

MU *today*

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Alumni *Sweethearts*



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Alumni Sweethearts
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The Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Methodist University

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On the Cover: Nicole (Mallette) Colt '04 and Stephen Colt '05 met while enrolled in Methodist University's Professional Golf Management Program (now the PGA Golf Management Program). Read more about alumni sweethearts on page two.

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Methodist University Welcomes *New President*

Dr. Hancock assumed his new duties as the fourth president of Methodist University Tuesday, March 1, 2011.



In an effort to introduce Dr. Hancock to the community, Methodist University launched a welcoming campaign titled "MU World – *Our World, Our Networks.*" The campaign integrates Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and the "President's Pen" as a way of connecting students, faculty, staff, and alumni with the University's new leader.

"I was so impressed with the hospitality expressed toward me," said Dr. Hancock in his blog entry about his first day at Methodist University. "I also know that this is the same genuine warmth that is shared with all visitors to campus, and has become a hallmark of Methodist University."

Speaking of SGA President Jeff Headman and Lacey Truelove, Miss Methodist University (2011), Dr. Hancock added, "I couldn't have thought of a better way to be welcomed to the community than by two of our finest students."

Upon the request of the president, the coming months include many "meet and greet" opportunities with students, staff and faculty members, alumni, friends of the University, and community leaders. If Dr. Hancock is not meeting with students, staff, faculty, or persons throughout the Cape Fear Region, he is likely updating his blog or answering questions on the MU World Facebook page.

While Dr. Hancock officially assumed his new duties March 1, he made his first public appearance in Fayetteville Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011 during a University-sponsored Fayetteville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce Coffee Club meeting. The University traditionally sponsors the January Coffee Club to kick off the University's annual Loyalty Day campaign for student Scholarships. Methodist University's Board of Trustees Chair Harvey T. Wright II '70, Monarch cheerleaders, and members of the Methodist University Foundation Board of Directors joined Dr. Hancock to launch the annual fund raising campaign.

Dr. Hancock previously served as vice-president for university advancement at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he was responsible for overseeing the administrative areas of the Office of University Advancement. He served on the University's Strategic Planning Committee and led the University through a comprehensive \$200 million Ball State Bold Campaign. In addition to his work at Ball State University, he has served in advancement positions at Albion College, Boise State University, and Maryville College.

A graduate of James Madison University in Virginia, Dr. Hancock holds a Bachelor of Arts in Russian studies and a master's degree in education. He earned a Ph.D. in comparative and international education from the University of Virginia. His wife, Debbie, is a special education teacher. Together they have five adult children: Jessie, Sarah, Ben III, Matthew, and Andrew, and two grandchildren.

The summer issue of *MU Today* will highlight Dr. Hancock's first 90 days as a part of the Methodist University community. Until then, be sure to stay connected with Dr. Hancock by reading the "President's Pen" blog located at www.ourMUworld.com.



Alumni Sweethearts



In one's pursuit of knowledge there are many choices to make. What knowledge does one wish to obtain? Will this knowledge be used to further one's livelihood? Where can this knowledge be acquired?

The answer to the latter question, for us, is Methodist University.

It is here at Methodist where many of us have met that special someone who has served to expand our heart while we expand our minds. As evidenced by the following tales of amour, Methodist has a rich history of affecting change by way of affection.

Wise Men Say

Josiah Maulsby '07 and Laura Clark Maulsby '08



It was Josiah's junior year at Methodist, and even though he signed up to live in Commons, he ended up in West. That small trick of destiny brought him a step closer to Laura. "The first week or so of school, I had called a friend over to take a look at some computer problems I had been having. Somehow, we ended up

going to Laura's room before he left the building and I was introduced to her," explained Josiah. Neither of them expected their friendship to grow into something bigger, but it eventually did. "I think it took over a month or so before we had our first kiss, and it seemed like longer than usual before she took me home to meet her parents."

The romance continued through Josiah's senior year and his proposal was placed inside a fortune cookie. (The numbers that made up the date of the proposal were actually Laura's lucky numbers!) Josiah and Laura are celebrating their third anniversary this year with their beautiful daughter, Madelyn Grace. "It's amazing how life turns out better than you ever expected and how God's grace is continually redefined. I never expected to meet my life partner at Methodist, but sometimes in life we get blessed with wonderful surprises," said Josiah.



Shipping and Handling

Alvin C. Burgess '71 & Mary Cromwell Hensel '71



"I first noticed the young lady that would become my wife while I was working in the snack bar on campus. She would come in and order a Coke, pay with a quarter and expect change for the dryer. Being something of a prankster, I would deliver the Coke and walk away. When asked for the change I would reply that there was

no change - it went to "carrying charges," said Alvin C. Burgess '71 about the start of his relationship with Mary Cromwell Hensel '71.

When Mary accepted Alvin's request for a date, she did not know he would soon take her to a Fayetteville jewelry store to pick out an engagement ring. Alvin was so happy Mary did pick one that he showed his gratitude by acquiring a second job in order to pay for it. Mary received the ring the Saturday after Thanksgiving when he asked her father for permission. To this day Mary claims Alvin never really asked her to marry him. They were married one month before they graduated from Methodist.

Alvin earned a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology (Emory University) and did post-graduate work in counseling (Virginia Commonwealth University) and education (University of Virginia). Alvin jokes, "Mary earned her PHT (Putting Hubby Through) *magna cum laude*."

The couple has two children, Rebekah (Becky) Dawn and Alvin (Cory), Jr., and four grandchildren (three boys and a girl). For the 40th anniversary of their marriage and graduation, Alvin would like to tell Mary, "Methodist has been the site of two great events in my life: a college education and meeting the woman who has been my wife for 40 years."

Love on Film

Chris Selvaggio '08 & Tiffany (Tucker) Selvaggio '08



Although freshman experiences are often made off campus, Chris and Tiffany intuitively took the other way to unforgettable memories. On the third night of school during their freshman year, Chris asked Tiffany to watch a movie with him since everyone else was out of the dorm. "I said yes, and the rest is history.

We have been together ever since," said Tiffany.

Their love continued through their college years, and they graduated in 2008. Chris proposed in December 2008 and the wedding was held April 23, 2010 in Sarasota, Fla., at the Powell Crosley Estate. Chris is a golf professional and Tiffany is an elementary school teacher.



Some Chemistry + Some Education = Life Partner

Ken Evans '72 & Cathy Prevatte '75

When asked to recall the memories of the first time he met Cathy Prevatte, Ken Evans said, "I was sitting in the lobby of Garber Hall when Cathy was moving in as a freshman in the fall of 1971. It was love at first sight for me, but I had a little work to do to convince Cathy initially."

Their love has grown ever since they got married in 1973, and 37 years together have been fruitful and they have been blessed with four children and three grandchildren.

In January 1983 Ken began seminary in preparation for full-time ministry. He has served several Southern Baptist churches for the past 26 years. In January 2011 he accepted the call to serve as the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in King, N.C. Cathy has taught elementary school since graduating from Methodist. She obtained her master's in elementary education from High Point University several years ago.

"Cathy and I look back on our years at Methodist with fondness and often talk about how it was," said Ken. "I often tell people if she had not come to Methodist when she did, I would never have found her. We both earned our degrees from Methodist and made many friends for which we are eternally grateful. But even more important to us, we each gained our life partner."



Par Two

Stephen Colt '05 & Nicole (Mallette) Colt '04



Nicole and Stephen met while enrolled in Methodist University's Professional (now PGA) Golf Management Program. They discovered that they had many things in common, including that they were both natives of Massachusetts. They started dating halfway through their junior years at Methodist and continued their

relationship after graduation. They both took jobs in the golf industry and moved to different places between Massachusetts and Florida. Stephen proposed to Nicole in April of 2008 and they married on Cape Cod in October of 2009.

He Asked and I Said Yes

Patrick Bucolo '05 & Susan Ryan Bucolo '90



Photo by Darren J. Thompson Photography, ©2010, All Rights Reserved

Susan Cox Ryan married Patrick Bucolo on October 2, 2010 at Gates Four Golf and Country Club in Fayetteville. The bride was escorted by her eldest son, John David Christopher Ryan, II, and given in marriage by her three sons, Christopher, Joshua, and Caleb.

"I once thought I had found the love of my life," said Susan. "Tragically, I lost

him in 2003. Approximately one year later, I decided it was time to find that someone who could love me and my sons half as much as their father did. One day it happened."

"Through the assistance of my then 4-year-old son, I met that new love," said Susan. "My youngest had asked Patrick for his phone number and if he would come over and play baseball with him. The first time he gave us his number I tossed it. After the second time, I thought maybe it was fate. One afternoon I called and invited Patrick over. We spent time together after that and became friends. Over the next few years, I asked myself often, 'Is this how my life would be? Would I ever marry again? Was this the right thing for my sons?'"

"A conversation with my aunt helped to clear it up for me. She tragically lost her husband not long before I lost mine. We shared stories while home for my grandfather's funeral, and I shared my feelings on finding love again. Her words to me were, 'Any man can love a woman, but it takes a special man to raise another man's children.'"

"On February 14, 2010, it happened," said Susan. "He asked, and I said yes. Those words were posted on my Facebook page that morning. A friend had it engraved on a frame for us to serve as a reminder to me of how blessed I am to have found love again."



Methodist alumni in attendance at our wedding:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Susan Cox Ryan-Bucolo '90 | Scotti Sykes Marshburn '96 |
| Patrick Bucolo '05 | Jamie Sykes '93 |
| Michael Safley '72 | Lauren Ratley '10 |
| Vice President for University Relations and Campus Ministry at Methodist University | Darren Thompson '96 |
| Jeannette Cox Terranova '98 | Kimberly Lowe Frazee '97 |
| Justin Terranova '97 | Alison Cyrus Frazee '04 |
| Men's Soccer Coach at Methodist University | Andy Farrea '06 |
| Mark Moses '94 | Ashleigh Radford Dippolito '05 |
| Sean Wright '05 | Dawn Thompson '92 |
| Brian Madej '03 | Brenda Radford '78 |
| Women's Soccer Coach at Methodist University | Eric Autry '05 |
| | Jeremy Sachs '96 |
| | Shannon Jenkins Sykes '96 |
| | Beth Maule '89 |

Two for One

Jim Rowlette '73 & Mary Jane (Gosier) Rowlette '74

Mary Jane graduated from Methodist the afternoon of May 12, 1974 and married Jim Rowlette in Hensdale Chapel that evening.

Some members of the wedding party were fellow classmates: Colleen (Shaw) Doucette '74, Mary Spilman '74, Alice Stuckey '74, Wes Brown '73, Leonard Doucette '74 and David Russell '73. The soloist was Ed Carl and the minister was Dr. Lorenzo P. Plyler, a professor of religion and philosophy at Methodist.

Jim and Mary Jane live in Beloit, Wis., where Jim, a retired United Methodist Church (UMC) pastor, coaches soccer for boys and girls at Beloit High School. He still serves as a part-time UMC pastor in Wilmont, Wis. Mary Jane continues to work as a special education teacher at Todd Elementary School in Beloit.

Jim and Mary Jane are proud parents of a son and a daughter and recently became proud grandparents. Their son, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. army, is presently on his third tour, serving in Afghanistan.



“Double or Quits”

David Holmes '92 & Angie Holmes '92

Sport is a marvelous tool for creating eternal friendships, but what about love?

Angie made the soccer team as walk-on in the spring after being recruited for basketball. David was a freshman on the men's soccer team. After practice he would stay behind to do some extra work, and he noticed that she would do the same.

David challenged Angie to a contest of penalty kicks. With an air of confidence he promised her a date if she scored on him. “Being English I was still under the delusion that girls couldn't play soccer that well,” said David. “After she blasted the ball past me I told her ‘double or quits’ and made her take the next shot farther away. This went on for a few more shots, each one flashing past me into the net. Finally, I sheepishly acknowledged that not only could I not stop her shots, but didn't have enough money for a date! She agreed to go on a date with me anyway (I think out of pity or just for the fact that she had made me look so silly).”

David and Angie went on to date while at Methodist and were married in 1994. They live a very blessed life in the Washington, D.C. area with their two fantastic children.



“For Cecily”

Mike Stevens '69 & Cecily Stevens '69

While Cecily wasn't the first girl to interest Mike, she ultimately proved to be the most important. It was Cecily's roommate that actually caught his eye at first. However, “Cecily, a cheerleader, had some very special qualities that surfaced and I could not resist,” said Mike.

Mike decided he should grab her before someone else moved in, and he and Cecily dated all four years at Methodist and were married Sept. 20, 1969. They have four wonderful children (three boys and a girl) and retired to Wilmington, N.C.

Snack Attack

Tim McArthur '06 & Ashley (Sloan) McArthur '07



Tim and Ashley were introduced to one another by a mutual friend at a party and immediately hit it off. A few weeks later, they ran into each other again and Tim asked her for a date. She accepted and the love story began.

After graduating in December of 2006, Tim moved to Charleston, S.C., where he became a golf professional at Kiawah Island. The distance did not deter the couple, and their relationship continued while Ashley continued her education at Methodist.

“Tim had always joked that he was going to get my engagement ring from a Cracker Jack box,” said Ashley. “So when we were opening our Christmas presents, I opened a box and inside was another wrapped box. This continued until I opened the last box and it was a Cracker Jack box.” Of course, the prize inside of this box of Cracker Jacks was not made of plastic — it was an engagement ring.

Tim and Ashley married June 20, 2009 in Myrtle Beach S.C., with Scott Allen '06 as Tim's best man, and Daniel Smith '05 and Adam Horton '05 as his groomsmen. They live in Charleston, where they recently bought their first house.



Riddle Me Romance

Brett Ciancanelli '96 & Leigh Watkins Ciancanelli '96



Not long ago, the Riddle Center served as an introduction place for a love-couple-to-be. When he evokes those memories, Brett “Chick” Ciancanelli said, “Leigh Watkins Ciancanelli and I had two classes together our freshman year. I had already noticed her and not just because of her funny sneeze (if you ever had class with Leigh

then you know what I'm talking about). We officially met on a fall night in the Riddle Center during our freshman year. It was open gym and we both were shooting on the same basket. After introducing ourselves, we decided to play a friendly game of one-on-one. Three hours later, we finished playing!”

Brett was driving the bus for various sports teams, including the women's basketball team that Leigh played for. When Christopher Newport's buzzer-beater defeated the Lady Monarchs, Brett assumed it would be a long, quiet four-hour ride back to Fayetteville. To try and break the silence and lighten the mood, he turned on “YMCA” by The Village People and turned up the volume. Brett started performing the song's hand motions while driving and the tension was broken. “I still remember seeing Leigh having such a great time watching,” recalls Brett.

During the fall semester of their sophomore year, Brett and Leigh started dating and were pretty much inseparable. As Leigh's senior season of basketball ended, Coach Wiggs had the team return their equipment to the Riddle Center. After the team had finished turning in their gear, Brett walked out in front of everyone. “The look on Leigh's face was priceless as she was trying to figure out what I was doing there,” Brett said. As Brett dropped to one knee, Leigh figured out what everyone else in attendance

already knew was coming. "It was special to propose in the place we first met, in front of Leigh's friends and teammates."

Brett and Leigh were married on March 29th, 1997 and have been living in Raleigh, N.C., since graduation. They now are parents to two beautiful girls, MaKayla (7) and Isabella (2).



A Second Chance at First Love

Richard Webb Vaughan & Angie Vurnakes '71



Richard Webb Vaughan and Angie Vurnakes met at Methodist in a physics class in 1968. "He was passing a note to another girl and I was the go-between. For whatever reason, he ended up asking me out," remembers Angie. They dated for several years, but Richard, his mother widowed and he being the only son, left

MU to return home to run the family farms. Long-distance romances are hard to maintain, and Richard and Angie drifted apart.

Angie continued her education, graduating in 1971 as the first Methodist student to graduate with a B.A. in the newly offered art major. She continued her postgraduate education at East Carolina University and went on to teach at Broughton High School in Raleigh, later joining in on the infancy of the wireless revolution.

She married in 1986 and gave birth to a son in 1987, but divorced in 2004. Richard and Angie reconnected in 2005, and she discovered that he never married over the years. "I like to tell people he was holding out for me," Angie said.

Richard and Angie have been together ever since meeting again. "It is amazing what we have learned about each other these past six years," explained Angie. "I guess that is what maturity does for you. What seemed important 40 years ago is not what is important to you today."

Richard went on to expand the family farms and grow his thriving auction business, Rich and Rich Bonded Auctioneers International, Inc. "We work hand-in-hand on weekends. We have taken in three Beagles (Tracks, Buck, and Queenie) that found their way to the farm and never left! Since we never had children together, we refer to them as the 'kids.'" Asked about the outcome of this wonderful love story, Angie said, "Love is better the second time around!"



John and Marsha

John A. Faucette '75 & Marsha Faucette '75

"I met my husband, John A. Faucette, at Methodist during our time there, between 1971 and 1975," recalls Marsha Faucette. "We were married in April 1976 and were happily married for 20 years. Sadly, he passed away suddenly from a heart attack July 12, 1996."

"We have three adult children," said Marsha. "Identical twins Allison and Ashley are both happily married. Allison has a master's degree in biomedical engineering and is now in her third year of law school at Wake Forest University. She and her husband, Bobby Richmond, live in Winston Salem. Ashley has a doctoral degree in physical therapy, works with the Richmond Ballet and is employed by Physical Therapy Solutions in Mechanicsville, Va. She and her husband, Brent Harwood, live in Glen Allen, Va. Our son, Andrew, graduated from North Carolina State

University and has completed Officer Candidate School with the Marine Corps. In November of 2010, Andrew married Amber Geesey, who works in Raleigh, while he completes his training. I obtained a Master of Science in education from Longwood University."

Marsha would love to hear from her classmates, and she asked us to share with you her e-mail address: Marsha_Faucette@ccpsnet.net.



Forty to Forever

Benton Blalock & Ann DuVal Blalock '70



Benton and Ann met at a wedding of mutual friends during Christmas break of 1969. Benton, a member of the U.S. Navy, had just returned to Fayetteville and was planning on attending Methodist, where Ann was a senior. After the wedding, Benton contacted her to see if she could assist him in obtaining used books.

"I was able to get him some books and introduce him to some friends," said Ann. We began dating. I was also dating someone at ECU at the same time. We finally began dating exclusively in the spring and continued to date after I graduated."

Benton and Ann were married approximately 11 months after they met, and they have continued to share numerous lovely moments in these 40 years of their lives together.



The First Time on Campus

Robert Flynn '70 & Jeannine Flynn '70

Robert and Jeannine hold the distinction of being the first couple to be married on the campus of what was then Methodist College. They married in Robert's sophomore year and in Jeannine's freshman year.

"Jeannine and I met in the old music building when she tried out for the college chorus," said Robert. "Our chorus time was our dating time as well. We ate all meals together and even shared some study times. Our first date was a group date; we joined chorus friends for what we called a 'ghost search.' We dated only one other time, and I proposed the last Thursday in February of 1968."

Looking at all the years spent with his wife, Robert says, "Little details are beginning to fade from memory, but a product of those 43 years is five children (four of whom are married), five granddaughters and one grandson."



Home Run

Steve Burton '97 & Heather (Lucas) Burton '97

"Steve and I met during my sophomore year and his junior year during a softball scrimmage against the football team. I was pitching and during his first time at bat, he hit a foul ball so hard that that he knocked out the catcher—my roommate! We started dating soon after."

Steve and Heather recently celebrated 17 years together, were married July 7, 2000, and welcomed twin daughters in 2004.

New Editions

Anthony Cassone '10 & Melinda Meyer '09



The love on campus flows steadily and surely over time, as evidenced by the many happy couples that have met at Methodist. Cupid's arrow struck again when friends talked Anthony into going to a sporting event, though primarily because of girls. It was here that Anthony met Melinda, while she was cheerleading.

"After his football season ended, Anthony joined the team to get to know me," said Melinda. "Coach Melissa [Hay] actually put us together to be stunt partners." Though just friends while competing together, Anthony's affection for Melinda took him to Daytona, Fla., where the cheerleading team competed in the college nationals.

Later that summer, Anthony asked Melinda for a date, and they have been together ever since (though he has since put his cheerleading days behind him). "The next year, when cheerleading season was about to start, I figured Anthony would come back to the team after football season. He said, 'No way, I just did that to meet you.'"

Anthony and Melinda live and teach in Fayetteville and will be married July 15, 2011 in Wrightsville Beach.



Love in the Café

Harvey T. Wright II '70 & Mary Fermanides Wright '68

In 1967, Harvey T. Wright II '70, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and Mary Fermanides Wright met during lunch in the cafeteria.

"We dated on and off for several years before marrying in January of 1972," said Mary. "Harvey had been in the Navy for five years after high school . . . In other words, he IS older."



An Angel in the Chapel

James L. Speed '71 & Cynthia Katrina (King) 'Speed 71

"When I ventured onto the campus of Methodist College over 40 years ago, I was not at all sure where that trek would lead me. I was a young man in my early twenties, just out of the military, and I wanted to further my education," remembers James L. "Jim" Speed.

When he chose Methodist College, there was not a lot of romance in his decision. "This institution was very close to my home," said James. "Given the fact that throughout my earlier school years I had been active in my church (a Methodist church a few miles down the road), a Methodist college seemed to be a logical choice."

However, Methodist University brought much more than education to James. "Methodist has had a profound impact on my life. It was where I attended my first chapel program, which was then held in the Student Center. I stumbled and almost fell as I entered because I was startled and saw what looked to me to be the perfect angel."

That "angel" turned out to be Cynthia.

"The angel that I found that day in the chapel is still my angel after more than 40 years of blissful marriage."

Blazing a Love Trail

David Herring '65 & Wanda (Allen) Herring '66

David and Wanda were not acquainted when attending Fayetteville Senior High School together, but Wanda does recall being impressed with his speech in the "I Speak for Democracy" competition. He didn't win, but Wanda thought that he should have.

David and Wanda met when David was a sophomore at Methodist, and was a member of The Ambassadors, which was Methodist's musical troupe. Wanda was impressed, as David was an intelligent, well-mannered young man with a good sense of humor and a quick wit. "When I learned he was working two jobs to pay his tuition, it seemed to me he knew where he was going and he was determined not to let circumstances hold him back. He was good-looking, confident and a bit of a philosophical rebel. Clearly, he blazed his own trail. It was quite an appealing combination," said Wanda.

David's side of this story is that he and his friends would sit in the student union and critique all of the girls as they passed in between classes. The first time David noticed Wanda, he was impressed by her poise and stature—and her freckles. "Wanda had it all," remembered David, "the looks without the flash, the personality without being overbearing, the charm without saccharin, the intelligence without arrogance, and the maturity without being boring. And that was clear after just an hour together! More time together revealed our many areas of compatibility."

Their first date was a double date, which was delightful for both David and Wanda. The two couples went to the Carolina Theater and drove around in Al Hayes' '65 blue Mustang before dropping David off at Horne's Motor Lodge on Highway 301 (where David worked as a night auditor). David and Wanda had a long courtship while David prepared to make his place in the world, earning an M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina and serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy. The couple finally married in 1967.

"Forty-three years later, we feel sure this thing called 'love' will last. And we continue to enjoy our lives together, now living in Florida," said Wanda.



Three's Company

Graham Dozier '71 & Barbara Blow '70

Graham, a Rocky Mount High School graduate, came to Methodist after attending East Carolina University for one year. Barbara came to Methodist from Raleigh, N.C., where she attended Broughton High School. She was the first yearbook queen, "Miss Carillon 1967," and she was on the Homecoming Court, Valentine's Court and Beanie Court (yes, freshmen once had to wear beanies when they arrived at Methodist!).

Graham and Barbara were introduced in 1969 by Joanie (Raymond) Faircloth '70, who still lives near them in Raleigh and remains one of their best friends today.

Barbara picked the time of their first date to be 9:30, so that she would have only an hour and a half with him (there was a curfew of 11:00 for girls back then). The timing was important because, if she didn't like Graham, then she would not have to spend a lot of time with him. The date, however, was a success, and they were inseparable during the remainder of their time at Methodist.

One day in 1970, Graham took Barbara and her best friend and constant companion, Trudi (Waters) Jaber '70, out to Gladys Drive-In to people-watch. Since Barbara never went anywhere without Trudi, Graham decided to invite Trudi along when he proposed. Later, at a local park, Graham pulled the engagement ring from under the seat and asked Barbara to marry him. "Trudi said she could have jumped out of the back window when I took out the ring," said Graham.

After Graham completed his active duty service in the U.S. Army, he and Barbara were married Dec. 4, 1971. They lived in Fayetteville for two more years before moving to Raleigh, where they still reside. Graham and Barbara have two children, two grandchildren and are celebrating 40 great years together this December.



Love is on the Payroll

Charles Bullard '70 & Brenda Teal Bullard '69



Charles entered Methodist as a freshman majoring in music in the fall of 1966, though he had no idea where he would find a piano accompanist for his clarinet solos and juries. Methodist provided the answer with the hiring of Brenda Teal.

"Yep, Methodist College paid Brenda to be with me," Charles joked. "Through the years we got to know each other. In fact, we knew each other so well that she tried to set me up on a few dates. I politely told her that if I wanted to date someone, I would do the asking—she was hired to play piano and that is what she should stick to."

Charles and Brenda continued working on music throughout the years. Ultimately, he said that he began to mature. "I came to my senses, graduated from Methodist on a Monday, and five days later, I married Brenda Teal at Hay Street United Methodist Church in Fayetteville," said Charles. The couple was married at the same church where Charles's parents and grandparents were married.

"Forty-one years later we are still married," said Charles. "I'd like to thank Methodist for paying Brenda Teal Bullard to be with me."



Learn, Live, and Love

Bill Pearce '70 & Caroline Norman '70

Bill and Caroline met at Methodist in the fall of 1966, growing closer through a number of shared classes, many hours spent in the student lounge playing bridge and dancing together every chance they got. "Methodist was a great place to learn, make friends and fall in love," said Caroline, a cheerleader during her college years.

Marrying the summer following graduation, Caroline has taught in Dare County for three decades, while Bill's business degree has served him well in the boat-building industry.

The couple is now residing in Manteo. They are parents to John and Stacey, and grandparents to Sydney, Pearce, Isabella and Parker. They will celebrate their 41st anniversary Aug. 15, 2011.

Works of Heart

*Zachary B. Greenhaw '09 &
Krystal Rene (Poirier) Greenhaw '09*



A transfer student new to the area, Krystal's only close friend was Melinda Roberts '11. Melinda introduced Krystal to Zachary and they soon began dating.

"What was so intriguing about our stories was our health histories," recalled Krystal. "I mentioned to Zach that I had received a pacemaker for my heart from

a very well-known surgeon [Dr. Kanter] at Duke University." She spent her childhood traveling from Wilmington to Durham, where Dr. Kanter was working to solve her heart complications. When Krystal mentioned her doctor's name, it immediately struck a chord with Zach, who also suffered from heart problems as a child and, coincidentally, had a surgery performed by Dr. Kanter.

Zach and Krystal dated throughout their time at Methodist; Zach played baseball and Krystal played lacrosse. They were married in 2010 and reside in Raleigh. Zach is currently using his degree in environmental health and safety working at GKN Driveline, while Krystal is a cardiology technician at Duke Medical Center.

"We are so happy and grateful for our years and experience at Methodist. We never knew when we went to college that we would be meeting our future spouses and settling down near the hospital that made both of us healthy!"



What's in a Name?

Harry Holman '74 & Pat (Abernathy) Holman '73

One of the required activities in September of 1969 was a freshman mixer held at Weaver Hall. Confused and overwhelmed, Pat Holman thought seriously about not attending the mixer. "I have never been much of a rule breaker, so I dragged myself across the street thinking that I might show up for a few minutes and then sneak back to my room in Garber Hall and be miserable some more."

Before she could get away, Pat found herself standing beside a young man she learned was from New Jersey and was possibly just as homesick. "We chatted for a long while and shared a snack and a few details about our lives back home. When I got back to my dorm room, I had to admit that it had been much more enjoyable than I had thought, and I was glad that I had gone to the mixer," remembered Pat.

There was only one problem: Pat could not remember the young man's name. After a couple of weeks, Pat received a second chance. "I went into the cafeteria and saw my young man ahead of me in line. In those days, there were no student ID cards, so we had to sign our names on a page in a spiral bound notebook. I counted how many places ahead of me he was and, when I got to the page, I counted the names before mine. I finally knew that the person that I had met at the social was Harry Holman."

Harry and Pat dated through college and were married Aug. 4, 1973. "I have often wondered how our lives would have been different if we had made different decisions in 1969," said Pat. "If we had chosen different colleges, if either one of us had skipped the social, if we had gravitated to different groups, things could have turned out totally different."

Harry and Pat now live in New Jersey. They have been blessed with two wonderful daughters and are entering a new phase of life. They are both newly retired and expecting their first grandchild in the spring. "Thank goodness for Methodist," concluded Pat.



Common Bonds

John Walsh '87 & Peggy Seigler Walsh '87



In the spring of 1985, John Walsh, a transplant from Augusta Ga., and Peggy Seigler Walsh '87, a Fayetteville native, were attending Methodist, though their paths had not yet crossed. That is until fate intervened and both students were assigned to Religion 101 with Dr. Richard Walsh.

John, a member of the varsity golf team, expected to earn an A in this class because, according to Dr. Walsh, they shared a last name (though there was no relation). Peggy needed a study partner and the pair became good friends.

John and Peggy shared not only educational pursuits (business administration), but common friends. Along with Brian Chappell '88, John's roommate, and DiDi Grotke '87, Peggy's best friend, the four became an inseparable quartet. As friendships often do, romance blossomed, and John and Peggy started dating—as did Brian and DiDi.

College is said to be an investment in the future, and John and Peggy are grateful for the education and experience they both earned at Methodist, not only in academics but in the molding of their family values. The couple, married by their one-time professor, Dr. Walsh, will celebrate their 24th anniversary this October. They are parents to two beautiful children: Zach, 19, is a sophomore at Georgia State University, and Liza, 14, is an eighth grade student at Freedom Middle School in Canton, Ga.



Love Cures All

Michael Lashley '06 & Jennifer Lashley '07

Michael and Jennifer met during the clinical year of the Physician Assistant (PA) Program. Michael was completing a family medicine rotation with locally renowned Dr. Kommu. One day, while discussing the finer points of professional football, Indian food, and medicine, Dr. Kommu asked Michael if he could help him teach a class in critical thinking. Dr. Kommu told Michael to create a case where Michael would act as a patient suffering from symptoms of Beta Thalassemia and the class would have to discover the disease.

"Since Beta Thalassemia is a condition predominantly associated with those of Greek heritage," said Michael, "I named myself Miss Papanicolaou, the inventor of the pap smear, and spoke with a very convincing Greek accent to really pull it off. So, there I was pretending to be a 60-year-old Greek woman with Beta Thalassemia."

During his performance, Michael noticed "the most beautiful girl in the program" sitting in the front row. He was captivated by Jennifer's blue eyes, and her honest smile repeatedly caught his gaze. It truly was love at first sight.

"After my memorable performance, which I'm sure completely confused

the class, I walked up to her and talked with her about PA school," said Michael. "I told her that I had some great notes and study guides that I could send the class. I asked for e-mail addresses from her and other members of the class, but in the end, I only sent them to Jennifer."

Michael and Jennifer married three years later and will celebrate their third anniversary in May. Both work in Greenville, S.C., as physician assistants, though neither have yet treated anyone with Beta Thalassemia.



Where Art Thou, Marvin

Marvin Rea '77 & Ellen Pruden Rea '77

According to Ellen, "Marvin says that he noticed me at orientation on the first day of our freshman year. I didn't know Marvin existed until the fall of our junior year when I saw him follow Walt Kennedy '77 into the cafeteria." However, when Ellen did finally notice Marvin, she immediately asked friends about him. Mutual friends introduced the pair and they began dating immediately.

"A fond memory I have of dating at Methodist is when Marvin came to my dorm at mealtime each day. He would throw pebbles at my second-floor window to let me know he was there. I would come down, and we would walk to the cafeteria together."

Upon graduation, Marvin began working at Scothurst Golf Course in Lumber Bridge, N.C., and Ellen began teaching at St. Pauls Elementary School, which she retired from in 2008. They were married March 25, 1978, and have been happily married ever since. Marvin and Ellen have two daughters, both of whom are married, and two grandsons.



Love Advising

Jake Brouillard & Erin (Updegrave) Brouillard '01

Erin did not even have her books for her first-semester classes before love found her. "I was conversing with my advisor, Ms. Bittle, as to where I could possibly purchase some used books. Another student was in her office, and he told me that he had a lot of spare texts. He handed me his number with his name – Jake," said Erin.

The next day Jake saw Erin in the mailroom, and he questioned why she had not called him. She promised he would hear from her that night. "When I arrived at Jake's dorm room, he had some dusty books hidden underneath his bed. Although he had no books that were of use to me, the two of us had an instant bond and attraction."

They became best friends. Jake walked her to every class, and he never missed one of her basketball games or tennis matches. "We enjoyed every moment while attending Methodist University, and we shared so many amazing memories that we will both cherish for a lifetime," said Erin.

In 2000, Jake landed a job as golf pro in Naples, Fla. Erin had just started Methodist University's Physician Assistant (PA) Program, so Jake and Erin were challenged with a long-distance relationship for two years. The couple persevered, and Jake and Erin were married in 2003. They are now blessed with three healthy children: Madisyn, Jakoby and Jaelyn.

"Jake and I thank Methodist University for allowing us to meet one another," said Erin. "I thank the University and the PA Program for providing me with a wonderful education and career. Finally, we both thank Ms. Bittle for being our student advisor."

“It Just Doesn’t Get Any Better Than That”

Rodney K. Powell ’80 & Angela (Creech) Powell ’80



Rodney came to Methodist in the fall of 1978 as a transfer student from Spartanburg Methodist College. He made friends in the campus organization Koinonia, which was the religious organization on campus at the time. The group met regularly for chapel worship, chapel choir, and campus Bible study.

“In that group I became friends with an attractive young lady from Selma, N.C., by the name of Angela Creech,” recalled Rodney. “Angela was majoring in education, and I found that we had many friends and interests in common. Angela was dating a friend of mine, but I had determined early on that if their relationship ended, I would step up to the plate.”

After Angela had ended that relationship, Rodney was there for support and their affection for one another was soon revealed. About a month later, they went to a movie on campus, and about two weeks later they had their first date. By July 14, 1979, Rodney and Angela were engaged.

“Angela and I married the next summer, and I can honestly say it has been the singular best thing that has ever happened to me,” admitted Rodney. “We have two wonderful sons, two lovely daughters-in-law and two beautiful grandchildren! Angela has taught elementary school for most of our married life, and I am a pastor in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.”

“Thank you, Methodist University, for a great education,” said Rodney. “Thank you to the wonderful faculty members who provided me with a good foundation for graduate school. But today I am most grateful for the loving and caring community that brought Angela and me together! It just doesn’t get any better than that.”



Two out of 2,000

Erick Arb ’04 and Danielle (Smith) Arb ’04



Erick and Danielle had mutual friends throughout their time at Methodist, but it was not until their senior year that they started dating. Sharing a class taught by Dr. Lin, Danielle noted, “Erick remembers that I always walked in late, and I remember how cute he was.”

Following graduation, the couple continued to date, but lived in separate cities in North Carolina. In January of 2005, they moved to southern California, where Danielle was working in sales for a Fortune-500 company, and Erick became a head golf professional and started his first mini-tour.

In January of 2007, Erick and Danielle decided to make a major change. Fifteen hours before boarding a plane to Thailand, where they would live for seven months, Erick proposed. The engagement would last for over a year while Erick played professional golf on the Korean PGA Tour, and Danielle went to graduate school in Thailand. They also spent a semester in Vienna, where Danielle continued her studies.

After finishing her M.B.A., Erick and Danielle moved to St. Simons

Island, Ga., where they were married in November of 2008. Five Methodist alumni were in the wedding party.

Erick and Danielle now live in Greenville, S.C., where Erick continues to grow the Golf Web Design site, and she works as a project and account manager for an advertising agency. “We couldn’t be happier,” said Danielle. “We are thankful that out of the 2,000 people at Methodist, we found each other.”



Hang Time

Kevin Dennison ’95 & Simone Dennison ’95

After talking and studying together during their freshman year at Methodist, Kevin and Simone found out they had many things in common. One major commonality was their shared love for basketball and track. They began hanging out after practices and games, and now, 20 years later, are still hanging out. “Methodist will always be a special place for us. Not only did we receive an education there, but we have developed long lasting friendships with staff members and other alumni.”

Kevin and Simone graduated in 1995 with degrees in criminal justice (Kevin) and mass communications (Simone). Kevin is a woman’s volleyball and basketball coach, and Simone is a school administrator. They were married in 1996 and have two sons, Kalil (7) and Kodie (4).



Hearts in Tune

Jared McCullen ’00 and Kim McCullen ’02



Jared met Kim in the pep band in 1999, but it took several years until they felt more than a friendly connection. After she ended a relationship with Jared’s roommate, Jared and Kim remained buddies. After graduating in 2000, the two went their separate ways, but Jared would pop in to see Kim from time to

time when passing through campus.

In the fall of 2002, Jared and Kim decided to go out to eat to catch up. It was during that meal when a special chemistry was kindled. “I could tell that there was really something between us,” said Kim. “I noticed the way that I felt so comfortable with him and the way that he genuinely laughed at my jokes. Something really sparked between us, something new to us both.”

Jared and Kim began talking almost every night, and Jared even put a call into his friend, and Kim’s old flame, to see if there was any problem if he asked Kim out.

The two married in June 2004 and reside in Vander, N.C. with their beautiful daughters, Abigail and Kelsey, and Beagles, Dixie and Reagle. They love to periodically drive through campus and reminisce about the good ol’ times and memories they have made.

“Methodist symbolizes a time of growth, change, and identity for us,” said Kim. “We will forever be grateful for the opportunity we had to attend such a wonderful and fulfilling institution. The activities and events presented to us, as young adults on campus, provided us with the opportunities to bond and to build a lasting friendship, which would later foster our relationship together. We will forever be grateful for the role that it played in bringing our hearts and souls together as one. Thank you, Methodist University. We love you.”

Homegrown

Nate Jumper '98 & Jennifer (Loesekann) Jumper '01

While both Nate and Jennifer are Fayetteville natives, they attended rival high schools and it would be their decisions to attend Methodist that brought them together. Nate and Jennifer met in the spring of 1997 while doing work study in Stout Hall. Nate told admissions counselor Shasta McAllister that the most beautiful girl he had ever seen worked down the hall, and her desk happened to be next to where he would clock in daily.

The staff took it upon themselves to help Nate, assigning he and Jennifer tasks to complete together.

"Thank God they did," said Nate. "Jen and I have been together ever since, married for almost eight years. Along the way, we have had two children, Tyler (5) and Addison (10 months). To this day if we are together on campus and run into some of the folks that were in Stout Hall during that period, they always comment how they put us together."

Duet

Tavares Hunter '02 & Cannie (Betha) Hunter '04

Tavares and Cannie met at a rehearsal for the Scholarship Vocal Ensemble (then called Rainbow's End), which was under the direction of Betty Neil Guy Parsons '64. They liked the same things, shared a passion for music and got along without effort. After some time Tavares and Cannie became best friends. Many around them thought they were perfect for each other, but they did not see it at the time.

Co-managing Methodist's Gospel Choir for two years, the couple sang all over the East Coast. In 2002, Tavares graduated, and he began teaching, as well as coaching the Methodist football team. The pair's friendship remained strong, and they spent a lot of time together. After the death of a childhood schoolmate and the end of a rocky relationship in 2002, Tavares provided Cannie with unending support and unconditional love. "He was truly my knight in shining armor," said Cannie, "He treated me with care and the utmost respect as a person, as a woman and as a friend he adored."

After talking about it for quite some time, Tavares and Cannie decided to begin courting in the spring of 2003 on a conditional basis: no matter the outcome of our relationship, they would remain friends for life. The timing was perfect and their love grew for each other by the day. The best thing was that they not only loved each other, they really knew each other, the good and the ugly, which enabled them to meet each other's needs.

Tavares proposed in October 2003, and they planned the wedding during Cannie's senior year. After graduating in May, they walked down the aisle of Covenant Love Church in June 2004. A reception was held in the Berns Student Center, hosting over 150 friends and family. As it turns out, Tavares and Cannie are perfect for each other and, in their fairytale, they are truly living happily ever after. After almost seven years of marriage, they are still honeymooning and plans for a baby or two are in the works.

The Best of Friends

Bryan Reed '04 & Vanessa Reed '04

"Our love story began during our sophomore year," remembered Vanessa. "Bryan walked into Weaver Hall on a Tuesday night and saw me reading my Bible on one of the couches. From that point we became acquaintances; we had mutual friends and interests.

"Our friendship grew quickly, and we went to the Homecoming Dance as friends that year. Although Bryan's first thought when he saw me was that he was going to marry me, I was clueless and simply enjoyed our friendship. We could talk about anything and nothing; we honestly enjoyed each other's company.

"As our friendship grew, we wanted to see if there was any chemistry, and we started dating. A couple months later, we broke it off, deciding the best thing to do was to remain friends. Through a crazy chain of events, I found myself in a conversation with a dear friend during a resident hall activity right before the winter holidays in 2003. She was dating her best friend, and they spoke so casually about getting married. Perplexed, I asked, 'How can you be so casual about marrying your friend?' She looked at me and said, 'Vanessa, my only hope is that one day I can marry my best friend. What could be better than that?' The light bulb went off and I knew that Bryan was the one.

"We dated throughout our senior year and were engaged in June 2004. We planned our wedding over a nine-month engagement and were married in March 2005 at the Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville, N.C. Six years and two children later, we are still best friends and sweethearts. I honestly couldn't imagine living my life with anyone else."

Training Day

Richard Dombrowsky '02 & Adrienne Dombrowsky '02

Richard and Adrienne met in the fall of 1998 as freshmen, but it was not until their sophomore years that they really became close friends.

"The first time I had an inclination that she was different than other girls was on a cold October Monday morning in 1999," recalled Richard. "It was the off-season for both of us (me with baseball and her with softball). I was beginning my off-season conditioning, which involved running two miles around the track before class, three days a week. I rolled out of bed and went to the track about 6:00 a.m. and who was already there running? Adrienne," said Richard.

After that coincidental run-in, they started seeing each other more often at the track. The pair even started running the trails behind the fields that led to the river. "The workouts spread to the baseball field and I hit fly balls to her in center or she hit me fungos at short. I would pull my truck next to the cages, turn on the radio and we would hit for hours. Some of my teammates would come down and think it was cute until they watched her crush baseballs back at the machine, then they realized she was first and foremost an athlete."

Richard and Adrienne officially started dating during their senior year. "I know most people start off dating and the friendship grows, but we went the opposite way. Despite all that has happened since, I can still trace back to the first moment when I knew Adrienne was different—when the two of us had the same crazy idea to run laps around the track at 6:00 in the morning on a cold off-season day."

Richard and Adrienne were married in August 2005 and have a beautiful daughter together. Richard is currently employed by Piedmont

College as an assistant baseball coach. Adrienne attended graduate school at Georgia State University and is currently employed with the Atlanta Braves.

♥
A Fairy Tale

Derek DiStefano '05 & Audra DiStefano '05



Derek and Audra first met at a social gathering held by a softball teammate in 2001, their first years at Methodist. Little did Audra know that this brash young man was not only going to be her future husband, but her best friend, confidante, supporter and fellow troublemaker. It was Valentine's Day 2005 when everything

welded perfectly into place for the two.

While Audra finished her time at Methodist, Derek settled in Jacksonville, Fla., working for Hampton Golf. Derek proposed in the spring of 2006, a fairy-tale proposal taking place on Seven Mile Beach on Cayman Island.

Along with their best little doggie, Daimn, Derek and Audra currently reside and work in Jacksonville, Fla. She is employed as a Senior Lab Technician for Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, while Derek is the general manager at The Golf Club at North Hampton.

♥
Lucky 13

Lamont Evans '97 & Faith (Lee) Evans '98



While Lamont and Faith grew up less than 30 minutes apart, it was at Methodist where they were lucky enough to find one another. Faith transferred to Methodist at the start of the Spring 1995 semester, and that January's Friday the 13th marked good fortune as it was they day that Lamont and Faith started dating.

Friday the 13th continued to be a lucky day for the couple, and Lamont and Faith married 11 years to the day after their Methodist romance began. After 16 years together, these two alumni remember their times at Methodist very fondly, with deep gratitude for its significance in their lives.

♥
Social Networking

Andrew Ruf '02 & Emily Brown Ruf '02



Although Andrew and Emily met at Methodist, sparks did not fly right away. While they had many mutual friends, had a class together, and even worked on a joint project, their paths did not often cross.

Seven years later, thanks to Facebook, the two reconnected. After a few months of e-mailing and failed attempts to get together, Andrew and Emily finally met again. Eight months later, on May 1st, Andy proposed, and they were married October 24, 2010.

Thirty Years Later

David M. Perry '78 & Melinda Ann Brown Perry '79

David and Melinda met through a mutual friend and dated through their graduations, marrying in 1980. Thirty years later their amazing family is enriched with eight children (six biological children and two adopted from China). Their first grandchildren were born in 2009 and 2010.

♥
The Science of Attraction

Jerry Bates '09 & Cara Bates '09



Chemistry between Jerry and Cara was inevitable, as it was chemistry class where they first met. But the chemistry lasted longer than a semester when they began dating during their sophomore years. Both served as resident assistants in Cumberland Hall and were a part of the Residence Hall Association (RHA). Jerry Bates is one of

the founding fathers of Methodist's chapter of Kappa Sigma. On August 7, 2010, Jerry and Cara were married in Hensdale Chapel.

♥
Fellowship of Care and Amour

Micah Vugrinec '07 & Katherine Matthews '08



Micah and Katherine met at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meeting in the spring of 2007. They were engaged in December 2010 and will be married this December.



Alumni News

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

94 **Michael Molter '94** married his high school sweetheart Cheri Todd last fall. The Rev. Dr. Mike Safley '72 officiated the ceremony in Hensdale Chapel.

01 **Keli Ford '01** married David Sykes at Village Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C. Oct. 9, 2010. The Rev. Kevin Duffy officiated. A reception and dancing followed at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum Reflection Garden. The couple honeymooned in Antigua and reside in Fayetteville, N.C.

02 **Andrew Ruf '02** and **Emily (Brown) Ruf '02** married on Oct. 24, 2010 at Running Hare Vineyard, Prince Frederick, Md. They reside in Annapolis, Md.



Michael Molter '94 & Cheri Tod



Andrew Ruf '02 & Emily (Brown) Ruf '02



Sharon Whited '08 & Chase Hundley

08 **Sharon Whited '08** has announced her engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Connie and Richard Pond of Waverly, N.C. and Melissa and C. Ben Whited of Windsor, N.C. A 2004 graduate of Tidewater Academy and 2008 graduate of Methodist University, she is employed at Dominion Power as an armed response officer. She also owns Sharon Elizabeth Photography. Her future husband is the son of Denise Hundley of Smithfield and the late Randy Hundley. He is a 2003 graduate of Isle of Wight Academy and employed at Northrop Grumman as a level III nuclear test examiner. An outdoor wedding is planned for June 4, 2011.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

99 **Clint and Lisa Smith Edwards '99, '99** announce the birth of their third daughter, Eva Brett Edwards, born January 20, 2011. She joins her big sisters Mia (7) and Lily (4).

CLASS NOTES

66 **Wanda (Allen) Herring '66** has started a publishing company, Sharp & Shuler Press, a boutique press featuring traditional values. The first publication is a book preserving oral history entitled, *Down the Chicken Foot Road*. In the book, Wanda recounts the stories her mother's family told of growing up in Gray's Creek, N.C. during the early 1900s. Wanda's second book, *Truffle - One Special Bunny*, will be available in early 2011. *Truffle* is an easy-reader chapter book for children. Both books may be viewed at www.sharpandshulerpress.com.

69 **James Bruce Dillard '69** completed over 35 years of service with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He began as an auditor, and retired from the post of Inspector General Nov. 30, 2010.

70 **M. Elizabeth "Beth" Baldwin '70** celebrated 25 years of membership in the Durham (N.C.) Association of Realtors in early 2011, and earned her SRA designation with the Appraisal Institute. Only one percent of the residential real estate appraisers in the U.S. earn the SRA designation.

74 **Kathryn Simmons '74** was named Teacher of the Week by the Independence, Mo. *Examiner* in February. She is a fourth grade teacher at Fairmount Elementary. Simmons has been teaching for 35 years, including positions in North Carolina; Emporia, Kan.; Bartlesville, Okla.; Naperville, Ill.; and Johnston, Iowa. Simmons received a bachelor's degree from Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C., and a master's degree from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

Alumni News (cont'd.)

75 Gregory Jones '75 has recently had a book published. It is the timeless Biblical story of Job, which has lessons that can help business people and investors thrive and succeed in these difficult economic times, according to Jones. The book, *Job—A Man for His Time, A Man for Our Time, A Man for All Time*, is available on Amazon.com. For more information about his book, visit www.jobthebook.net/

78 Thomas Pope '78 received three awards for 2010 stories at the National Motorsports Press Association (NMPA) convention in Charlotte, N.C. in January. That brings his career total of these awards to 25, including the 1994 NMPA Writer of the Year. Said Pope, "I told Scott Hunter, the cat with the 'stache [on the right in the photo], "We've got to keep meeting like this." Pope is a sports writer for the *Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*.

85 Frank Sessoms '85, who has coached the North Stokes High School football program over the past 12 seasons, is leaving for the head coaching job at Alleghany High School in Sparta, N.C. Sessoms, a native of Fayetteville, graduated from Cape Fear High and played baseball at Methodist University, graduating with a degree in physical education in 1985. He then coached and taught two years at a junior high, another year at Purnell Swett High, then taught at Chester (S.C.) High from 1988 through 1995, where he was the head wrestling and baseball coach and an assistant football coach. He then spent two years coaching at Hertford County and two in Loris, S.C., before going to North Stokes in 1999. It was Sessoms's first head-coaching job in football. Sessoms was also North Stoke's athletic director for the past seven years.

87 David B. Culbreth '87 has been promoted to financial management analyst team leader with the United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) on Fort Bragg, N.C. Prior to this appointment, David was the BRAC program specialist for FORSCOM on Fort Bragg in N.C.

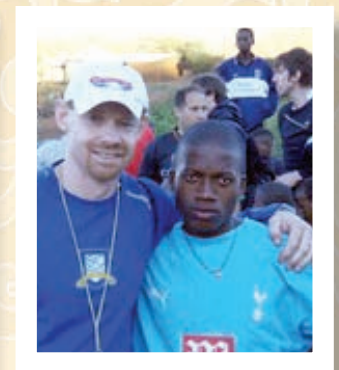
89 Jim Espinoza '89 was just promoted to terminal manager at Dallas Fort Worth International (DFW) Airport in Dallas, Texas. He has been with DFW Airport for four years. Previously he was airport operations supervisor.

89 Karen Grant McFadden '89 has been named head coach for the varsity girls track and field program at Sumter High School (S.C.). McFadden was a 1983 state champion for Sumter in both the triple jump and long and went on to become a multiple All-American at Methodist. In both 1986 and 1987, she was the NCAA Division III national champion in the triple jump.

92 David Holmes '92 was able to attend the World Cup in South Africa in 2010. He worked with a group of 150 people from England and the USA—sharing in their passion for and belief in the game of soccer. He had the opportunity to watch both Spain and the Netherlands play games in Durban, and he helped run soccer clinics in KZN Province. His group worked in the Valley of A Thousand Hills, which is the worldwide epicenter of the AIDS/HIV epidemic. Many of the kids have been touched by the disease. Many have been orphaned or had the disease passed on to them. It was a very uplifting experience. David is hoping to do the same thing at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. If you're interested in joining him, drop him a line at mufcfan6@verizon.net.



Thomas Pope '78



David Holmes '92

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Men's and Women's Soccer Reunion

April 15-16, reunion games
beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16

MU Alumni Association Board meeting

April 16, 10:00 a.m.

MU Alumni Association sponsors Pig Pickin' for Graduating Seniors

April 27, 5:00 p.m.

Baseball Alumni Reunion

April 30

Alumni News

93 **Monica Hawke '93** has earned the N.C. Real Estate Instructor license and is approved as a pre-licensing and post-licensing course instructor. Monica is a realtor with Weichert, Realtors - Larose & Co. in Southern Pines, N.C.

93 When **Larry Walsh '93** co-founded The Logistics Company in 1996, he and his 11 employees worked out of an office with just four rooms. Fifteen years later, Walsh's company has more than 200 employees in the Fayetteville area, and will move into an \$8 million office park that they helped to develop. In January the Fayetteville Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce presented Walsh with the Business of the Year Award at its annual banquet at the Crown Coliseum. More than 360 business leaders attended the event. A retired warrant officer who spent the bulk of his Army career at Fort Bragg, Walsh said his company's goal has always been to give back to the military and the surrounding community. With branches in Virginia and Georgia, Walsh said that roughly 60 percent of The Logistics Company's total 1,000 employees are retired military.

01 **Kalli Ziegler '01**, owner of Kalli Ziegler Properties, was the recipient of the Fayetteville Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce's Linda Lee Allen Athena Award, given each year to those who have helped advance the role of women in the workplace. Ziegler said she was overwhelmed by the honor, which was recently renamed in honor of Allen, one of Ziegler's mentors. The award was presented at the Chamber's annual banquet held in January at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, N.C.

05 **Craig Underwood '05** took over as the head wrestling coach at Hoggard High School in Wilmington, N.C.

07 **Jennifer Snyder '07** has earned a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in hospitality and travel management, graduating with *magna cum laude* academic honors, exactly two years after her 2007 graduation from the MU Resort Management program. She is now the catering sales coordinator at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park in Birmingham, Ala.

08 **Jennifer Pattison '08** is now at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in New York, N.Y. working as a program support assistant for the Surgery Department.

09 **Verres Thomas '09**, originally from Sierra Leone, has earned a first class degree at the University of York in England. He passed his exams and received a 70 on his dissertation, which is considered a mark of distinction. Verres is passionate about working in developing countries in a research capacity or in some form of poverty alleviation initiative. He is in search of development jobs around the world but is most interested in working in Africa.

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 2010: Dr. Linda McPhail '70

• OUTSTANDING ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Given for outstanding service and dedication to the MU Alumni Association. **Recipient for 2010: Ed "Tuna" Keil '70**

• OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF AWARD

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

Recipient for 2010: Gerri Williams '68

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY!

The MU Alumni Association Board of Directors invites you to identify this year's nominees, who will be recognized during Homecoming. **Nominations are welcome from all alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2011!**

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.



Kalli Ziegler '01 with King and Monarch cheerleaders

A Passion for Education Drives Loyalty Day 2011 to Success



Board of Trustees Chair Harvey Wright II '70; Dr. Ben Hancock, Jr., president of Methodist University; and members of the MU Foundation Board of Directors at a 2011 Loyalty Day campaign launch

“I know that education is the key to advancing our community and opening opportunities for future growth and prosperity,” said honorary campaign chair and MU Trustee Senator Eric Mansfield, M.D., at the annual Loyalty Day Luncheon Feb. 8, 2011. Members of the Methodist University Foundation Board, many of the 100 community volunteers who made calls on Loyalty Day, MU Trustees, and MU students attended the luncheon.

Dr. Mansfield went on to say that education has been a priority and a passion for him all of his life. “My father passed away when I was ten, and my mother, who is an educator, raised my sister and me as a single parent,” said Dr. Mansfield. Knowing that she did not have the financial resources to send him to college, and knowing that he wanted to become a doctor, he worked hard to obtain an ROTC Scholarship, and was able to attend college and medical school.

“Because I know how important that ROTC Scholarship was to me, and because of the many opportunities my education has afforded me, I am urging you to give a gift for Loyalty Day 2011,” he said.

Many area businesses, individuals, and alumni have demonstrated their passion for education by responding with a gift when their Loyalty Day Volunteer called on them. To date \$79,000 has been raised, 33 percent more than at this point in the campaign last year.

Also speaking at the luncheon was MU freshman Autumn Cheek, who is double majoring in biology and chemistry, and plans to become an oncologist. She explained that she wants to help cancer patients beat the disease and she hopes as a physician to give them the gift of time with their loved ones through treatments that will help them live longer. She said that gifts to Loyalty Day do more than help Methodist’s current students; these gifts help those that MU students will in turn touch.

For more information about Loyalty Day and how you can demonstrate your “Passion for Education,” contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (800) 488-7110 / (910) 630-7200 or visit www.methodist.edu and choose Development.

MU Alumni *Gatherings*

The first Hampton Roads, Va. area alumni gathering was a huge success! Special thanks to Ed “Tuna” Keil '70 and Dan Fowler '74 for hosting this event. Over 20 MU Alumni were reunited for a tailgate party prior to watching the Monarchs play the Captains in November. Sam Compton '69 treated the group to tickets for the game against Christopher Newport!

On Feb. 18, 2011, ten alumni from the Hampton Roads area attended the men’s and women’s basketball games against Christopher Newport, and enjoyed dinner together. Sam Compton '69, Dan Fowler '74, Ed “Tuna” Keil '70, and Bill Estes '69 were the hosts for the evening.

The Annual MU Alumni and Friends Golf Weekend was held Feb. 24-27 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Jerry Monday '71 organized a weekend of golf at Sandpiper Bay and The Pearl. Alumni participating included Jerry Monday '71, Bill Estes '69, Ed Dunn '69, Terry Boose '69, Mason Dirickson '69, Warren Southerland '70, Larry Philpott '73, and Roger Brown '74.



♥ Alumni (Gathering) in Love

Bill Estes '69 and Jackie J. Estes '69

“I met my wife Jackie at Methodist College during our freshman year,” said Bill Estes '69. “Yes, it was during the years of the stylish beanies that were worn by freshmen.”

Jackie and Bill went to the movies on a double date. “Danny Nau '66 had a car, so we went out with him driving, as those were the years of no transportation beyond shoe leather for freshmen,” said Bill. “We had such a good time.”

The next time Bill asked Jackie out was about eight years later. He found out that she was living in the Richmond area and invited her to a Methodist College Alumni Association gathering. “I took my time asking her for a second date, but she swears that if I had asked, she wouldn’t have gone with me,” said Bill.

Bill and Jackie graduated in 1969 and they were married Sept. 11, 1976.

MU Alumni Association Awards



The Methodist University Alumni Association presented the 2010 Alumni Awards during the “Lunch on the Green” held on Homecoming day, Oct. 23, 2010. **Jim Darden '69** presented the Distinguished Alumna Award to **Linda McPhail**, class of 1970. She is the first woman to receive this award.

Dr. Linda C. McPhail

attended Methodist College from 1966 to 1970. While a student here, she was in

Who's Who Among Students, on the Yearbook staff and Yearbook editor, served on the Judicial Council, in the Science Club, and was in the Women's Athletic Association. Following graduation from Methodist, Dr. McPhail attended Wake Forest University, where she earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in biochemistry. For the past 26 years, she has been a professor of biochemistry at Wake Forest University Medical Center and WFU School of Medicine. In 2007, she was selected for a three-year appointment as associate dean of the Graduate School for Wake Forest University.

Rev. James Malloy '78, recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Alumni Service Award, presented **Ed “Tuna” Keil '70** with the 2010 honor.

While attending Methodist College, where he earned a degree in history, Ed “Tuna” Keil was involved in intramurals, the Student Senate, Circle K, and the History/Political Science Club. He continued his education at Old Dominion University, where he earned an M.S. in Education. Ed Keil has a distinguished 30-year career of teaching and service in the Chesapeake Public Schools in Virginia. He serves on the MU Alumni Association Board of Directors and has been actively working towards forming an alumni chapter in the Hampton Roads, Va. area. He gave a generous \$100,000 gift to Alumni Endowed Scholarship in July 2010, doubling the principal in that fund.

Mr. Ron Foster '90, recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award, presented **Mrs. Gerri Williams '68** with the 2010 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.

Gerri Williams graduated from Methodist in 1968, and came back in 1979 as the receptionist and switchboard operator in the foyer of Horner Administration Building. For 27 years she has managed the



President's Office; arranging appointments and managing to pull people from on campus, in town, and sometimes from all over the state together for meetings. She possesses a wealth of knowledge about MU; she is a patient sounding board for all who come into the President's Office with an issue, and she is a welcome and smiling presence for those visiting or attending a meeting. We thank Gerri Williams for her dedication and many years of service to the Methodist University family.

An additional special award was given by the Alumni Association this year. **Mr. Tom Walden**, long-time Trustee and supporter of Methodist University, was named an Honorary Alumnus of Methodist University. The honor was presented by MUAA President **Dr. Kelli Sapp '91**.

Homecoming
is October 21-22!

*Class Reunion Contacts are needed
for the classes ending in 6's and 1's!*

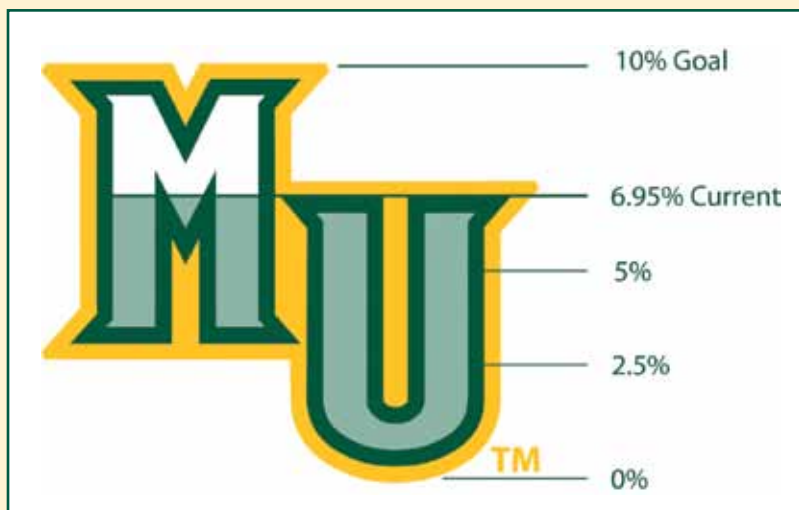
Have you had a reunion with your classmates or other MU alumni recently? Tell us about it and send us photos! If you are interested in hosting a Methodist University alumni event in your area, we would love to help coordinate that effort. Please call our office at (910) 630-7167 for more information or visit www.methodist.edu and select “Alumni.”

Contact Lauren Cook Wike at lwike@methodist.edu.

Alumni Participation in MU Fund is Our #1 Goal!

Help us increase our alumni participation level! Did you know that increasing the level of alumni participation and annual giving will give us a higher ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*? Our alumni participation rate for 2009 was 7.6 percent, and our goal for this year (ending June 30) is to increase that rate to 10 percent, which requires obtaining 300 new alumni donors. We're closing in on our goal, with a participation rate of 6.95 percent as of March 1, 2011. It's easy to give online to the **MU Fund**. Simply log onto www.methodist.edu, click on the "Give to MU" button on the top right of any page, and fill out the one-page form, or call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (800) 488-7110/(910) 630-7200 to learn more.

We are grateful to the 85 alumni who have joined in supporting their alma mater for the first time this year through this campaign. We are looking forward to hearing from more alumni to help us meet our goal of a 10 percent alumni participation rate by June 30, 2011!



The Methodist University Monarch Booster Club presents the **2011 Hall of Fame Golf Tournament!**

The tournament is a four-person captain's choice scramble with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The Hall of Fame Golf Tournament enters its 14th year in 2011. Over the last 13 years, the tournament has raised over \$75,000 to provide for letter awards for more than 500 student-athletes annually. The funds have also provided capital items, equipment, and facility improvements.

HOF Golf Tournament

Friday, June 3, 2011

King's Grant Golf
& Country Club

Check out www.mumonarchs.com
for more details!



5400 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311-1498
www.methodist.edu



stay connected

Methodist University is proud to welcome Dr. Ben Hancock as the fourth president of the University. In his new position of leadership, Dr. Hancock's priorities include becoming acquainted with the University's students, faculty, staff, and alumni. He is looking forward to building opportunities for collaboration between the University and the community, and enhancing student retention through a strong student-centered culture with exceptional customer service.

Stay connected with Dr. Hancock by visiting www.ourMUworld.com.



Our World, Our Networks!

Connect With MU World at the Following Social Networks

PRESIDENT'S PEN BLOG
Your guide to know what's going on, directly from Dr. Hancock.

FACEBOOK
Comment on weekly topics, including your take on the President's Pen blog posts.

TWITTER
Stay up to date and tweet about MU events on campus and around town.

YOUTUBE
Videos directly from Dr. Hancock, popular playlists, video contests, and more!