mississippi. Before that, he lived in the Middle East, Europe and New York City. Growing up, his family lived in Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis. He and his wife, Carol, now live in Durham.

He began studying North Carolina politics in 1976, and over the years has published numerous articles on the subject in academic journals, newspapers and magazines. He is also the author of *Tar Heel Politics 2000* (1998), which is available from UNC Press and *Tar Heel Politics: Myths and Realities* (1990), which is no longer in print.

The Series began in 2001 and is sponsored by the Political Science program at Methodist College. The expert lecturers are invited to promote public awareness of current political affairs. Past speakers include Michael Cotter, former U.S. ambassador to Turkmenistan; Roger Stancil, City of Fayetteville manager; and Dr. Akram Khater, professor of Middle East history at North Carolina State University.

The Series’ namesake, Terry Sanford, lived a life of noted public service. He served as an Army paratrooper in World War II and received the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. After earning a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, he practiced law in Fayetteville and was the first chairman of the Methodist College Board of Trustees. He then went on to become a state senator, the governor of North Carolina and a United States senator.

Immediately following the lecture, Luebke will host an informal discussion and luncheon in the Alumni Dining Room of the Berns Student Center. The cost of lunch is \$5.75. For more details, contact Drew Ziegler, chair of the Government Studies Department, at (910) 630-7488.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP HOSTS TWO PUBLIC EVENTS

Fayetteville, NC – The Center for Entrepreneurship at Methodist College invites the public to two events of public interest – the 26th Annual Stock Market Symposium on May 1, 2003 and a business forum targeted to small- to middle-market companies on May 7, 2003. The Center is part of the College's Reeves School of Business.

The Stock Market Symposium will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$435 for a table of eight. This year's keynote speaker, Michael Ryan*, CPA, is a managing director at UBS PaineWebber and is the firm's chief fixed income strategist.

Ryan is also the head of UBS PaineWebber's Fixed Income Relative Value Group, and is the architect behind "U.S. Credit Market Relative Value" publications and models. As co-head of the Municipal Strategy Team, he is jointly responsible for publishing the "Municipal Market Strategist." His other responsibilities include the publication of a weekly Government Market Commentary entitled "On the Run" and a daily Government Market Commentary entitled "Basis Points."

He holds an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Rochester's William E. Simon School of Business, and a B.A. in political science/economics from the University of Rochester. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and is a member of the following professional associations: Fixed Income Analysts Society, Inc., New York Society of Security Analysts, Association for Investment Management and Research, Financial Analysts Federation and the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts.

In addition to the keynote address, the Center will honor four business leaders with the Small Business Excellence Award, the Silver Spoon Award, the Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Business Ethics Award. The Center's Board of Directors and representatives from Methodist College select the winners.

On Wednesday, May 7, the Center will host "Business Under Fire," an informative seminar based on solving the financial hardships that business owners face in today's world. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. The cost to attend is \$75 per person. Lunch is included.

-MORE-

Three presenters will lead the sessions, they are: Rick Gromlovits, president of Sheet Metal Specialties, Inc.; Armand Carrano, principal, The Finley Group; and William Sipes, senior vice president of BB&T. A few of the topics to be covered include, “Negotiating with Secured Lenders and Trade Creditors,” “Addressing Operational and Financial Problems” and “Common Bank Workout Strategies.”

The Center is directed by Dr. Sid Gautam. For more information on these, and all, of the Center for Entrepreneurship’s programs, call (910) 630-7642.

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**Photo attached/is available upon request.*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE ANNOUNCES 40TH SPRING COMMENCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — Methodist College has 153 candidates for graduation for its 40th spring commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 10, 2003 at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center. The day's events will begin with a baccalaureate service at 10:30 a.m. in Reeves Auditorium.

Dr. William Simpson, Jr. will give the baccalaureate sermon. He is the superintendent of the Rocky Mount District of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He serves on the board of directors for the North Carolina Annual Conference and North Carolina Wesleyan College. He is a trustee of *The Living Pulpit Journal* and he serves on the editorial board of *The Living Pulpit*.

This year's commencement speaker is Mary Dix McDuffie, Ph.D., a 1975 graduate of Methodist College. McDuffie is the executive director of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee, NC. The center is an organization devoted to the professional development of teachers, administrators and other educational leaders. After graduating from Methodist, she went on to earn a master's degree at Campbell University and her doctorate in educational leadership from East Carolina University. A magna cum laude graduate and Methodist College Scholar, she served from 1981 until 1994 on the college's faculty as an adjunct professor of history and education. She has also been an active member of the Methodist College Alumni Association. McDuffie has more than 25 years of experience in public education.

The college will present Dr. McDuffie with the Methodist College Medallion for her outstanding service to her profession. The college will also recognize an outstanding senior with the Lucius Stacy Weaver Award. The award is given to a member of the graduating class for academic excellence, spiritual development, leadership and service. This award was established in 1964 by the family of Dr. L. Stacy Weaver to honor Methodist College's first president. It consists of an engraved plaque.

This year's commencement will include several special presentations. The ROTC program will commission two lieutenants into the United States Army and two students will present the flags of their native countries to the College. Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, Methodist College president, will receive flags from Vivian Karanja of Kenya and of Kleida Pani of Albania. Senior music major Christian Baumgart will perform special music during the graduation ceremony.

-MORE-

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the college, Anthony DeLapa, will retire after this year's commencement ceremony. He has served Methodist College in that capacity since 1994.

The college is honored to introduce a new component of graduation this year. The faculty marshal will carry a mace as she leads the academic procession into graduation. A mace is derived from the medieval period as a symbol of authority of the body that governs an institution. The mace was given to the college by R. Parker Wilson, distinguished service professor, emeritus, in memory of his father, Martin Morehead Wilson.

The Methodist College mace was designed and executed by Linda Anderson and Mary Grace Cain. The mace was wrought by Robert Bricker of Charlottesville, VA. The United Methodist symbol of two flames and the cross sit on top of the mace followed by a globe and the college seal, symbolic of the worldwide service the college has rendered. Each rib of the shaft represents the eight groups which support the college: The United Methodist Church, trustees, administration and staff, faculty, alumni, students, parents, and public and private groups. At the bottom of the mace is a cotton blossom. It is a reminder of the inaugural address given by the first president of Methodist College, Dr. L. Stacy Weaver, entitled "From Cotton Field to College." Streamers contain these words from the college's *Alma Mater*, "Green shall grow thy fields of learning; Gold shall glow thy torch of truth."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE ADDRESSES FINANCIAL DOWNSWING

Methodist College is experiencing hard financial times, like many businesses and other educational institutions around the country, both public and private. The downturn in the stock market since September 11, 2001, significantly impacted our endowment funds and reduced much-needed donations to the College. These situations are not unique to the college; all industries have been adversely affected by the poor economy.

In addition to outside factors, Methodist College experienced an unexpected, and unbudgeted, reduction in the number of our full-time equivalent students in our day program. Military deployments accounted for the majority of the losses.

Strategies to thwart a budget deficit began taking effect in the fall of 2002. Initially, departments were encouraged to cut unnecessary spending, a hiring freeze was implemented and seven hourly employees were laid off.

In April 2003, budget spending was frozen, all planned capital projects were deferred, all out of town travel was cancelled, overtime and the hiring of temporary workers was banned, and the summer student work study program was greatly reduced.

Now working on the budget for fiscal year 2003-2004, the College has implemented several significant cost-saving measures. While still providing a 3 percent pay increase for faculty and a 2.2 percent increase for salaried and hourly staff, the College offered employees two additional days off at Christmas.

Methodist College has always been committed to providing the best possible retirement benefits to its employees. Over the course of 10 years, the College's contribution to an employee's retirement has risen to an unprecedented 10 percent, with no minimum required contribution on the employee's part. Last month, the executive committee of the Board of Trustees accepted a recommendation from the president and made the painful decision to reduce the college's retirement contribution to six percent. This reduction is viewed as temporary.

As Methodist College struggles with its budget situation, it is important to note that the welfare of our employees comes first. Tough decisions have to be made in tough times. The leadership of Methodist College will do everything in its power to ensure the well-being of our workforce and the fiscal soundness of the institution.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

May 27, 2003

Media Contacts:

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(910) 433-4690

Cynthia Curtis, Director of Public Relations
Methodist College
(910) 630-7043, 1 (800) 488-7110

Fayetteville Symphony and Methodist College Announce Conductor Search Finalists

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and Methodist College will announce the finalists in their conductor/adjunct professor search at the Symphony's Annual Meeting on Monday, June 9, 5:30 p.m. at the Arts Center, 301 Hay Street, Fayetteville.

After a nationwide search attracting more than 100 applicants, the Fayetteville Symphony's board of directors chose three finalists. As part of the application process, each finalist will prepare and conduct a program of his/her choosing during the 2003-04 Season.

-MORE-

As a result of a unique partnership, the Fayetteville Symphony conductor will also be offered an adjunct professorship at Methodist College. Methodist College created the position in its music department to build a student orchestra program at the school. The office of the conductor will be housed in the College's Music Department.

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra is the area's oldest locally composed performing arts organization and the oldest community orchestra in North Carolina. Historically, the symphony has rehearsed and performed primarily at Reeves Auditorium on the Methodist College campus. The Fayetteville Symphony is supported by the Arts Council through private contributions and grants from the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County and the North Carolina Arts Council.

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The 2003-2004 Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Season

October 19, 2003, 3 p.m., Reeves Auditorium, Methodist College
Guest Conductor John LoPiccolo

Maestro LoPiccolo will conduct the Fayetteville Symphony's season opener in a dazzling display of orchestral brilliance. The program, featuring Berlioz's "Roman Carnival Overture," Grieg's "Symphonic Dances" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8," will challenge musicians and audiences with major concert pieces that highlight each section of the Symphony.

December 14, 2003, 3 p.m., Reeves Auditorium, Methodist College
Guest Artists: The Cumberland Oratorio Singers and
The Heritage Restoration Chorale
Guest Conductor: Tim Altman

The Fayetteville Symphony continues a decade long tradition of holiday concerts with the Cumberland Oratorio Singers and welcomes the Heritage Restoration Chorale who will perform "Glory to God", a Christmas cantata by Fayetteville composer, Dr. Marvin Curtis.

March 7, 2003, 3 p.m., Reeves Auditorium, Methodist College
Guest Conductor Susan Bailey Robinson

Maestro Robinson will conduct an exciting tribute to America, it's land, people and spirit. Featuring Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," Dvorak's "New World Symphony," Tower's "Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman," and Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite," the program will reflect the dramatic times in which we live and give us an opportunity to reflect on our history as we march boldly into the future.

May 2, 2003, 3 p.m. Reeves Auditorium, Methodist College
Guest Conductor Fouad Fakhouri

Maestro Fakhouri will conduct a program titled, "Beethoven and Bruckner: The Romantic Spirit." The program will feature one of Beethoven's most beloved works, the Seventh Symphony, and the Finale from Bruckner's "Romantic" Symphony No. 4.



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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 10, 2003

Media Contacts:

Kate Foster, Executive Director
Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra
(910) 433-4690

Cynthia Curtis, Director of Public Relations
Methodist College
(910) 630-7043, 1 (800) 488-7110

**Fayetteville Symphony and Methodist College Announce
Conductor Search Finalists**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and Methodist College yesterday announced the finalists in their conductor/adjunct professor search.

After attracting more than 100 applicants, the Fayetteville Symphony's board of directors chose three finalists: Maestro John LoPiccolo, Maestro Susan Bailey Robinson, and Maestro Fouad Fakhouri.

John LoPiccolo is the principal conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonia d'Amici, London, England and the Idaho Falls Philharmonic. LoPiccolo also conducts the New York-based world tour production of the George Gershwin Opera "Porgy and Bess."

Susan Bailey Robinson is Conductor and Artistic Director of the Central Florida Philharmonic Orchestra and is in demand as a guest conductor throughout the United States and Europe.

Fouad Fakhouri has worked with several ensembles and orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, is an active composer, and has served as an instructor at the School of Music at Penn State.

-MORE-

Conductor Search Finalists

-2-

As part of the application process, each finalist will prepare and conduct a program of his/her choosing during the 2003-04 Season.

As a result of a unique partnership, the Fayetteville Symphony conductor will also be offered an adjunct professorship at Methodist College. Methodist College created the position in its music department to build a student orchestra program at the school. The office of the conductor will be housed in the College's Music Department.

The Fayetteville Symphony also today announced the hiring of Tim Altman as rehearsal conductor for the 2003-04 Season. Altman, a professor at the University of North Carolina Pembroke, will also be the guest conductor for the Fayetteville Symphony's annual holiday concert.

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra is the area's oldest locally composed performing arts organization and the oldest community orchestra in North Carolina. Historically, the Symphony has rehearsed and performed primarily at Reeves Auditorium, on the Methodist College campus. The Fayetteville Symphony is supported by the Arts Council through private contributions and grants from the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County and the North Carolina Arts Council.

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www.methodist.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST APPOINTS TWO ACADEMIC LEADERS

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Methodist College is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Philip Williams and Dr. Michelle Heinan to lead the overall academic program of the college and the Medical Science Division, respectively. As vice president for academic affairs, Williams replaces Dr. Anthony DeLapa who retired earlier this summer. Heinan fills the position vacated by Ron Foster as director of the Medical Science Division and Physician Assistant (PA) Program.

Williams comes to Methodist from Gardner-Webb University where he served as the assistant vice president for academic affairs and assistant professor of business administration. Reared in Roanoke Rapids, NC, he and his wife, Sandra, have a son, Grant, who will attend Pine Forest Middle School.

Williams holds a Juris Doctorate from the Columbia University School of Law and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has also earned a Master of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian history from UNC-Chapel Hill. He was a Morehead Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

His teaching experience includes posts at Gardner-Webb, UNC-Chapel Hill and Pfeiffer College where he taught courses in law, management, health care and business administration. He also practiced law for many years and was corporate legal counsel for Sea World, Inc. in San Diego during the 1980s.

Williams is the author, or co-author, of two adult mystery novels, four short stories, six children's mysteries, a legal practice handbook, and numerous academic journal articles, book chapters and textbook materials. He has extensive research experience in the area of health services.

Before moving to Fayetteville, he was a member of Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and the Boiling Springs Area Rotary Club. His hobbies include travel, wellness, history, photography, spectator sports, puzzles and games.

Heinan comes to Methodist from East Carolina University where she was the interim chair and program director of the Physician Assistant program. She has also held a teaching post at the University of Findlay in Ohio.

-MORE-

This fall the PA program will have its highest enrollment of 30 students. The program is currently the only graduate-level program at Methodist. Seven master's degree candidates are scheduled to graduate in December.

Heinan earned her bachelor of science in physician assistant studies from Alderson-Broaddus College in West Virginia. She went on to earn a Master's of Health Administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, WI and a Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. As a physician assistant, Heinan specialized in occupational medicine and family practice.

Originally from Wisconsin, Heinan enjoys music, swimming and spectator sports. She is an active member of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and has reviewed numerous scholarly articles and papers.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2003

MARY RANSON
LIFE LINE SCREENING
(800) 897-9177 x709

COLLEGE HOSTS HEALTH SCREENINGS

Fayetteville, NC –Life Line Screening will offer health screenings for people 40 years old or older at Methodist College on Wednesday, August 20. The screenings will be in the Alumni Dining Room of the Berns Student Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Participants must pre-register by calling toll-free (800) 407-4557.

The tests offered include:

1. Carotid artery screening – Visualizes the build-up of plaque in the carotid arteries, which leads to stroke.
2. Abdominal aortic aneurysm test – Visualizes the extent of an aneurysm (enlargement) in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery.
3. Ankle brachial index – Screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities, which is closely linked to coronary artery disease.
4. Bone density screening – Tests for the early detection of osteoporosis.

The screenings are painless, non-invasive, and require 10 minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$35-\$45 each or three tests for \$99.

Life Line Screening conducts on-site screenings for businesses, educational institutions, churches, health fairs, etc. The organization also offers educational workshops on stroke, aneurysms, coronary artery disease, osteoporosis and other health issues upon request. The workshops are free and generally last 30 to 45 minutes.

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Note: The file name for this release was taken from the "Creation date" provided by the word processing program used to create it



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

**CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP ANNOUNCES
THANK-YOU SERIES RECIPIENT**

Fayetteville, NC – Dr. Sid Gautam, director of The Center for Entrepreneurship of the Reeves School of Business at Methodist College, announced today that DuPont Fayetteville Works is the recipient of the second annual "Thank-You" series honor. The announcement was made at a small ceremony on the Methodist College campus. DuPont Fayetteville Works will be honored with "DuPont Appreciation Day" to be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2003.

The "Thank-You Series" was created to honor local industries for their contributions to the economy, quality of life and future of southeastern North Carolina. The initiative was started in 2002 with Kelly-Springfield Tire Company receiving the inaugural honor. The Center's 28-member advisory board selects the recipient.

"DuPont is a miracle of science," said Gautam. "It is at the cutting edge of technological development in many fields. In the field of fuel cell technology, they are playing a pioneer role. We have every reason to believe that this activity will grow by leaps and bounds in the coming years."

"That's the reason we want to recognize the role and contribution of DuPont in the economy of southeastern North Carolina," he continued. "We want everyone to join us in celebrating DuPont Appreciation Day."

DuPont Appreciation Day will kick off with a ceremony at 10:30 on Sept. 23rd at the company's plant on Highway 87. The public is invited to attend a dinner that evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. Individual tickets are \$50 and a table of eight can be purchased for \$375. The deadline to reserve seating is September 16th. The evening's keynote speaker will be David Peet, global director of DuPont Fuel Cells. A biography and photograph are available upon request.

For more information on DuPont Appreciation Day or other Center for Entrepreneurship programs, please call (910) 630-7642.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE INCREASES ENROLLMENT

Fayetteville, NC – Methodist College experienced slight overall enrollment growth this fall with a student body of 1441, compared to 1439 in 2002. The first term of the MC at Night evening college grew significantly from 559 in 2002 to 616 this year. An unduplicated head count for the fall semester will not be available until late October, when the drop/add period ends for the second term of MC at Night.

The number of active duty military personnel enrolled at the college grew from 324 in 2002 to 337. The majority of active duty personnel are enrolled in the evening college.

The college enrolled its largest class of Presidential Scholars. Recipients of this honor are eligible for renewable scholarships ranging from \$3,500 to \$10,000 per year for up to four years. This year's class had an average grade point average of 3.64 and an average SAT score of 1106.

The physician assistant graduate program, the first and only master's level degree offered at Methodist, more than doubled its enrollment to 45 students. Nineteen graduate students were enrolled in 2002.

Michelle Heinan, director of the Physician Assistant program, attributed the tremendous growth to several factors. "Our curriculum is strong and unique -- it includes an anatomy lab where students work on cadaver dissection. This and other opportunities result in a high pass rate on the national certification examination," she said. "We also have a very dedicated faculty and staff who exemplify the standards and reputation that Methodist College has built."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

SYMPOSIUM FEATURES SOUTHERN WRITERS

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – After a year’s hiatus, the Southern Writers Symposium will return to Methodist College this fall, September 19 – 20. The event, themed *Region*, is co-sponsored by *The Fayetteville Observer* and encourages scholarship on southern literature, celebrates the writings of contemporary southern authors, and promotes new works by promising budding writers. Registration is \$45 for Saturday, or \$80 for both Friday and Saturday.

Sessions will feature readings, talks, storytelling, films, interviews and media presentations. Six authors are slated to appear: Carmen Agra Deedy, Gary Hawkins, Lucinda MacKethan, John Shelton Reed, Jon Smith and June Spence. Brief biographies are attached. Photos are available upon request.

Methodist College’s Longleaf Press, which is devoted to recognizing and supporting talented emerging poets of the Southeast, partners with the symposium each year. The Press conducts an annual poetry contest; and winners present readings at the Symposium. This year’s featured poet is Deborah Doolittle, an English and creative writing instructor at Coastal Carolina Community College.

Started by former Methodist College professor Sue Kimball in 1982, the symposium has featured such eminent authors as Paul Green, Doris Betts, Reynolds Price, Marsha Norman, Lee Smith, and many others. To learn more about the symposium and its history visit www.methodist.edu/sws.

-MORE-

**SOUTHERN WRITERS SYMPOSIUM
FEATURED AUTHORS**

CARMEN AGRA DEEDY's stories have delighted thousands at festivals, schools, conferences, theaters, and museums across the country, including the Kennedy Center, Broadway, and the White House. They have also aired on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and on her award-winning audiotape, *Growing Up Cuban in Decatur, Georgia*. Describing her Cuban family's assimilation to Georgia in the 1960s, Deedy's stories reflect both the hardships of adjusting to a new culture and the richness of her dual Cuban and Southern heritage. She is also the author of six children's books.

GARY HAWKINS has won awards for his "Rough South" documentaries on southern writers Harry Crews and Larry Brown, and *The Rough South of Larry Brown* has been listed as one of the Thirteen Essential Southern Documentaries by the editors of *Oxford American*. A graduate of the University of Southern California School of Film and TV, Hawkins is currently a visiting lecturer at Duke University.

LUCINDA MACKETHAN is a professor of English at North Carolina State University and chair of the North Carolina Humanities Council for 2002-2004. She is the author of *The Dream of Arcady: Place and Time in Southern Literature* (1980) and *Daughters of Time: Creating Women's Voice in Southern Story* (1990). She has also edited three editions of nineteenth-century plantation novels and is coeditor of *The Companion to Southern Literature*, named one of the top reference works of 2002 by *Booklist*.

JOHN SHELTON REED, is professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has written or edited more than a dozen books, including *1001 Things Everyone Should Know about the South*, written with his wife, Dale Volberg Reed; "*My Tears Spoiled My Aim*" and *Other Reflections on Southern Culture*; and *Whistling Dixie: Dispatches from the South*. Among many other notable accomplishments, he is the only sociologist to be included in Roy Blount's *Book of Southern Humor*.

JOHN SMITH's writings on southern literature have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Literary History*, *Contemporary Literature*, the *Faulkner Journal*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, and the essay collection *South to a New Place*. He is also coeditor of the forthcoming volume *Look Away! Postcolonial Theory, the U.S. South, and the New World Studies*. This fall he will be joining the faculty at the University of Montevallo.

JUNE SPENCE is the author of the short story collection *Missing Women and Others*, which was named a New York Times Notable Book of 1998 and won the Mary Ruffin Poole Award for First Fiction. Individual stories have appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *Southern Review*, *Oxford American*, and *Seventeen*. Her novel "Change Baby" is forthcoming in the summer 2004.

Photos available upon request.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
October 2, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

**METHODIST COLLEGE AND MCDONALD'S
HOST HEALTH DAY**

Fayetteville, NC – The Physician's Assistant program at Methodist College has partnered with McDonald's to host a Health Day Fair and Blood Drive on Monday, Oct. 6, 2003 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the McDonald's Restaurant, 3725 Ramsey Street. The event celebrates National Physician Assistant's Day.

There will be Better Vision optometric glaucoma screenings, an audiologist to answer questions, HealthPlex representatives, free blood glucose testing, free blood pressure checks and samples from GNC-Ramsey Street. Flu Shots will also be administered by Cape Fear Valley Health System for \$16. The Cape Fear Valley Blood Assurance Plan will have the bloodmobile on site throughout the event. All donors will receive a free T-shirt.

Visitors can learn more about the Methodist College Physician Assistant Program at the Methodist tent in the parking lot. This is Methodist's first and only master's level degree program.

Entertainment will be provided by an award-winning dance team from The World of Dance and WQSM 98.1 FM will do a live remote radio broadcast from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information on the Health Day Fair, contact either Charles Berns at (910) 978-0989 or Art Diehl at (800) 838-0481. To learn more about the Methodist College Physician Assistant Program, call Michelle Heinan, program director, at (910) 630-7614.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

**METHODIST COLLEGE STUDENT AM
GOLF TOURNAMENT RE-SCHEDULED**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Methodist College’s first Student Am Golf Tournament to be held at Fayetteville’s Baywood Golf Course has been re-scheduled, due to rain, for Wednesday, Oct. 22nd. The cost is \$60 per person for the captain’s choice tournament which shotgun starts at 12:30 p.m. and will conclude with a cookout at 5 p.m.

This tournament will allow teams to choose whether they want a PGM student playing as a member of their foursome. Interested individuals may also register for five free golf lessons given by PGM students each spring.

Those interested may contact Robin Davenport, director of development, at (910) 630-7200 or rdavenport@methodist.edu. The registration deadline is October 17th. Monarch Sponsorships may be purchased for \$100, which includes one player and sponsor recognition.

Papa Jack’s Catering is providing the barbeque while Valley Auto World, Inc. is sponsoring a hole in one prize of a Mazda Protégé. There will be prizes for the top three teams, closest to the pin and for the longest drive. Participants will be treated to plenty of door prizes, giveaways and more.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
October 14, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK AT METHODIST COLLEGE

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Rick Glazier, a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives since 2002, will speak on “Government is Too Important to be Left to Politicians” at Methodist College on Monday, October 20, 2003 at 11 a.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium. The presentation is part of the Terry Sanford Lecture Series and is free and open to the public.

Shortly after his election to the House, Glazier was elected to serve as chairman of the Freshman Democratic Caucus. He previously served one and a half terms on the Cumberland County Board of Education, during which he chaired the successful 1997 School Bond Campaign.

Glazier is a lawyer by profession. His primary areas of practice are employment and labor law, appellate advocacy, civil rights and juvenile issues. Due to his statewide recognition in the juvenile justice field, Glazier was appointed by the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives to serve on the North Carolina Legislative Research Commission on the Juvenile Code in 1994, appointed by Governor Hunt to serve on the Governor's Crime Commission – Juvenile Code Revision Advisory Committee in 1996, and was a member of the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee from 1997-2001.

The Series began in 2001 and is sponsored by the Political Science program at Methodist College. The expert lecturers are invited to promote public awareness of current political affairs. Past speakers include Michael Cotter, former U.S. ambassador to Turkmenistan; Roger Stancil, City of Fayetteville manager; Paul Luebke, North Carolina state representative; and Dr. Akram Khater, professor of Middle East history at North Carolina State University.

The Series' namesake, Terry Sanford, lived a life of noted public service. He served as an Army paratrooper in World War II and received the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. After earning a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, he practiced law in Fayetteville and was the first chairman of the Methodist College Board of Trustees. He then went on to become a state senator, the governor of North Carolina and a United States senator.

Immediately following the lecture, Glazier will host an informal discussion and luncheon in the Alumni Dining Room of the Berns Student Center. The cost of lunch is \$6.65. For more details, contact Drew Ziegler, chair of the Government Studies Department, at (910) 630-7488.

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MEDIA RELEASE

October 16, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST TO HOST WOMACK LECTURES

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Carol Meyers, the director of undergraduate studies in religion at Duke University, will speak at Methodist College on Monday, October 27 at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Her topics include, “All about Eve: Eden, Archaeology, and Women’s Roles” and “Hidden Power: Women’s Religious Culture in Ancient Israel,” respectively. Meyers’ presentation is part of the annual Womack Lecture Series. The lectures are open to the public at no charge.

The 11 a.m. lecture will take place in the Science Building Auditorium. At the afternoon presentation, Meyers will be in Clark Hall Auditorium.

Meyers has taught at Duke University since 1977, where she is now holds the Mary Grace Wilson Professorship in religion. Dr. Meyers co-directs Duke’s summer in Israel program, and she is an affiliated faculty member of Duke’s Women’s Studies Program. She was educated at Wellesley and Brandeis, where she received her Ph.D. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

A specialist in biblical studies and archaeology, she is a prominent scholar in the study of women in the biblical world. She has authored or co-authored eight books and has edited or co-edited five others. In collaboration with Dr. Eric Meyers, she has written Haggai-Zechariah 1-8 and Zechariah 9-14 for Doubleday’s Anchor Bible series. Her book *Discovering Eve* is a landmark study of women in ancient Israel; and her recent reference book, *Women in Scripture*, is the most comprehensive study ever made of women in Jewish and Christian scriptures.

The Womack Lecture series strives to promote public awareness of religious scholarship by bringing an expert in the field of religion, philosophy, or ethics to Methodist College. The lectures are intended to raise moral and spiritual issues in the public consciousness and to provide an educational and cultural service to the community.

The series is named for Dr. Samuel J. Womack and Norma Womack. Dr. Womack was the college’s first instructor in religion and organized the Department of Philosophy and Religion. He also served as the academic dean and retired in 1984. His wife, Norma, graduated from the College and served as a librarian until her retirement in 1988.

For more information on the lectures, contact Michael Potts at (910) 630-7072.

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MEDIA RELEASE
October 28, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT METHODIST ANNOUNCES NEW CONCERT SERIES

Fayetteville, NC – The Friends of Music at Methodist has announced the offering of a new Performing Arts Series. The inaugural season, which opens November 16, 2003, will feature three concerts by three very unique artists. Concerts will be held in Reeves Auditorium on the Methodist College campus. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

The new series is an effort to bring an eclectic mix of artists to the Fayetteville area, said Jane Gardiner, head of the Music Department at Methodist. “By offering this new series of performing arts events, we are adding a new dimension to the cultural life of Cumberland County,” she said.

Funding for the series was provided by the Friends of Music. This project is also supported by the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County with funds from the North Carolina Arts Council, the City of Fayetteville, the County of Cumberland and private contributions.

The opening concert will feature Thomas Beard, a Fayetteville native who now performs with the Washington Opera Company, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16. He will perform various opera selections, a number of spirituals and sacred songs and musical theatre. Jane Gardiner will accompany Beard on the piano.

Under the artistic direction of Maestro Placido Domingo, Beard has performed in more than 70 performances and 12 different operas since 1999, and went on tour in Japan during the summer of 2002. He has performed for First Lady Laura Bush as part of The Washington Opera’s Young Artist Program and was featured at the North Carolina governor’s inauguration in Raleigh. Prior to his work with the Washington Opera Company, Beard worked with the Municipal Opera Company of Baltimore. He is a graduate of Fayetteville’s Cape Fear High School and Winston-Salem State University.

This year’s season will also feature multi-percussionist Richard Grimes on March 2, 2004 with an exciting blend of visual and sonic concepts. Grimes records exclusively for Pineland Records. His latest CD/DVD, “Tonight...and every night,” was released earlier this month. The Tony Monaco Jazz Trio ensemble will conclude the season on April 6, 2004. Monaco, who plays a Hammond B3 organ, recently released his third national release CD titled “Intimately Live at the 5:01.” These performances will feature pre-concert presentations.

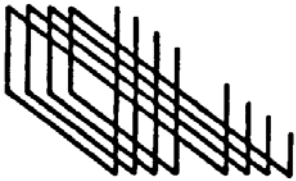
-MORE-

One of the primary goals of the Friends of Music at Methodist is to enhance the cultural life of the community. By joining the Friends of Music at the \$150 level, members receive two free tickets for each concert in the new series.

Call (910) 630-7100 for more information on this and other Methodist College offerings. Information is also available at www.methodist.edu/music.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



NETWORTH
P.O. Box 1653
Fayetteville, NC 28302

(910) 630-7043

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 6, 2003**

**CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
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FAYETTEVILLE, NC -- A preacher, a lawyer and a stand-up comedian all walk into a room. Meet Susan Sparks.

A native North Carolinian, Susan Sparks will present "Humor and the Sacred . . . Negotiating the Challenges of Life, Work and the Spiritual Path" on Friday, November 21 at the AIT Auditorium, 421 Maiden Lain. The luncheon is open to the public; tickets are \$25 per person. The event begins at noon.

Trained as a trial lawyer, then a stand-up comedian, and finally as a preacher, Sparks brings more than 25 years of public speaking experience to the stage. Coats Guiles, a producer and director in New York, perhaps described Susan best when he said, "Susan Sparks is an explosive combination of Matlock, Billy Graham, and Ellen DeGeneris all rolled into one."

She earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a juris doctorate from Wake Forest University and a master's of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Sparks has performed her comedy routines throughout New York city at Caroline's, Gotham Comedy Club, Standup NY, New York Comedy Club and Don't Tell Mama. She has two television appearances to her credit for "Life's Little Luxuries," an award-winning documentary featured on the Discovery Channel and "Humor in the Workplace," for CNN. Visit www.susansparks.com for more information.

Proceeds will benefit the NETWORTH Scholarship Fund. NETWORTH is a professional women's organization. For more information, call (910) 678-8899.

Reservations are required by November 17, 2003. To reserve a ticket, send a check payable to NETWORTH, 212 St. Thomas Road, Fayetteville, NC 28311. All tickets will be held at the door.

###

A Professional Women's Organization



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MEDIA RELEASE
November 11, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

POET FEATURED AT METHODIST COLLEGE

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Poet and rock singer Keith Flynn will read from his works at Methodist College on Friday, November 21, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark Hall Auditorium. The reading is free and open to the public.

Flynn has authored three collections of poetry, including *The Talking Drum*, *The Book of Monsters*, and *The Lost Sea*. From 1987 to 1997, he was the lyricist and lead singer for the nationally-acclaimed rock band, The Crystal Zoo, which produced two albums, *Swimming Through Lake Eerie* and *Pouch*. His latest album, *Nervous Splendor*, is a spoken-word and music compilation which was released in September 2003.

Flynn's poetry has appeared in many journals around the world, including *The Colorado Review*, *Rattle*, *The Cuirt Journal* (Ireland), *Word and Witness: 100 Years of NC Poetry*, *Poetry Wales*, *The Southern Poetry Review*, *Shenandoah*, and *Crazyhorse*. He has been awarded the Sandburg Prize for poetry, the ASCAP Emerging Songwriter Award, the Paumanok Poetry Prize and received two Pushcart nominations. Flynn is the founder and managing editor of *The Asheville Poetry Review*.

For more details, contact Robin Greene, associate professor of English, at (910) 630-7110.

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PHOTO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



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MEDIA ADVISORY
December 1, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

METHODIST COLLEGE CELEBRATES HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Fayetteville, NC – Methodist College will celebrate Homecoming this weekend, Oct. 31 – Nov. 1. There will be a variety of events to entertain alumni, students and the public.

The Athletic Department will induct three outstanding former athletes into its Hall of Fame at a banquet Friday night at 6:30 p.m. in the Riddle Center. Tickets are \$25. This year's inductees include:

- **Daphne Akridge, Class of 1993:** An offensive force for the Lady Monarch women's basketball team from 1989-1993, Akridge was the first ever Methodist women's basketball player to garner first team All-Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors. She was a two-time first team selection in 1992 and 1993, and helped lead Methodist to its first DIAC Championship in 1992. In addition, Akridge holds Methodist career records for points scored, field goals and free throws, plus single-season records for points scored.
- **Elizabeth Horton, Class of 1995:** Horton was one of many standouts that have made the Methodist women's golf program the national powerhouse that it is. She was one of only two Methodist women's golfers to win consecutive national championships when she won titles in 1994 and 1995. In addition, Horton was also a four-time All-American, and she helped lead the Lady Monarchs to four straight NGCA Division III national championships (1992-1995).
- **Clinton Montford, Class of 1990:** In his short time with the Monarch men's basketball team, Montford was a rebounding force for the Monarchs from 1988-1990. Despite his 6-foot-1 frame, Montford shares the NCAA Division III record for rebounds in a single game with 36 against Warren Wilson in 1989. He also holds the Monarch single-season record for rebounds with 459 in 1989. That year he also led the nation in rebounding while leading Methodist to its first winning season in more than a decade.

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Saturday morning activities begin with the 11th Annual William P. Lowdermilk Golf Classic at King's Grant Golf Club at 8 a.m. The fee of \$50 covers greens fees, golf cart and a boxed lunch.

Guests can enjoy a tailgate lunch on the central mall of campus from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. before heading to the football game at 1:30 against Chowan College. The women's soccer team will take on Ferrum College at noon. The men's soccer team will play Ferrum at 2 p.m.

The weekend will conclude with student and alumni dances Saturday night at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. Alumni classes celebrating reunions include 1968, 1978 and 1993. Throughout the weekend, guests may shop for Monarch merchandise at the Student Bookstore as well as the Player Center Pro Shop. For more Homecoming information, call Tom Maze, director of alumni affairs, at (910) 630-7167.

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MEDIA RELEASE
December 1, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

**METHODIST COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
HONORS MEMBERS, STAFF**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—The Methodist College Alumni Association honored two graduates and a faculty member at the annual Homecoming dinner on November 1, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux. Nominated by alumni, winners were selected by a vote of the Association's board of directors.

Jim Weeks, dean of the Bryan School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was awarded the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award, for outstanding achievement in his profession and service of the highest order to his community.

Under his leadership, the Bryan School has expanded international programs, added information technology management programs, expanded degree offerings, increased the enrollment and raised the school's endowment to just over \$19 million. Several Methodist College alumni have graduated from the Bryan School under his leadership.

A Fayetteville native, Weeks is a 1968 graduate of Methodist College, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration. While at Methodist, Weeks served as chief justice of the Student Judicial Council and was a member of the Circle K Club. After graduation, Weeks went on to earn his MBA from East Carolina University and his Ph.D. in business administration from the University of South Carolina. He has remained active with his alma mater, having served on the Reeves School of Business Advisory Board.

Nona Fisher, a Fayetteville native and a partner of Bottom Line Accounting in Fayetteville, received the 2003 Alumni Service Award for her many years of service to her fellow alumni and Methodist College. Fisher is a 1988 *cum laude* graduate, having earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration and accounting. While at the college, Fisher was president of the Green and Gold Masque Keys Theatre Club and Omicron Delta Kappa and a member of both Alpha Psi Omega and the Business Club.

-MORE-

Fisher remained at the college upon graduation, working as an admissions counselor, payroll and personnel administrator and finally as the director of human resources. She has been an active member of the Methodist College's Alumni Association's Board of Directors from 1993 to the present. She is a member of the college's Endowment Society and has awarded Greatest Gift Scholarships to in-coming students. From 1998 to 2002, Fisher chaired Homecoming Weekend, donating time and resources to make the event a success.

For her excellence in teaching and her involvement with the college and the local community, Theresa Clark received the 2003 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award. Clark is a professor of business administration and oversees all of the college's business programs. In addition to her work at the college, Clark practices law through her private firm in Fayetteville.

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MEDIA RELEASE
December 8, 2003

CYNTHIA J. CURTIS
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

**METHODIST COLLEGE TO GRADUATE FIRST
MASTER'S STUDENTS**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — Methodist College will graduate its first master's degree candidates in the physician's assistants program at its 31st winter commencement ceremony on Friday, December 12, 2003 at 2 p.m. in Reeves Auditorium. These students will join 147 undergraduate candidates for graduation.

Methodist College began its program in physician assistant studies as an undergraduate program in 1996 with four students. In 2001, the program became the college's first master's level degree offering. Currently there are 13 undergraduates and 45 graduate students in the program. Graduates of the program have achieved an average 98 percent pass rate on their national board exams since 1996, surpassing the national average pass rate of 83 percent.

The day's events will begin with a baccalaureate service at 10:30 a.m. in Reeves Auditorium. The Rev. Raymond Gooch, a 1972 religion graduate of Methodist College, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. Gooch, a native of Oxford, NC, is the senior minister at Pittsboro United Methodist Church. The college awarded Gooch its highest honor in 1985, the Methodist College medallion, for his service to the college and the United Methodist Church. He has been an active member and former president of the Alumni Association.

This year's commencement speaker is Dr. Loleta Wood Foster, a Fayetteville psychologist and civic leader. Foster owns Assessment Counseling and Consulting. She has served on the Methodist College Board of Trustees since 1993, and chaired the Academic Affairs Committee for five years. She has served many other worthwhile organizations including the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, the Fayetteville Symphony, Fayetteville UNITED, the Cumberland County Education Foundation, the Fayetteville YMCA, First Citizens Bank, the Festival of Flight and numerous others. Her work with the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce led to her election as the chair of that organization in 2002. She is also a member of the North Carolina Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association.

-MORE-

Additional Methodist College Winter Graduation 2003 Feature Ideas (I will assist in coordinating interviews if needed):

- Three of the seven master's level graduates also completed their undergraduate work at Methodist College; one is the former Miss North Carolina, Sarah "Kelli" Bradshaw.
- Jennifer "Chris" McLamb has worked at the College full-time while pursuing her degree and rearing her children, while her husband has been deployed. Upon graduation, she and her husband, who has just returned to the states, are going to Disney Land.
- Alice Price, a non-traditional student, will earn her associate's degree from our MC At Night program. Her husband, Felton, works in the Maintenance Department, thus giving her the benefit of free tuition.

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