

MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 49, Number 2

Summer 2008

DR. CHRISTIAN RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE

The Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Methodist University

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On the Cover: Dr. Robert Christian now holds the record for teaching longevity at Methodist University. After forty years of devoted service, he retired in May of this year.

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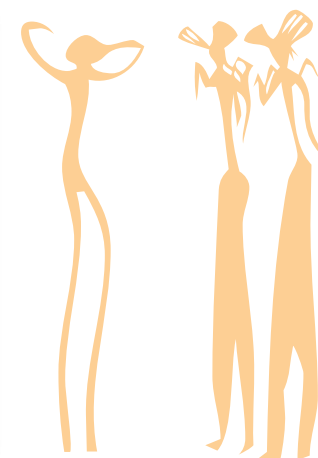
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MU ADOPTS

Freshman Reading Program



"When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled."

— African Proverb

Methodist University has adopted a new freshman reading program designed to stimulate thought and discussion in its IDS 110 Methodist University Experience course. This year's selected reading is *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan* by Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak. The program is in effect for freshmen entering (or taking IDS 110) in the Fall 2008 semester.

About the Book

This book is a true story of survival as told by three boys who lose everything during Sudan's civil war. They and thousands of children, many as young as 5, are forced to leave their homes and hide in the bush with snakes, scorpions, and hyenas as their houses burn and family and friends are slaughtered.



Methodist Welcomes New Trustee

The Board of Trustees welcomed Mr. J. Daniel Highsmith, Sr. to its membership in May 2008.

Fayetteville native Danny Highsmith has a long history with Methodist University. He is a former member of the Methodist College Foundation Board, and served as Chairman for the Loyalty Day Campaign in 2001 and 2008. His consistency in serving for many years as a volunteer for the campaign earned him the Loyalty Day Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007. Mr. Highsmith also chaired the Friends Division of the *Seeds on Good Soil, A New Season* campaign completed in 2006.

A graduate of Fayetteville High School and Campbell University, Danny and his wife, Faye make their home in Fayetteville where he serves as Regional Vice President for the Beasley Broadcast Group. Mr. Highsmith, a 37-year Beasley veteran and radio broadcasting industry leader, previously served as General Manager for Beasley station WKML-FM. Mr. Highsmith is a member of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church and serves on the board of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, the Salvation Army Advisory Board and the board of the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville. He is also a former president of the United Way of Cumberland County.

These **Lost Boys**, as they are now known, walk for months, day and night, crossing deserts and mountains to find refugee camps. They travel hundreds of miles, through lands inhabited by hungry crocodiles and lions, at risk of being kidnapped by Muslim and rebel armies. Many children die of hunger and thirst. If they sit down, they might not get up.

It is a story of loss and hunger for what they have lost. It's a story of strength and ingenuity as the boys do what they have to to stay alive. It's a testament of courage amid extraordinary hardship. We at Methodist University look forward to the discussion of this book as it focuses on one of the great tragedies of our time.



Methodist University Residence Halls Under Renovation



The northeast corner of the campus is abuzz this summer with the sounds of hammers and saws as the renovation work continues in Methodist's four oldest residence halls. Work began in Garber and Sanford Halls immediately after graduation with the removal of the old HVAC units. New units will be installed and ready to go when students return in the fall. Cumberland Hall received new units in summer 2007, and its last bathroom renovation will be completed this summer. One bathroom in Weaver is being renovated as a template for the remaining 74 bathrooms in Garber and Weaver residence halls. The installation of new HVAC Units in Weaver Hall is slated for Summer 2009. Other renovations such as new carpeting, furniture, and light fixtures are being completed as funds become available. The total planned renovation for these buildings is estimated at \$2.5 million. To date, \$461,845 has been raised from trustees, alumni, parents, faculty and staff, and friends of the University.

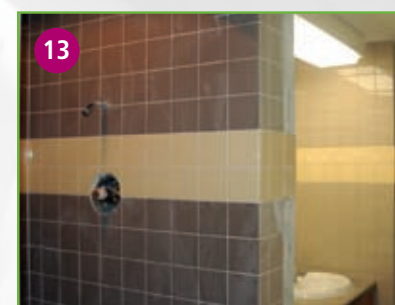
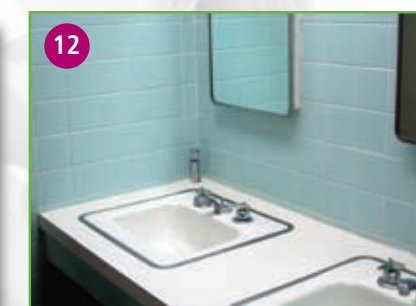
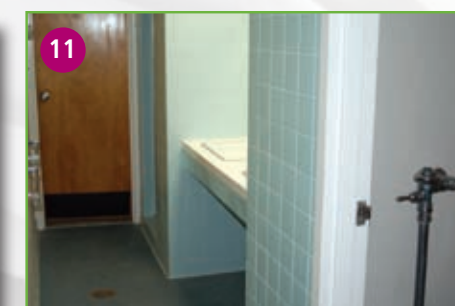
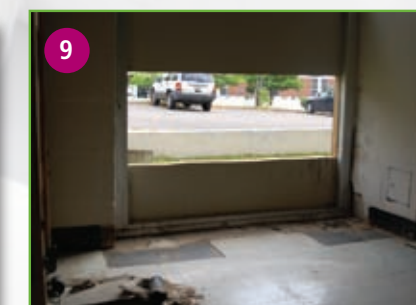
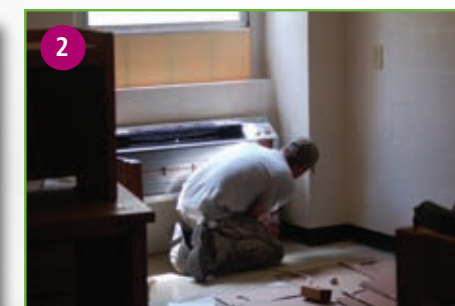
The renovation of these residence halls will provide a healthy, comfortable living environment for almost 600 of Methodist's residential students, including a majority

of its freshmen. A study by Alexander Astin, author of "The Impact of Dormitory Living on Students," found that students living in residence halls their freshman year were less likely to drop out and more likely to graduate in four years with a baccalaureate degree. Some research even suggests that student cognitive growth might stem from the complete college experience, which includes interactions with other students and faculty that is fostered by living on campus.

The four dormitories are centrally located, close to the fitness center, dining halls, student union, classroom buildings, and the library. Everything is within a five-minute walking distance. Rooms are larger than many recently constructed residence halls and have ample storage space. Prospective families, when visiting, are often impressed with the size of the rooms at Methodist. Completing the needed upgrades and repairs to the buildings will make them even more attractive to families and students.

The importance of this renovation and the opportunity to experience campus life can perhaps be best summed up by Herman F. Dixon III, Class of 1997: "I was a freshman in August 1993 starting my first collegiate football practice. As expected, I had anxieties as it was my first time away from home and I was new to the Fayetteville area. But it was here in the MC experience where I met true dear friends, alumni, and professors whom I'm fortunate and blessed to continue to be involved with. The late Chris Ryan set up my dorm accommodations. The heart of the matter is there was a comforting closeness as if we were all family. We all made huge steps together as a college community and I'm proud of what Methodist University stands for and where it strives to be."

If you are interested in learning more about the Restoring the Classics campaign, contact Robin Davenport in the Development Office at (910) 630-7609 or via e-mail at rdavenport@methodist.edu. You can also view the campaign online, along with other stories and the names of those who have donated, at www.methodist.edu/classics/index.php.



1 - Old heating and air unit
2 - Installing new HVAC unit
3 - New HVAC Unit in Cumberland Hall
4 - Women's Restroom in Cumberland Hall
5 - Women's Restroom, Shower Area, Cumberland Hall
6 - Sanford Hall prepares for new HVAC units
7 - Work in Progress
8,9,10 - Garber Hall under renovation
11,12 (before); 13,14 (after) - Weaver Hall Room 311 bathroom gets makeover



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Methodist University Family & Friends,

WHILE 2007-08 WAS AN EXCITING YEAR—my first at Methodist, 2008-09 promises to be even more exciting, enhancing our culture of excellence! Last year witnessed:

- the dedication of two new buildings—the New Science Building addition and the Nimocks Fitness Center;
the addition of a third endowed professorship—the Thomas R. McLean Endowed Professorship in History bestowed on Dr. Peter Murray. This professorship joins the Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks Professorship in Business, held by Dr. Spencer Davis, and the Elizabeth E. McLean Professorship in English, held by Dr. Emily Wright;
the creation of a new teaching award, the Alfred E. Cleveland Award for Excellence in Teaching, first awarded to Dr. Robert Christian;
the launching of two new academic programs—Graphic Design and Journalism;
the celebration of the first graduates of our Master of Business Administration and Master of Justice Administration programs; and
the beginning of an intense two-year evaluation of the University in preparation for our reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

During the 2008-09 academic year, our pursuit of excellence will continue. Methodist University will expand and enhance its academic programs by breaking ground for the William F. Bethune Art Building and by expanding our Physician Assistant master's degree program. Our revised Computer Science major will have a concentration on programming that teaches students to produce computer applications containing interactive multimedia components, and faculty will continue to develop a new program that will train students and first responders to combat the growing methamphetamine problems in our country.

A major focus of this academic year is our effort to achieve reaffirmation of accreditation from SACS. An integral part of this process is developing a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which improves student learning. Our QEP is designed to strengthen the reading skills of all students, particularly stressing reading comprehension, retention, speed, and frequency.

While SACS accredits our entire University, other disciplinary agencies accredit separate programs. Six of our academic



programs are accredited by their disciplinary accrediting agencies: Reeves School of Business, Professional Golf Management, Athletic Training, Teacher Education, Social Work, and, on the graduate level, Physician Assistant. Faculty are also seeking accreditation of our Health Care Administration and Legal Studies programs. All of these accreditations validate the outstanding work our faculty are doing and contribute to our culture of excellence!

Already this year, we have established our fourth endowed professorship—the Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks International Professorship of Business—and have awarded it to Dr. Gregory Combs. Dr. Combs intends to establish an International Studies Program in Business for all business students, faculty, and staff to introduce them to foreign cultural, social, and business environments.

Another new and exciting initiative this year—coupled with our QEP—is a freshman reading program which is an important component of our mandatory freshman orientation class. This year, all freshmen will read They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky, the true story of three Lost Boys, among the tens of thousands of these orphaned three- to five- to seven-year-old Sudanese boys, who walked a thousand miles barefoot across Africa's largest country to find food and freedom. Benjamin Ajak, one of these three who is now of college-age, and Judy Bernstein, the co-author, will be on campus for a convocation on October 27, 2008. Two days later, our freshman seminar program and Campus Ministry will co-sponsor a program where students, faculty, and staff will come together as a community to package 30,000 high-protein, dehydrated meals for use in crisis-burdened areas and in schools around the world. These events will provide an outstanding opportunity for our campus community to engage in service-learning activities that will benefit the larger, world community.

All of us at Methodist look forward to the start of a new academic year, welcoming more than 550 new students and several new faculty and staff. I look forward to seeing all of us—new and returning—work together to ensure that our culture of excellence permeates all that we do.

Sincerely,

Delmas S. Crisp

Delmas S. Crisp



MU CELEBRATES

45th Annual Spring Commencement



University graduated 171 students during the 45th Annual Spring Commencement May 3, 2008. Dr. Hendricks, Methodist University president, received flags from Mongolia and Nepal—bringing the total number of nations represented among MU alumni to 78. Seven graduates were commissioned as officers in the U.S. Army, joining the other 194 active duty military member among MU alumni.

The day's events began with a baccalaureate service at 10:30 a.m. in Reeves Auditorium. Dr. Robert C. Christian, professor of English and chair of the English Department at Methodist University, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. This spring he received the first annual Alfred E. Cleveland Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest award that a Methodist University faculty member can receive.

This year's commencement speaker was North Carolina Senator Anthony "Tony" E. Rand. The Honorable Tony Rand represents the 19th District in the North Carolina Senate and is the Senate Majority Leader. He is serving his tenth term in the state Senate representing portions of Cumberland and Bladen Counties. Rand is a 1961 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a 1964 graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. In 2006, he served as Loyalty Day chair during Methodist University's 50th Anniversary year.



'FIND WORK THAT YOU LOVE.' — Dr. Christian

University President Elton Hendricks decided earlier this year to invite Dr. Robert Christian to deliver the baccalaureate sermon May 3. Methodist's senior faculty member returned the compliment with a powerful sermon.

Dr. Christian began his remarks by saying he had been blessed to find work that he loved. He said a high school English teacher, a Methodist pastor, and three English professors at Western Maryland College had inspired him to become a minister and teacher. He then described these people in some detail.

The English professor said his all-time favorite teacher was Esther Smith, who taught dramatic art at Western Maryland for 44 years. "We remained friends for many years," he said. "We named our daughter for her. She lived to be 96."

Dr. Christian's first sermon point was, "Find meaningful work that will keep you learning, growing, and motivated for years to come."

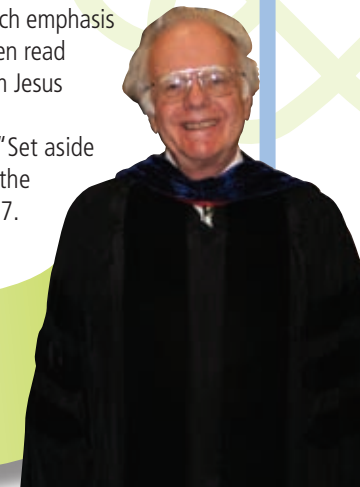
Point two was, "Build strong families and have good friends." He then read Shakespeare's Sonnet 116: "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds. . ."

In his third point, Dr. Christian cautioned the graduating seniors not to place too much emphasis on money and material things and to follow Christ's example by giving to others. He then read Wordsworth's poem, "The World Is Too Much With Us," followed by the Beatitudes from Jesus Christ's "Sermon on the Mount."

In his final point, the retiring professor advised members of the Class of 2008 to, "Set aside some quiet, spiritual time each day." He then read five of his favorite scriptures from the Bible—Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 26:3-4, Isaiah 30:15, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Phillipians 4:4-7.

Dr. Christian closed his sermon by praying the traditional Gaelic blessing,

"May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rains fall soft upon your fields, And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen."





2008 Loyalty Day Focuses on Results

Methodist University takes great pride in its alumni, who demonstrate every day that a Methodist education instills values of service, leadership, and lifelong learning. Of its 9,600 graduates, over 3,000 live in the Fayetteville/Cumberland County region. MU Alumni contribute to the quality of life for all citizens through their work, worship, and community involvement. Monarch alumni are leaders in education, medicine, business, ministry, law enforcement, science, recreation, and more.

The Methodist University Foundation Board highlighted the difference a Methodist University education makes in its 2008 Loyalty Day campaign for scholarship funds. With the theme "A Day of Support, a Lifetime of Difference," 105 volunteers and Foundation Board members contributed their time and resources to make personal calls on 600 local businesses and individuals in January and February. They raised over \$76,000 for student scholarships, with additional funds coming in through a later appeal to all MU alumni.

The Kick-off Breakfast on February 12 featured the University's student-led gospel choir, One Voice; Loyalty Day Chair Danny Highsmith; Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne; University President Dr. Hendricks; and the presentation of a \$5,000 donation from the Fayetteville Area New Car and Truck Dealers Association. *Up & Coming Weekly* magazine served as the Drop-off Location that day, where volunteers stopped in to report the results of their calls and to pick up a complimentary box lunch and cookies.

The efforts of Foundation Board members and Loyalty Day Volunteers are ambassadors for Methodist in our community are truly what make Loyalty Day work. It says so much to businesses and individuals that their peers are willing to take a day out of their busy schedules on behalf of our students. That is why Loyalty Day, which brings a broad cross-section of our community together to support the student scholarship fund at Methodist, continues to be a strong tradition.

2008 MU Alumni Association Alumni Awards Call for Nominations!

Distinguished Alumni Award

Given to one individual for his/her professional achievement and/or service of the highest order to the community.

Recipient for 2007: Harvey Wright II '70, Merrill Lynch, incoming Chair of the MU Board of Trustees

Outstanding Alumni Service Award

Given for outstanding service and dedication to the MU Alumni Association. **Recipient for 2007:** The Rev. Dr. Jerry Jackson '75, Pastor, Belmont UMC

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award

Given to a faculty or staff member for excellence in teaching, involvement in the University, and in the local community.

Recipient for 2007: Coach Bob McEvoy, Athletic Director

Submit Your Nominations Today!

Methodist University alumni are achieving great things professionally and are known for their commitment to their communities and to their alma mater. The MU Alumni Association Board of Directors invites you to identify this year's nominees! Nominations are welcome from all alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

Please visit www.methodist.edu/Alum_dev/alumni_awards.htm for information on submitting your nominations. You will also find a list of past honorees here! For more information, call (910) 630-7200/(800) 488-7110 ext. 7200 or e-mail alumnioffice@methodist.edu.



Loyalty Day 2009 is Tuesday, February 10, 2009! Please mark your calendar!

MU Welcomes Senator Clinton

Accompanied by General Hugh Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior retired military officers, Senator Hillary Clinton visited the Methodist University campus April 24, 2008. The rally—free and open to the public—took place at 4 p.m. in the Riddle Center.

"For the first time in our short history, we are delighted to welcome to our campus a presidential candidate," said Dr. Hendricks. "Thank you for being here."

Senator Clinton spoke about solutions for strengthening the military, reducing strain on troops, building a military for the future, enacting a GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, and ensuring that all veterans receive the benefits they have earned and assistance they need. She also addressed putting an end to military stop-loss, creating new jobs, coming up with a solution for affordable and quality health care, and ways to make college more affordable.



Medal of Honor Winner Campaigns for Obama

"Confidence, competence, compassion, humility, and integrity" are the five qualities Capt. Paul Bucha believes make Senator and presidential hopeful Barack Obama a great leader. Bucha, Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, visited Methodist University Friday, April 25, 2008 and spoke to a crowd of about 50 people, including many veterans, about Obama's plans for national defense and treatment of veterans. This was

one of several U.S. Presidential primary campaign events held in Fayetteville leading up to the May 6 North Carolina primary. Bucha explained, "In this list of qualities, nowhere does it say tenure. Age has nothing to do with leadership." Bucha cited the examples of David (of David and Goliath), Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Gen. David Petraeus. Bucha said we live in a country that does not produce anything meaningful and whose "dollar can't purchase a dollar." He said that his "baby boomer" generation had a chance to improve the United States' economy and did not get the job done. Bucha encouraged people of his generation to pass the torch to a more youthful person like Obama.

Bucha's speech was followed by a question-and-answer session. Attendees were encouraged to take a free shuttle to a One-Stop Early Voting site after the presentation.

Over 100,000 North Carolina residents used the One-Stop Early Voting process during the May 6, 2008 primary season.



1

Thirty-one students, staff, and faculty members came out to participate in the "Walk-a-While-n-Her-Shoes" project April 7, 2008. The project took place to raise awareness about sexual assault (in conjunction with sexual assault awareness month). Darlene Hopkins, director of counseling and psychological services, and George Blanc, vice-president for student development and services and dean of students, both spoke at the event.

2

The first 100 adults in line at Chick-fil-A's grand opening May 22, 2008, received 52 coupons for free Chick-fil-A combo meals. The line—consisting of people from Charlotte, Raleigh, Cary, and even South Carolina—began forming Tuesday night for the Thursday opening. The new Chick-fil-A is located at 4611 Ramsey Street just minutes from the MU campus.



3

Partnering with UPS, Methodist University completed Project 3D (Don't Dump - Donate!) Saturday, May 3, 2008. Methodist served as a collection site for Catholic Charities—a non-profit agency serving all needy people in Cumberland and surrounding counties—from April 14 - May 3, 2008. The collection site was located in the gravel parking lot behind the Riddle Center. Items that were collected were delivered to Catholic Charities by UPS and its employees May 3.



4

This year's Miss North Carolina Pageant was graced with two MU beauties: Tiffanie Wagner (right), the reigning Miss Methodist and Miss Fayetteville 2008; and Ashley Kotz '07 (left), who was crowned Miss Western North Carolina.



WHOSE TYPEFACE WAS USED IN THE FIRST PRINTING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?



John Baskerville (top) and William Caslon

Find out in one of these Fall courses ...

Fall semester 2007 introduced a new program and degree offering within MU's art department. Graphic Design became the first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree—awarded discipline. This put Methodist on the short list of five North Carolina institutions offering a B.F.A. in Graphic Design.

This past year, some students who were working toward their B.A. degree in an art discipline chose to pursue the B.F.A. in Graphic Design. In fact, one student working on a degree in printmaking has decided to double major to add the graphic design degree, expanding his job opportunities upon graduation.

Students have been taking fundamental courses in 2D design, drawing, painting and printmaking along with their core requirements since the graphic design program began—in anticipation of the studio courses in graphic design. The studio courses are mostly for juniors or seniors and first require a sophomore to successfully complete a portfolio review.

However, Fall Semester 2008 makes an exception. Assistant professor of graphic design, Kerry Jenkins, is offering **AGD 201 Typography** this fall to all students. Whether majoring in design or just curious about the history of our alphabet and type design, students can add this course without the normal nine credit hours of required prerequisites. However, this is much more than a history class and is actually a hands-on studio course. Students will learn the classifications of typestyles, the parts of letterforms, how to set type correctly, and how to expertly combine fonts.

Jenkins sees this course as the most important of the entire program. Knowledge gained in this class will be expanded and developed throughout all of the design and imaging courses.

This course offering may also interest those students who are undecided in their major. Typography combines with imagery and layout skills to create graphic design projects that spread into a variety of professional directions. These include publishing, film and video, package design, web design and more. This fall offers an excellent chance for these students to explore facets of the design profession.

Fall 2008 will also see **AGD 204 History of Graphic Design** offered without its normal prerequisite of ARH 151. AGD 204 is a history course; but it concentrates on the late 19th and 20th centuries—and moves up to present day—with studies of the inventions, movements, and individuals that have international historical significance in the development of visual communications. "What's interesting about graphic design's history," Jenkins states, "is how much technological innovations have influenced and continue to influence design. For example, as photography evolved there became less desire for realistic illustrations."

For more information on these courses, contact **Kerry Jenkins** at kjenkins@methodist.edu. For all Department of Art offerings, go to www.methodist.edu/art or contact **Professor Silvana Foti**, department chair, at (910) 630-7107.





MU Launches The Professional MBA at Methodist

An exciting new addition to the Professional MBA program, with a focus on Organizational Management and Leadership, will begin operations in August of 2008. The Professional MBA at Methodist University is designed as an expansion of the current MBA at Pinehurst, and will allow MU to provide an additional MBA degree on campus with a much broader focus than the golf, tennis, and resort focus of the MBA at Pinehurst. The program will reach several markets, including students from the region, the military, and current Methodist students.

Courses to be included in the program are as follows:

Core Courses:

- Managerial Economics
- Advanced Financial Management
- Advanced Managerial Accounting
- Marketing Management
- Applied Statistics
- Business Law
- Operations Management/Global Business
- Ethics

Focus Courses:

- Organization and Leadership
- Organizational Behavior
- Capstone Experience (6 Hours - focus of the research will be selected by the student and faculty to meet career needs and interests)

For more information, please contact the program director, Dr. Warren G. McDonald, at (910) 630-7116, or the program coordinator, Anne Way, at (910) 630-7493, or by e-mail at mba@methodist.edu.



Five awards were presented at the 31st Annual Stock Market Symposium April 15, 2008.



Pictured at left (L-R): Sharlene Riddle Williams, co-recipient of the Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award; Tom Wills, recipient of the Small Business Excellence Award; Carolyn Riddle Armstrong, co-recipient of the Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award; Richard (Dick) Gill, co-recipient of the Silver Spoon Award; and Joseph (Joey) Boles, recipient of the American Business Ethics Award.



Methodist Professor Visits

india

By Yashaswi Shrestha, Methodist University International Student from Nepal

Arleen Fields, assistant professor of information science and the archives librarian at Methodist University, was selected by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to visit India and meet with Indian Rotarians. She was among five professionals in Cumberland County to be selected for the trip.

The team left for India Dec. 30, 2007, and arrived on New Year's day. Each member was sponsored by a local Rotary Club. Arleen and the other members of the team visited many noteworthy sites including Patna (a city in northeastern India), Agra (home of the Taj Mahal), and Bodhgaya (the city where Buddha received enlightenment).

While in India, Arleen was fascinated by the rich and flamboyant presence of cultural and traditional heritage. The Indian way of life, religious traditions, Indian food, education system, and health and hygiene conditions all brought new insight as she experienced India every day. She described the lifestyle as "incredibly different." Careless and erratic traffic and a "might makes right" driving philosophy never ceased to take her by surprise. Shocking poverty, rural Indian lifestyle, and piles of open garbage provided a stark contrast to her relatively sanitary life in Fayetteville. At the same time, overwhelming Indian hospitality, the spice-bathed meals, and "people doing everything for you" simply made Arleen love her experience there.

...she was impressed by the fact that even in rural areas people "understood the value of education."

Besides traveling and touring Indian cities, she also participated in Rotary Club meetings and projects. She met with Rotary Club members and was constantly involved in their initiatives. She visited the Jaipur Artificial Limb Centre, participated in a child feeding project, and visited hospitals during her stay.

Arleen also learned some basic Hindi, which allowed her to socialize and learn more about the culture. She visited various schools in different parts of Northern India and observed the education system. Although she noted that the educational infrastructure in rural India needs further development, she was impressed by the fact that even in rural areas people "understood the value of education."

Despite her desire to stay longer in India, Arleen and the team returned to Fayetteville on Jan. 31, 2008. Dressed in a salwar kameez (long tunic and baggy pants) on April 15, 2008, she presented her experiences in India to Methodist University staff, students, and faculty members. Arleen says that she would certainly welcome the opportunity to travel to India once again.





... & China



Mary Deyampert McCall, professor of social work at Methodist University, writes:

China—the third largest country in the world (3,695,500 sq. miles)—is an enormous factor in the global community. With a population of 1.3 billion people, it is the first country in the world that has attracted foreign investment of

more than \$100 billion. China's annual growth rate of gross domestic product for two decades is about 10%. In spite of this, China has 134.9 million people who live below the poverty line. Research estimates that about 150-200 million people have left their home village in search of work in cities around China. This movement is being hailed as the largest migration in human history. The unemployment rate in urban areas is 7-8%, and the gap between the urban rich and the rural poor is growing.

From May 12-31, 2008, I participated in UNC-Chapel Hill's social work study-abroad program. The goal of the trip was to examine social problems, social policies, and the delivery of social services in China.

While social work is a new profession in China, social work programs have grown from just 27 in 1988 to 170 in 2005. During my visit, it became clear to me that while China has laws to protect children, programs are not yet in place that do so. I was most interested in studying China's "System of Care for Families and Children (child maltreatment)." Through lectures, interactions with Chinese students, practitioners, visits to governmental agencies, and visits with students in their homes, I have a greater understanding of China's responses to these issues. I attended several lectures, including: "Social Welfare Policies & Social Work Practice," "China's One-Child Policy & China's Population Control Plan," and "Rural Reform and Welfare Systems in the Countryside."

Through faculty-led field trips to Beijing, Hangzhou, and Shanghai, I also developed a broader understanding of the Chinese people, culture, and history.

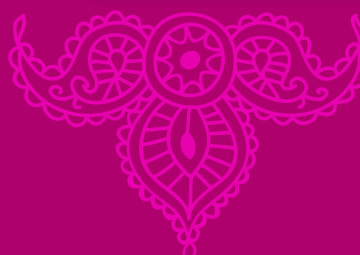
In order for students to become leaders in a global community, we as professors must understand what this entails. My experience in China will continue to broaden my view about social work practice, policies, and issues with vulnerable populations.

An Excerpt from Arleen's Journal Written in Ranchi:

"We have chai (sweet, spicy tea) first thing in the morning, served with two small bowls of snacks—one salty (today it's pistachios and cashews) and one sweet (cookies or "biscuits"). Drinking tea is an incredibly civilized way to start your morning. You get out of bed bleary-eyed and bed-headed (that was me!) and stumble to the veranda. You sit in the sun and listen to the birds and watch the activity on the street and then the maid, who heard you moving around, brings you a tray. And then you sit and drink and snack, and you and the world wake up together. Then you go bathe, and then you have breakfast around 9:00, and then, and only then, do you think about work."



OBSERVATIONS: What I won't miss about India: Coal fire smoke, being a spectacle everywhere we go, cauliflower (I've eaten enough for a lifetime!), hard mattresses, power that goes out at the most inconvenient times, the exploited beggar children, the social segregation of men and women, and being waited on hand and foot. **What I will miss about India:** the food (especially the sweets), the curious faces that surround us whenever we're spotted (I've never felt threatened), bed and afternoon tea (just a little less sugar, please!), and, most of all, the overwhelming visual, aural, and olfactory experience of the streets on which life in India takes place. India moves toward the future slowly because she is laden with 3,000 years of cultural baggage. She is a cake made of mud bricks, cement, computer chips, exhaust fumes, cow dung, rice straw, and sweet fruit all covered with silver foil icing.



Bob Christian Counts His Blessings

By Bill Billings



Forty years is a long time to teach one subject at one school, and Dr. Robert Christian now holds the record for teaching longevity at Methodist University. When he retired in May, Dr. Christian said he found his true calling at Methodist. He chaired the English Department for 26 years, including his last year, and served as director of the Division of Humanities for 21 years.

Bob Christian began his career at Methodist College in the fall of 1968. He visited the campus in January 1968, spent one night in the college infirmary (an apartment), interviewed with Dr. Sam Womack, academic dean, attended a chapel service conducted by Dr. Garland Knott, college chaplain, and met other faculty and staff. He also had lunch in the cafeteria. With a job offer in hand (at an annual salary of \$6,500), he boarded a train for New Jersey, excited about moving from the pastoral ministry into college teaching.

Coming to Methodist was a leap of faith for Bob Christian. He and his wife Kathy, a registered nurse, had two young children—Peter, 5, and Esther, 2. A native of Crosswicks, N.J., Christian held degrees from Western Maryland College, the University of Connecticut, and Drew University, but had not yet earned his Ph.D. After the Christians moved into a college apartment (where they lived for one year), Kathy Christian was offered a job as a part-time nurse in the college infirmary.

Like other teachers who preceded him, Christian enjoyed the opportunity Methodist gave him to interact with thousands of students. "I kept the same office from 1974-2008," he recalled. "There I talked with and listened to many students. We discussed many things other than subject matter; I was able to use my ministerial training in counseling."

Bob Christian has always required a lot of writing from his students. "In the literature survey courses—"British Literature" and World Literature", he noted, "all tests were 40 percent objective and 60 percent essay. I always required a 5-7 page paper of literary analysis. In the upper level courses, students had to write a lot of analytical essays outside of class."

As former students can attest, Dr. Christian graded students' papers and answers to essay questions closely, marking errors and writing comments and questions on each paper. He has been known to miss church occasionally when he had a lot of papers to grade. "I had rigorous but not unreasonable expectations," he said. He is also remembered for the expressive way he read poems to his classes.

Bob Christian won all the college's teaching awards: Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award (1990), Professor of the Year (2006), and Alfred E. Cleveland Award for Teaching Excellence (2008). He was named to Who's Who Among American Teachers in

1998. The English faculty established the Robert S. Christian English Achievement Award in 2002. Many former students have sent Dr. Christian thank-you notes over the years, and he recently put these in a scrapbook.

From the 1970s on, Bob and Kathy Christian took a special interest in international students. They invited students from many different countries to their home, took them to Hay Street





committed to Methodist. Their children and my children were the same age. We enjoyed being together at faculty and community events and at Hay Street United Methodist Church [where Alan directed the choir for 42 years]."

Christian was also close to the Rev. Dr. Bill Lowdermilk, vice president for church and community relations. "I deeply admired his selflessness and dedication to Methodist and our students. I visited him regularly during his final illness and was beside him, holding his hand, when he died."

Bob Christian worked for all three of Methodist's presidents and maintained good rapport with all of them—Dr. L. Stacy Weaver, Dr. Richard Pearce, and Dr. M. Elton Hendricks. He said these men had very different

personalities but were all supportive, each in his own way. He kept up a long correspondence with Dr. and Mrs. Weaver, and Dr. and Mrs. Pearce after they retired.

"Dr. Weaver was very learned in the classical sense," he recalls, "and very formal. Dr. and Mrs. Pearce treated college staff and their children like family. After the University of South Carolina called Dr. Pearce to say I had met all the requirements for my Ph.D., he ran over to my office and gave me a bear hug. When Dr. Hendricks came, the College's future was very uncertain. Under Dr. Hendricks' leadership, we have grown in many ways and achieved university status."

"In his inimitable manner, he would flash an enthusiastic grin and clasp his hands together as if he held the secret joys of literature in his very hands."

Cynthia Hawkins '99

Dr. Christian also holds two other distinctions. He taught Mrs. Jerry Hendricks, the president's wife, as well as Pat Hendricks, and George Hendricks, two of the Hendricks' three children. He also worked for seven academic deans: Dr. Samuel Womack, Dr. Fred Clark, Dr. Lynn Sadler, Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, Dr. Anthony DeLapa, Dr. Phil Williams, Dr. Wenda Johnson (interim), Mrs. Jane Gardiner (interim), and Dr. Delmas Crisp. [The school's first two deans were Dr. Clarence Ficken and Dr. Millard P. Burt.]

While he gives all the deans high marks, he is particularly grateful that Dr. Lynn Sadler pushed him to apply for two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars (two-months of study) about Nineteenth Century British Romanticism, his area of specialization. The first seminar for which he was accepted took

Church with them, and attended many of their special events. Olga Saprygina from Russia is their most recent "adoption"; she is now enrolled in the MU physician assistant program. Among their many other adoptees were: Vivian Karanja from Kenya, Alex Fraser and Jamie Bennett from Great Britain, Ivana Janciarova from Slovakia, and Paul Hanlon from Ireland. Several years ago, a group of international students gave the Christians a set of bookends featuring globes of the world; these occupy a special place of honor in their study.

Methodist's most senior faculty member said he is proud of the Department of English and Writing and is confident its strong faculty and rigorous standards will continue to serve the department and its students well. "Dr. Kelly Walter Carney, the new department chair, will bring fresh vision and leadership," he said. "We need to attract more majors and minors and revive the English major with certification for secondary teaching. I am especially pleased that Dr. Mary Wheeling and Dr. Emily Wright continued the Southern Writers Symposium series started by Dr. Sue Kimball."

Christian says he will greatly miss the collegiality he enjoyed with his Methodist colleagues. Dr. Christian's closest friends on the faculty were Parker Wilson, professor history, and Alan and Elaine Porter, professors of music and French respectively. "Many times I would sit in my office and listen to Parker teaching across the hall," he said. "As Parker's former students know, he turned history into living theatre. Before he retired, we estimated we had enjoyed about 4,000 lunches together."

Of the Porters he said, "Both Alan and Elaine were deeply

"To have class with Dr. Christian was a lesson in perfection, depth, and dedication of English topics."

Paul D. Smith '85

him to Stanford University in 1985; the second to Johns Hopkins University in 1989. "Both were superb professional experiences," he said. "Another thing Dr. Sadler did was establish the Computer-Assisted Composition Lab, which has greatly enhanced our teaching of English composition and writing."

Perhaps his greatest thrill as an English teacher came in the summer of 1996 when he attended a two-week Summer

"I never competed for smartest student in English, but still to this day I am grateful to Dr. Christian and to spell check."

David L Radford '78

Wordsworth Conference in Grasmere, England. Dr. Christian offered a glimpse of this experience in his baccalaureate sermon May 3: "One day we rowed out to the small island in the center of Grasmere Lake, a tranquil spot which William and Dorothy Wordsworth enjoyed. After a good picnic lunch, our leader suggested that each conference participant read aloud a meaningful passage from Wordsworth's poetry. I read 'The World Is Too Much With Us'—an unforgettable experience for me."

In 2003, Dr. Christian sat down with Lynn Clark for a lengthy interview in which he spoke of his then 35 years at Methodist. The resulting 101-page transcript is filled with accounts and observations spanning the period from 1968-2003. As one might expect, Bob Christian's "Methodist memoir" contains no negative comments, only expressions of gratitude for the privilege of teaching and working at this school. The Robert Christian transcript is now part of the MU archives housed in Davis Memorial Library.

Recalling the events he attended at Methodist over 40 years, Christian said, "The most inspiring were cultural events in Reeves Auditorium—concerts of music, dance, and theatre. One special event that was particularly inspiring was the 50th Anniversary Convocation at which our new institutional name, Methodist University, was announced. To me, that occasion was thrilling."

Asked what he viewed as the greatest challenge facing Methodist University now and in the near future, Dr. Christian answered, "students who are not motivated academically and do little to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of the university community." He said he would like to see Methodist "raise the bar concerning students who are admitted and retained."

The retired United Methodist minister said he was grateful to The United Methodist Church "for bringing us (Methodist College) into being, nurturing us, and helping us grow through our first half century of development." Although church financial support from The North Carolina Conference is declining, Dr. Christian said, "We can and should continue to reflect our legacy from the church in the future whether or not the church continues to support us."

Because of his love for English and this institution, Dr. and Mrs. Christian established the Robert S. and Kathryn F. Christian Scholarship earlier this year. The first scholarship was awarded to Tenille Woodward, an English major, for the spring 2008 semester. Woodward graduated in May.

Although Bob and Kathy Christian will be taking a cruise to Alaska this summer, Dr. Christian is not retiring completely. In the upcoming school year, he will teach one English course each semester. Kathy will continue to work part-time in the library. They plan to spend a little more time with their children and grandchildren and a little more time gardening at "Dove Cottage," their home in College Lakes.

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF WHAT STUDENTS HAVE SAID ABOUT DR. CHRISTIAN:

Dr. Christian was one of my favorite professors. He encouraged a deep appreciation for literature, and it was his passion that led me to pursue a minor in English. I have fond memories of his classes. Although most of the classes were very small, he poured his heart into each one. He spent many office hours with me to improve the quality of my written products and even encouraged publication. I asked him for a reference for my M.B.A. application and as always, he cheerfully provided it. It is professors like Dr. Christian that made Methodist College a great place to learn and grow. Dr. Christian touched many lives, and I am so very thankful he touched mine! I wish him continued blessings in his retirement.

REGARDS,
COL. AL BORGARDTS '83

Dr. Christian is quite the teacher. Every piece he ever taught was "beautiful, just beautiful." He was right; they are beautiful. He opened the world of literature for me, and not a day goes by that I do not think of Dr. Christian. Why? I, too, am a teacher. I teach English IV at East Duplin High School in Beulaville, N.C., and British Literature is in our curriculum. I have visited the campus several times since I've graduated, and I always stop by Dr. Christian's office to speak to him. Even as I type this, I can visualize his office. I see his small wooden pilgrims on their way to Canterbury, his charcoal copy of Shakespeare's epitaph, and the flowers he plucked from Keats's grave. It is almost impossible for me to imagine anyone else being in that corner office, and it saddens me, but Dr. Christian did teach us that life is constantly changing. However, Dr. Christian has earned a most joyful, restful, and blessed retirement. He has certainly earned it. Dr. Christian, I can't thank you enough for what you did for a shy, quiet 18-year-old from Wayne County.

MUCH LOVE,
CONNIE KIBBEN HARRELL '89





Excerpts from “A Remembrance of Dr. Robert S. Christian’s Past” by C. James Nash ’76

I can recall feeling great expectations placed upon me. I can recall the challenges, and the rare exaltation, of sometimes meeting the challenges. If you were fortunate to receive an “A” from Dr. C., on a paper, or an examination, you knew you had earned it—and it was something to be very proud of. I can recall receiving an “A” for a paper I wrote on Mr. Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night. I think it was the finest paper or essay I ever wrote—even better than the one that won Methodist’s 2nd Annual Writing Contest. Dr. C. was a tough teacher, and I have always learned more and thrived under tough teachers. Life is the toughest teacher of all. But I think Dr. C. runs it a close second or third.

His readings were always both reverential and dramatic; he had a flair for and reveled in the dramatic, and was extremely animated—doing every thing he could to get and keep our attention at 8 a.m. [God, that was so early then! After too many late nights, not to mention often too many refreshing liquids] no mean feat for someone trying to raise the dead old adolescents, young adults, and lifer GIs from the deepest depths of the night before, so to speak and to convey his love for literature directly to us. I don’t recall a single day when his energy wasn’t high.

As Mr. Shakespeare might have written, “Well done, Sirrah.” Thank you once again, Dr. Christian. I appreciate everything you did for me then, and everything since then. It was an honor to be your student. And it is an honor to be considered an old, if distant, friend. My regards to you, your lovely wife (who was our school nurse) and to your children. Enjoy the results of your labor, in your own season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. — C. JAMES NASH ’76

Even though I have graduated, I still use lessons from Dr. Christian’s classroom. I don’t just mean the knowledge I obtained about authors of that era and their works. I mean the lessons he taught that didn’t come from our literature text, such as: how to connect to others by showing interest in things they enjoy, how to encourage others by letting someone know you believe in them, and how genuine enthusiasm makes others more receptive to learning.

—SUZANNE E. PASSOW ’07

Dr. Christian was truly an inspiration for me in my choice to be an English teacher. He taught literature for a long time, but you would never know that by sitting in on one of his spirited lectures. Dr. Christian is also an extremely caring person. Anytime he would see me, he would always stop and ask how I was doing. Dr. Christian gave me confidence and assurance that I could do anything with my life, and because of him I will pursue a lifelong career in English. I just hope that I can touch one of my students the way Dr. Christian touched me. —CHRIS RONCKETTI ’06

I will never forget your inviting me to your home so we could discuss my ‘comma issue’. I learned more than you likely know that afternoon. Your mentoring has impacted my own interactions with my students, and there is no doubt in my mind I would not be where I am today without your support. Thank you. —DR. GABRIELA SCALA ’97

Dr. Christian’s class was my favorite. He brought English alive and helped me master many skills that were less important in the eyes of the public school curriculum. His was the only class I never skipped, always looking forward to his lively lectures, which kept me going back for more. My little blue books were filled with all he shared; he inspired me to teach . . . Thank you, Dr. Christian for enriching my life while at Methodist. —REBECCA SPELL ’74

Dr. Christian was always gracious in helping me with my job and was always so appreciative of the difficult position in which we administrators were sometimes placed. He continued to teach me those lessons of how to treat others, he was teaching outside the classroom again. I also attended services at Hay Street United Methodist Church, with the Christians. It was at this time that my daughter, Jessica, was diagnosed with autism, and I was struggling. Dr. and Mrs. Christian were always so kind and considerate, and they continue to serve as an inspiration to us all, of the example that Christ set for us, to love one another as He loves us. Dr. Christian deserves all the best that retirement has to offer, because his students certainly received the best that the profession had to offer when they entered his classroom, and it’s likely that he’ll continue teaching outside the classroom by his exemplary example to us all.

— IYNLEY (ASAY) SUMMERS ’94
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR 1995-1998
DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES 1998-1999

Even after 26 years and after more schooling and professional development, the bedrock of my academic life was chiseled in the classrooms of Methodist. Moreover, Dr. Christian was an important sculptor; he has been an ongoing “quarried source” of intellectual wisdom and aesthetic understanding. Many of his teachings and musings are solidly etched in my own career as an educator! Thank you, Dr. Christian! —BRIAN WAGONER ’82

Oh! Dr. Christian and The Canterbury Tales. There is really nothing better. The day he brings out the little figure people from The Canterbury Tales, you know that is going to be a good day. Also, Dr. Christian is a great story teller/reader, I remember class after class just listening to him read the stories from our book; I couldn’t help but leave with a smile on my face. He was a great teacher as well as friend to all students. —MARY BETH WARFFORD ’03



Methodist Student-Athletes Advance to NCAA Postseason Tournament Action



Head Coach Vici Pate led the Methodist women’s golf team to its eleventh straight National Championship in May. Pate tied the record for the most championships in women’s golf history across all divisions and took sole control of the record for consecutive titles. The women opened up with a two-stroke lead through the first day of competition and went on to win the championship by 37 strokes. Sophomore Susan Martin came from behind to win the individual championship by three strokes ahead of senior Katie Dick who tied for second. Freshman Paige Caldwell tied for 21st and freshman Sara Dickson tied for 67th. Martin and Dick were also awarded All-American honors.

The men’s golf team, also in search of a National Championship, concluded its season with a fourth place finish. After day one, the Monarchs were tied for ninth, but the team jumped five spots to earn fourth place honors. Senior Nick Bova and sophomore Josh Schrader were both named First Team All-Americans. Juniors Matt Bova and Tom Cooper were Second Team All-American selections, while all four players were named to the South Region Team. Additionally, Methodist Head Coach Steve Conley was named the South Region’s Coach of the Year. Nick Bova will represent the United States in the 2008 Fuji Xerox USA vs. Japan Collegiate Golf Championship held July 16-18 at Tokyo Golf Club.



The Methodist women’s tennis team received its second consecutive bid to the NCAA Tournament after claiming the USA South Tournament Championship. The Monarchs opened up with a 5-1 victory over Elizabethtown to win their 15th straight match. Methodist took on 6th-ranked Mary Washington in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Seniors Tiffany Tucker and Jenny Smith won the number one doubles match, but the Monarchs lost 5-1. The team finished the season 21-4 overall, with the most wins in Methodist women’s tennis history.



Methodist senior Chris Fletcher received a bid to compete in the NCAA Men's Tennis Singles National Championship based on a 21-3 record during the 2008 season. Fletcher entered the tournament ranked eighth in the region and opened with an upset of the #5 seed in the Round of 32 and won his second match in the Round of 16 to advance to the Quarterfinals. One of the top eight singles players in the country, Fletcher received All-American honors before falling to the eventual champion, Michael Greenberg of Kenyon College.



The Methodist track and field program enjoyed a great deal of success this year. After junior Tazz Petty took All-American honors at the NCAA Indoor Championships meet for the 55 meter dash, three other teammates were able to join him at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Petty placed fifth in the 100 meter dash to earn All-American honors once again. The 4x100 meter relay team made up of Petty, Mike Hill, Brandon Kidd, and Greg Bailey placed ninth in 44.66 seconds after an injury slowed the team's finish. Bailey also qualified in the 100 and 200 meters, while Hill qualified in the 100 meter dash.

Austin Wins 900th Career Game

Methodist University Head Baseball Coach Tom Austin entered the 2008 season ranked fourth in victories by active Division III coaches. He needed 26 wins to earn his 900th career win and Birmingham-Southern did not make it easy, but the Monarchs won 12-11 in extra innings for the milestone victory. Prior to the May 5, home game against Piedmont College, Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, Methodist University president, honored Austin's achievement. The Athletic Department presented him with a framed game photo to commemorate the 900th win.



Austin became only the eighth coach in the history of NCAA Division III baseball to reach the 900-victory plateau. In his 29 seasons at Methodist, Austin's teams have never won fewer than 22 games in a season. He has guided the Monarchs to 17 30-win seasons and two 40-win seasons. Austin has also guided the Monarchs to six NCAA Division III College World Series. Their best finish occurred in the 1995 season, when the Monarchs finished as the national runners-up.



Monarchs "Think Pink" for Breast Cancer

Women's basketball raised \$3,350 for the Kay Yow/WBCA Breast Cancer Fund



The Methodist women's basketball team hosted a "Think Pink" game night February 14 to increase awareness and raise funds for breast cancer in conjunction with basketball teams across the country. The team chose to donate their \$3,350 in proceeds to the Kay Yow/WBCA Breast Cancer fund. The Monarchs traveled to N.C. State University to present their check to Wolfpack Head Coach Kay Yow. The team competed in pink uniforms and sold pink T-shirts. A silent auction featured autographed balls by NBA star LeBron James, Coach Kay Yow, University of Tennessee Head Coach Pat Summitt, and University of North Carolina Head Coach Sylvia Hatchell. At halftime, breast cancer survivors were recognized. Following the event, the Athletic Department held a penny drive sponsored by the USA South Athletic Conference to donate money to the Cape Fear Valley Breast Cancer Center.

Awards Ceremony Recognizes Student-Athletes

Two-time Olympian LaTasha Colander-Clark served as guest speaker

Methodist welcomed two-time Olympian LaTasha Colander-Clark as a guest speaker at its annual Awards Ceremony. An acclaimed sprinter, Colander-Clark shared with the student-athletes her own words of wisdom related to using their gift.

There were 115 student-athletes recognized as Methodist scholar athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher, while 10 student-athletes were honored as Senior Scholar Athletes with a 3.4 or better cumulative GPA. The Male and Female Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year were announced during a University-wide awards presentation earlier this month, but Nick Bova (Men's Golf) and Katie Dick (Women's Golf) were honored during the ceremony.

The Bobby Bell Good Works Award is presented to a student-athlete or staff member who best embodies hard work, good will, and dedication in going above and beyond their duties to best represent the Athletic Department. Former Methodist staff member Bobby Bell supervised

the management of the March F. Riddle Center while always going above and beyond the job responsibilities. Senior Cory Calloway received the award this year for his dedication to the Methodist baseball program. A former player, Calloway has spent the last two seasons as a student assistant coach spending countless hours with all of the responsibilities.

The Rita Wiggs Courageous Monarch Award was presented to both Krystal Poirier and Spencer Martin this year. Poirier is a second year lacrosse player who learned a new sport and battled back from countless surgeries due to a pacemaker implanted in her body. Martin had high hopes of pitching for the Methodist baseball team and made three appearances in 2005, but has undergone surgeries that prevent him from continuing his pitching career. Rather than giving up, Martin continued to attend every practice and game keeping score, and helping out any way he can.



BIRTHS

CLASS OF 1992



Jennifer (Akers) Curtis '92 and her husband, Richard, welcomed their second child, Jackson Lee Curtis, March 3, 2008. Jackson's two-year-old brother, Benjamin, seems to be adapting well. The family currently resides in Alexandria, Va.

CLASS OF 1994

Kevin Roberts '94 and his wife Sherri announce the birth of their twins, Aidan William and Grace Elizabeth, on Aug. 15, 2007. The babies are doing well, and mom and dad are recovering! Kevin and Sherri live in Maine, and Kevin is on his fifth year as the director of golf at Lake Winnepesaukee Golf Club in New Hampshire.



CLASS OF 1995

Carmen and Lynder Serbia, '95, '93, are pleased to announce the birth of twin sons Nicholas and Christopher on December 9, 2007. Nicholas weighed 5 lbs. 13 oz., and Christopher was 5 lbs. 5 oz. at birth. Carmen is Vice President of Omni National Bank in Fayetteville, N.C.

CLASS OF 1996



Jeremy R. Sachs '96 and his wife Amy are the proud parents of a baby boy, Chase Bradley Sachs, born Dec. 7, 2007, 6 lbs 6 oz, 20 inches. Chase already has a fine grip to be a star pitcher some day! Jeremy still works for ADP Major Accounts in Rockville, Md., and Amy is working toward her Real Estate Appraisal License while being a wonderful wife and mother. They still reside in Gainesville, Va., 30 minutes west of Washington, D.C. Friends and fellow alumni can reach Jeremy at jrsinva@yahoo.com.

CLASS OF 1998

Brian Ford '98 and his wife, Susan Weaver Ford, announce the birth of their first child, Camden Ruthelene Ford, March 20, 2008. Brian is a special education teacher and a baseball and basketball coach at North Johnston High School in Kenly, N.C. Susan helps her father farm. After ten years of playing professional baseball, Brian says he looks forward to taking a summer off and spending it with his family.



Rachel Ross '98 is pleased to announce the birth of her son, Christian Taylor O'Brien, born Dec. 12, 2007. "He has been quite a handful," says Ross. "I just can't believe how fast they grow."

CLASS OF 2000

Mary S. (Johnston) Kinney '00 and her husband, Greg, are expecting their second child on June 3. Their oldest son, Christopher, is four years old. Mary is employed with The Fayetteville Observer and was recently promoted to Marketing, and editor of Special Publications. She is also the editor of the new Premier Home magazine. Friends can reach her at kinneym@fayobserver.com.

CLASS OF 2002

Anna Shelton Cranford '02 and her husband Jason are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy. Noah Thomas Cranford was born November 2, 2007. He weighed 8 lbs. and 6 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Kathleen Rodriguez '02 and husband Mario announce the birth of their fourth child and first girl, Nina Faith. She was born March 5, 2008. Nina joins big brothers Nicolas, Nathan and Noah. They reside in St. Petersburg, Fla.



CLASS OF 2005

Ashleigh Dippolito '05 and her husband, Brett, welcomed their new baby boy, Ryan Michael, into the world Dec. 17, 2007. They currently live in Benson, N.C. Ryan's proud grandparents are David Radford '78 and his wife, Brenda, of Durham, N.C.

CLASS OF 2007

Richard Gutierrez '07 and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their first child, Gaven Cruz, into the world Dec. 15, 2007.



ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

CLASS OF 1970

James Russell, II '70 and his wife, Diana (Rogers) Russell '71, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Blaire, to Jeremy Austin. Jeremy and Blaire met through their church's youth activities.

CLASS OF 1994

Erika Moyer '94 married Greg Huyck Nov. 2, 2007 at the Fairmont Kea Lani in Maui, Hawaii.

CLASS OF 2003

Tara (Nestopoulos) Brandt '03 married Charlie Brandt February 16, 2008 in Smithville, N.J. The couple honeymooned in the Riviera Maya region of Mexico. Tara teaches business at Atlantic City High School, and Charlie is the director of marketing at Blue Heron Pines Golf Club. Tara and Charlie reside in Absecon, N.J. with Aidan, Charlie's four-year-old son, and their dogs, Belle and Rudy.



ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Bobbie Jessel '03 married Steven Damerell February 2, 2008 in a small beach ceremony at Wyndham Sugar Bay in St. Thomas. The couple honeymooned in the US and British Virgin Islands. A large reception party was held in northern Virginia April 26, 2008. Bobbie and Steven both work as defense contractors in the Washington, D.C. area.



CLASS OF 2004

Shelley (Cameron) McClintic '04 married Matthew McClintic April 20, 2008 at The Hilton Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Rev. Tresco Shannon performed the ceremony, and a reception followed. The couple honeymooned at the Sandals Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Blakely Overby '04 and Jeffrey Beitzel '04 were united in marriage on April 14, 2008 in Destin, Florida. The couple exchanged vows during sunset on the beach. Blakely graduated in August 2007 from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. with a Master's of Medical Science and Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Jeff is an analytical chemist for AAIPHARMA in the Research Triangle Park, NC. The couple resides in Clayton, NC.

CLASS OF 2005

William Justin Bright '05 married Andrea Joyce Lankenau on Dec. 15, 2007. Bright is a member of the Professional Golf Association of America and is employed as assistant golf professional at Richmond Country Club.

Tracy Goff '05 became engaged to Artie Manfredi '07 Dec. 21, 2007. Their wedding is scheduled for Nov. 29, 2008.

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1971

Caroline C. Milner '71 died peacefully at home on January 26, 2008. A memorial service was held in Fort Myers Chapel in Arlington, Va. in the spring, and Caroline was buried with her husband in Arlington National Cemetery.



CLASS OF 1972

Patrick Corn says that although he spent only one year at Methodist College, his memories are quite vivid and cherished. Patrick left Methodist to study jazz and arranging at North Texas State University. He is currently the Pastor at The Smoky Mountain Cowboy Church, a worldwide broadcast that reaches 250 million people around the world each Sunday. He also does the arrangements for The OK Chorale, a 10-piece band with three background vocalists. The broadcast can be found on XM satellite radio each Sunday on Willie's Place, and on WSM AM650 Clear Channel broadcasts. The worldwide broadcast is



CLASS NOTES

via WWCR, Worldwide Country Radio, and in short-wave from Nashville. Patrick can be found online at www.maizeone.com and www.myspace.com/patcornmusic.

Robert "Bob" Hamilton '72 says "Hi to all former Methodist students. Barbara and I are still in Pinehurst, N.C. where I'm helping manage The Little Toy Shop after 30 years with IBM in the Research Triangle Park." Bob would love to chat with both classes he was involved with - his own, 1972, and brother John's, 1967. If you are in the Pinehurst area for golf or vacation, give Bob a call, he would love to hear from you!

Charles Hartsell '72 is still an Insurance Agent in SC and his wife Donna is employed at the hospital there. They have two sons, Grant and Van, and a granddaughter, Samantha, who is ten. Charles plans to keep on working because after a few days off he is ready to get back to selling insurance, which he says is a great profession. "If the Lord allows me to work on I will do so for many years to come. This is one job you can keep on doing well into your 70s," he says. He and his wife attend a Southern Baptist Church and enjoy the fellowship and all that it brings into their lives.

CLASS OF 1973

Luke Evola '73 and his wife, Karen, have moved to Mooresburg, Tenn., quite the change from NJ, and are living on Cherokee Lake. Luke has remained in contact with some of his roommates over the years and recently spent a weekend with Walt Goss '72 and his family. He and Walt have tracked down their 'lost' friend Joe Deich '70 after 30 some years. A reunion is planned. Perhaps they will be joined by Mickey Elliott '69 as well.

Larry Philpott '73 and his wife, Pam, reside in Fayetteville, N.C. He retired January 1, 2008 after serving more than 32 years in Public Parks and Recreation Services. Larry went back to work March 24 as the interim director of Cumberland County (N.C.) Animal Control. It is a six-month contract while the county recruits a new director. After he completes the task, the couple will be moving to the small coastal town of Swansboro, N.C. "Like many of us," says Larry, "I still stay in contact and plan outings with former Methodist classmates, baseball teammates, and dorm mates."

CLASS OF 1974

Danny Fowler '74 was elected president of the Tidewater Mortgage Bankers Association for 2008. The Tidewater Virginia area consists of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Suffolk. Dan was also appointed as chairman of his Church Council in 2008 for Francis Asbury United Methodist Church. He has served as the vice-chairman for the last three years. Dan and his wife, Cathy, live in Virginia Beach and love spending their free time in and on the water. Dan always enjoys hearing from alumni and friends!



CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1977

Col. Sheldon "Jim" Bathurst '77 (USMC, Ret) and his wife Nancy have recently relocated from Tenn. to Girard, Ill. along Sunset Lake. Jim swears that this will be his last move (ha ha), but we'll see. Having moved 27 times in the 36 years he spent in the Marines has put "change" in his blood.

Gale Cannon '77 has been awarded Educator of the Year by the National Association of Private Special Education Centers. This award represents staff from 260 member schools and agencies in the U.S. Gale received her award in January at the national conference in Hawks Cay, Fla. Gale received her BA in Art Education at Methodist and her M.Ed. in Special Education at UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been a teacher in the field of Special Education since her graduation from Methodist. For the past 23 years, she has been teaching students with multiple disabilities at Archbishop Damiano School at St. John of God Community Services, in Westville Grove, NJ. She resides in Woodbury, NJ with her husband Karl.



CLASS OF 1983

Linda Trudeau Wise '83 has received her National Board Teacher Certification in early-middle childhood music education. She also received a Bright Ideas grant from Central EMC. She will receive a laptop computer and a video projection unit to aid in teaching students music in the classroom. This academic year marked Linda's 23rd in teaching elementary music. Linda is married to Gilliam Wise '83, and they have three children: Joel, Ben, and Elizabeth.

CLASS OF 1986

Mark Powell '86 was recently named Chief of Marketing and Agribusiness Development for the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis. He had been Acting Chief. Mark is leading programs for the state to develop profitable and sustainable agriculture in Maryland. Contact him at (410) 841-5775 or powellms@mda.state.md.us.

CLASS OF 1991

Chadwick Huggins '91 led the Lake View Lady "Wild Gators" softball team to the 2007 Class A State Championship, finishing the season with a school record 26 wins. It was the first state championship in any female sport in the 83-year athletic history of Lake View High School. For his team's accomplishments, Chadwick was named the 2007 Statewide Softball Coach of the Year by the High School Sports Report, and the Pee Dee Area Coach of the Year by the Florence, S.C. Morning News.

CLASS OF 1992



David Holmes '92 finished "Ironman Florida" in November, and his wife, Angie (Conrad) Holmes '92, finished her fifth marathon in Baltimore, Md. in October. Both of the Holmes' daughters are following in their parents' fitness footsteps. Abbey swims, and Natalie swims and plays soccer and basketball. Both daughters participated in a kids' triathlon last summer. The Holmes family lives in the Washington, D.C. area. Angie works from home, and David works in pharmaceutical sales. They follow the Methodist sports teams closely.

Rob Pilewski '92 was awarded the Horton Smith Trophy, given for contributions in the area of education by the Carolinas Golf Association. He earned the award by starting a program to help club professionals complete the steps to earn their status as Class A professionals. Rob also qualified for and played in a Nationwide Tour event, The Rex Hospital Open, held at TPC Wakefield June 5-8. Pictured with Rob is Kelly Cap '95, who visited King's Grant Golf and Country Club to give a golf clinic in May.



CLASS OF 1993

Monica Hawke '93 was named the top producer and mentor of the year by Weichert, Realtors- Larose & Co. at a luncheon in Southern Pines, NC in April.

Michael C. Jordan '93 was re-elected to the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountants Examiners March 19, 2008. Jordan is a manager of the Goldsboro office of the CPA firm, Pittard Perry and Crone, Inc., and serves as a member of the following committees: The Executive Committee, the Professional Standards Committee, the Audit Committee, and the Task Force on Mobility.

CLASS OF 1994

Andy and Ana Hartz '94, '96 and their triplets have relocated to Spain. Andy was hired as golf director of Pedrena, a famous golf resort. Ana is a native of Spain, where her parents now reside.

CLASS OF 1996



Scotti Sykes Marshburn '96 lives in Fayetteville and works for Cheer Ltd. as a national events director. She writes, "I have an amazing husband, Steve, and two wonderful children -- Blake is five and Savanna was born May 1, 2007. If you come to back to the "ville" let me know! I'd love to catch up with some of my college friends!" She can be reached at scottim@cheerltd.com.

She can be reached at scottim@cheerltd.com.



CLASS NOTES



Derek Tang '96 has been in youth ministry since graduating from Methodist. He currently serves at a United Methodist church in Burlington, N.C. In November of 2006, Tang and his wife welcomed to their family a baby girl, Marisa. Tang says he has been able to get in touch with some of his fellow alumni through the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2304422683.

Darren Thompson '96 has been elected to serve as the chairman of the Spirit Industry Trade Association. This will be Thompson's third consecutive term. Thompson is the director of project development for Cheer Ltd., Inc. in Fayetteville.

Eric Withrow '96 currently lives just north of Orlando in Winter Springs. He runs the drafting department of a small structural engineering firm. Withrow would like to say hello to his old friends. He says, "It's hard to fathom that it's been over 10 years since we were all together."



CLASS OF 1997



Pastor Nate Davis '97 is currently the associate pastor of World Overcomers Christian Church in Durham, N.C. In just five years, the church has grown to over 3,000 members and is one of the fastest growing churches in the country. Davis lives in Durham, N.C. with his wife, Tequilla, and their two children, Ben (age 20) and Reagan (age 6).

Jodi Gabriel Scala (formerly Jodi Mancastroppa) '97 recently graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Ph.D. in American Literature. Gabriel completed a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Bowling Green State University in 2003 and is currently teaching in the English department at Ole Miss. She has published poems in literary magazines such as the Northwest Florida Review and Quarter After Eight and her chapbook, titled "Twenty Questions for Robbie Dunkle", was released by Kent State University Press in 2004. Gabriel has also published a chapter in "Violence, the Arts, and Willa Cather" and has another article on Cather forthcoming in "Cather Studies".

CLASS OF 1998

Christie Scott '98 and her husband, Walker Scott '00, proudly announce the acceptance of their oldest daughter, Ashley, to Indiana University. Ashley will graduate in 2012.

Katherine Dupree Etheridge '98 says "Hey everybody! Things are great my way. I've been teaching second grade for ten years and have a wonderful 2 1/2 year old son named Jayce. Susan Foreman where are you??"

CLASS OF 1999

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. '99 has joined McGuireWoods Consulting LLC in Richmond, Va. as an assistant vice president for State Government Relations.



CLASS OF 2000

Missy Aldrich '00 has been working as a law enforcement officer for the University of South Carolina Police Department for approximately three years. She is currently assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration on their task force out of the Columbia, SC field office. Missy lives with her fiancé, John, and their eleven animals (including two dogs, two cats, two chinchillas, and five guinea pigs) in their home outside the city limits.

CLASS OF 2002

Terrance "Big Abe" Abraham '02 hosts a hip-hop open-mic competition every first and third Saturday night of the month. The show takes place at Level 2 on Bragg Boulevard in Fayetteville.

Colin Gooch '02 was promoted to head golf professional for Westfields Golf Club in Clifton, Va.

CLASS OF 2003

Bryan Madej '03 coached Terry Sanford High School's girls' soccer team to their fourth consecutive Two Rivers Conference tournament championship in May. Madej, who is assistant men's coach at Methodist University, also coached the Fayetteville Force to win the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association's state tournament, receiving the 2008 N.C. President's Kepner Cup. With the state championship in hand, the Force, a men's age 17-and-under recreational soccer team, will go on to compete in the regional tournament in Georgia.

CLASS OF 2004

Kevin C. Bradley '04 graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law on May 17, 2008 with a Juris Doctorate degree. Kevin will be taking the July 2008 California Bar Exam. Upon admittance to practice law, Kevin hopes to pursue a career in juvenile dependency law in California.



CLASS OF 2006

Amy Devanno '06 is now employed by Biogen Idec, a pharmaceutical and biotechnology company in Research Triangle Park, N.C., as a patient support advocate. In August 2008 she will start the master's in Conflict Resolution program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

CLASS OF 2007

Scott Ellender '95, '07 was recently hired as the director of golf for the Sunriver Resort in Bend, Oregon. He now oversees all of the club operations.



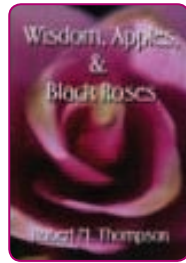
CLASS NOTES

Alumnus Shares Wisdom in Book



Robert M. "Bob" Thompson, who graduated from Methodist in 1967, has had his book, *Wisdom, Apples & Black Roses*, published by Ivy House Publishing Group. A roadmap to gaining wisdom, the self-help book describes the four characteristics or "jewels" of wisdom and how anyone can cultivate and acquire them. He decided to write the book when he could not find a definitive guide to this very important subject other than the Book of Proverbs. Bob uses wonderful

stories to illustrate his points, which he developed for use during his many years as a Lay Speaker at Dukes Chapel United Methodist Church in Durham, NC. The publisher's notes say "From complex social issues that affect us all, to the very personal matters of marriage and family life, he reveres the profound power of wisdom to impact all aspects of human life." *Wisdom, Apples & Black Roses* is available through amazon.com and your bookstore. Bob Thompson is busy with presentations and book signings. To contact him for an appearance, e-mail rthompson024@nc.rr.com.



In Memoriam Methodist University remembers the following who have passed away in 2007-2008:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Douglas Alford | Wallace B. Lewis |
| Billy F. Bain | Jerry Lowry |
| Lillian Baxley | Bobby Matthews |
| Ronald G. Berry | Oscar L. McFadyen |
| Robert C. Bogan | Neill McNeill |
| Truman E. Bullard | James S. Mitchener |
| Betty G. Bunce | Mitchell L. Morgan |
| Wanda E. Cain | Robert H. Morrison |
| Judy W. Cashwell | Danny M. Nolan |
| James L. Currie | David L. Padgett |
| Norma Z. Currie | Danny R. Page |
| Crowell T. Daniel | William L. Prentice |
| Harlan Duenow | Henry Pulliam |
| James E. Elliott | John A. Purdie |
| R. L. Ellis | Gary G. Rigsbee |
| Gary C. Faircloth | Sol C. Rose |
| William C. Fields | Homer C. Rutherford |
| Randall P. Fraley | Mary F. Rutherford |
| Carolyn S. Gibson | William P. Sexton |
| S. B. Gillikin | Sara L. Shipman |
| Howard F. Godfrey | Bennie Shumate |
| Leonard T. Graham | Louise Sinclair |
| Paul D. Granger | Lee A. Smith |
| Neal Griffin | Bobby G. Stallings |
| Helen M. Haigh | Seth Thorne |
| John C. Haigh | Martha P. Thornton |
| Glenn E. Hair | Robert M. Walker |
| E. L. Hauser | Florence L. Wellons |
| Evelyn G. Hauser | John H. Wellons |
| Augusta Haynes | G. J. Wheeler |
| Gregory G. Holmes | Flora C. Wilkins |
| Ronald Hunter | Robert F. Willis |
| Daniel Johnson | Robert P. Wilson |
| Wenda D. Johnson | Mabel J. Wingfield |
| Bruce H. Jones | |
| William G. Jones | |

Homecoming 2008 Oct. 31- Nov. 1

Class Reunion Contacts

- 40th Reunion**
Class of 1968
Pat Clayton claytonpb@nc.rr.com
Bill Billings billings@methodist.edu
Gerri Williams gwilliams@methodist.edu
-
- 35th Reunion**
Class of 1973
Earl Leake eleake@lance.com
Larry Philpott lphilpott@nc.rr.com
-
- 30th Reunion**
Class of 1978
The Rev. James Malloy jamesmalloy1@embarqmail.com
Margaret Pope mfp@nc.rr.com
Thomas Pope tbonep@nc.rr.com
-
- 25th Reunion**
Class of 1983
The Rev. Gil Wise wisegil@juno.com
Linda Wise wiselinda23@aol.com
Mark Kendrick mkendrick@methodist.edu
-
- 20th Reunion**
Class of 1988
Nona Fisher nonafisher@aol.com
Need Volunteers! Contact lwike@methodist.edu
-
- 15th Reunion**
Class of 1993
Wanda Casteel wandaeytax@aol.com
Tom Maze tmaze@rmacademy.com
-
- 10th Reunion**
Class of 1998
Anna Popilock luv2dancenc@aol.com
Need Volunteers! Contact lwike@methodist.edu
-
- 5-year Reunion**
Class of 2003
Kirbie Britt kjvault@hotmail.com
Alison Friend alisonafriend@yahoo.com
Amanda Dixon Ormandy aormandy@hotmail.com

Catch the Spirit!

HOMECOMING 2008

Friday- Saturday,
October 31 - November 1

- Lunch on the Green by Carrabba's Italian Grill, Mark Moses '97, Proprietor
- Class Reunion for classes ending in "3" and "8"
- Alumni Basketball Games
- Choral Reunion (all years!)
- Monarch Football vs. Maryville College Fighting Scots
- BBQ Dinner and Hospitality at Dock's at the Capitol Saturday night



For more information, contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (910) 630-7167 / (800) 488-7110 or alumnioffice@methodist.edu

Methodist University
announces the Annual
Board of Visitors
Golf Tournament
Methodist University Golf Club
September 24, 2008 ~ 11:00a.m.

For more information please contact the Office of Development at (910) 630-7200 or http://www.methodist.edu/home/public_events.shtml

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“A

fter 40 years of teaching,
Dr. Christian’s eyes still shine
whenever he teaches literature,
and over the years he has infected
many students with his deep-seated
love for the English language.”

- Dr. Emily Wright
Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities
McLean Professor of English

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