

FRONTIERS



The Magazine of Spartanburg Methodist College

Summer 2015

SMC says Farewell to Dr. Colleen Perry Keith



Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, President of Spartanburg Methodist College since 2009, has been named president of Pfeiffer University by the trustees of the Misenheimer, North Carolina college. Pfeiffer also has campuses in Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham and is a sister college in the United Methodist connection. Keith will begin her duties on July 1.

"While we are sad to be losing Dr. Keith, we know that this is a great fit for her skills and experience and a wonderful next step for her career as a college president," said Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Chair of the Board for SMC. "Dr. Keith has been an exceptional leader for SMC and will bring her outstanding gifts in administration and fundraising to bear for Pfeiffer's benefit. She is widely regarded throughout the field of higher education as a thoughtful and effective leader. SMC's loss is Pfeiffer's benefit."

Under Keith's leadership, SMC completed a major funds campaign, increased its capacity for fundraising, raised its public profile across the state, expanded its alumni programming, started two new degree programs, and undertook capital projects including the construction of Ellis Hall. SMC's enrollment has remained strong throughout Keith's tenure and the college's outstanding athletic programs have continued to thrive in competition at the national level.

"Anyone who knows me knows that I will miss SMC and my Pioneers. This is a great college and one that plays a very important role in getting students started on their higher education journey. Of everything we have accomplished over the past six years, I am most proud of the fact that SMC is no longer the 'best kept secret' in the Upstate. People recognize the value that we offer and our amazing success rate (85% of SMC students go onto complete their college education elsewhere, compared to 20% nationally for two-year colleges) is evidence that we are doing an exceptional job at implementing our mission. Even though I am moving onto what is next for me, SMC will continue to thrive and provide an outstanding higher education start for thousands more students for at least the next 104 years!"

Inside This Issue:

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- Dan Kenneally celebrates 20 years @ SMC with September 5th celebration
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- HOME FRONT News





SMC Alumni Association President, Amy Threatt Solomon (Class of 1985) is pictured with SMC Director of Alumni Relations, Leah L. Pruitt (Class of 1998). Amy led the 2015 graduates in the Alumni Oath and delivered a wonderful Alumni Address at Commencement.

Summer, Sun and Pioneer Fun

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the year. It seems like 2015 just began and here we are, ready to celebrate a fantastic summer. While summer is normally a quiet time at SMC, I invite you back "home" to walk through the beautiful campus to see all the wonderful changes and growth.



**Leah Longshore Pruitt,
Class of '98**

If you have travel plans this summer, please snap a photo of yourself, on vacation, and email it to the Alumni Office at PruittL@smcsc.edu. Be sure to include your name and SMC class year so we can feature you in our next publication.

Don't forget to check the SMC website (www.smcsc.edu) and the SMC Alumni Facebook page (Spartanburg Methodist College Office of Alumni Relations) for our upcoming SMC Alumni & Friends gatherings.

I would like to wish each of you a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Leah Longshore Pruitt '98

Director of Alumni Relations

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Jody Weisner '85, Secretary
Jeff Bannister '85, Immediate Past President
Jill Johnson '82, Faculty Representative
Wells Shepard '96, Staff Representative

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Don Tate '66
Greg Weisner '91
Joy Weisner '98
Chris Williams '74
Stacie Williams '96
Rev. Patricia Wood '60
Chuck Wright '02



SMC Legacy and 2015 graduate, Connor Hutto is pictured with his mom, Angela H. Strother, Class of 1985. Pioneer blue runs deep in this family and we are so proud that Connor carried on his mom's tradition and love for SMC. Way to go, Connor!!

2014-2015 SMC Board of Trustees

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 Athletic Fundraising

TO BE & TO DO.



Colleen Perry Keith

Greetings Pioneers and Friends of Pioneers!

The 104th annual commencement at Spartanburg Methodist College, my last as President after six years at SMC, is now in the books. Bittersweet. I remember the very first diploma I awarded to **Roger Alan Young, Jr.** in May 2010. The last one that I awarded was to **Briana Wright** in May 2015, *pictured with me above, and below*. In between 3,583 additional students have called SMC home over the past six years whose hands I have shaken, whose necks I have hugged, whose shoes (or lack thereof) I have marveled at, or whose smiles I have returned. I have loved every single minute of the past six years as the leader at SMC, and loved *just about* every student who I have had the privilege to know. My life as a Pioneer has been pure joy! It has been an honor to help provide the resources needed to develop young people who can create their own image, their own unique path in life.



I hope that you enjoy this issue of **Frontiers**, and feel the Pioneer Pride that I do in its pages. Thank you for your ongoing support of SMC and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your college.



Blessings and Peace,

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.
 7th President of SMC

SMC's 104th Commencement

Graduation is a joyous time to celebrate the milestone of academic achievement. It's a time for family and friends to gather together to show how proud they are of what the graduates have accomplished. The graduation ceremony is a rite of passage that creates lifelong memories. So what's the deal with everyone wearing the same outfit - robes and the funny hats?



Those funny hats are called "mortarboards because they resemble a tool used by bricklayers to hold mortar. In some areas, they're also called "square academic caps" or "Oxford caps." The mortarboard consists of a flat, square board attached to a skullcap, with a tassel buttoned to the center. Today students like to "personalize" their caps to reflect their personality.



Scholars believe the mortarboard is based on the biretta, a similar hat worn by Roman Catholic clergy. The biretta was commonly worn in the 14th and 15th centuries by students and artists. Several SMC Professors, like Dr. Farmer and Dr. Gloor (pictured to the right) have some definitely "cool" caps that mark their academic achievement!



Mortarboards are paired with robes to form the traditional graduation outfit known as "cap and gown." The cap and gown combination can



be traced back to the academic and clerical dress commonly worn at the medieval universities of Europe. These early universities didn't have buildings, so students usually would meet at churches. Because these churches were unheated, historians believe students wore long gowns and caps for warmth.

Curious about the tassels that hang from mortarboards? In some cases, the color of the tassel matches school colors. At other times, special tassel colors are used to represent particular degrees, subject areas or achievements.



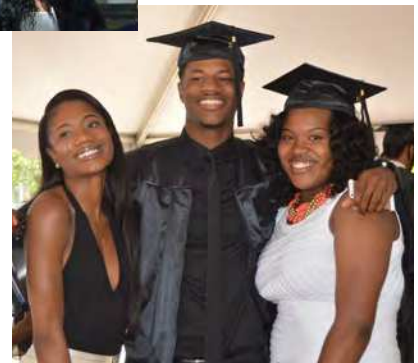
It has become a tradition at many schools for all graduates to wear the tassel on one side until receiving their diplomas. After the graduating class is announced, the students then switch the tassel to the other side. After switching their tassel, many graduates also

toss their caps into the air to celebrate. The hat-tossing tradition got started in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1912. That year, students at the U.S. Naval Academy became officers for the first time (instead of having to serve two more years as midshipmen) and flung their hats into the air spontaneously.



Since that time, the tradition continued each year, and it has become a ritual at schools — everywhere!

SMC's 104th Commencement



ALUMNI WEEKEND/HOMECOMING NOVEMBER 13 & 14, 2015*

* Times & location to be announced in the coming weeks.

Save the Date

ALL Alumni and Friends are welcome to join us for Alumni Weekend/Homecoming! We will have events on Friday and Saturday so alumni can reconnect and engage with their classmates.



If you are a member of the following classes and would like to celebrate your reunion, please contact the Alumni Office at 864-587-4225 as soon as possible so plans can be made for a special reunion celebration during Alumni Weekend/Homecoming.

1945 – Celebrating 70th Reunion
1955 -- Celebrating 60th Reunion
1965 – Celebrating 50th Reunion
1975 – Celebrating 40th Reunion
1985 – Celebrating 30th Reunion
1995 – Celebrating 20th Reunion
2005 – Celebrating 10th Reunion

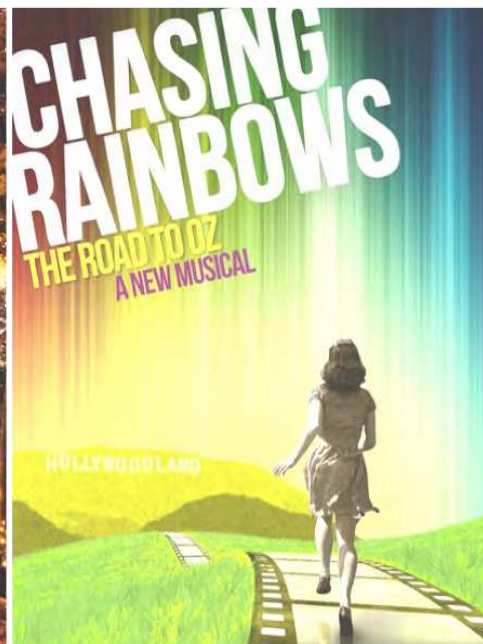
1950 – Celebrating 65th Reunion
1960 – Celebrating 55th Reunion
1970 – Celebrating 45th Reunion
1980 – Celebrating 35th Reunion
1990 – Celebrating 25th Reunion
2000 – Celebrating 15th Reunion
2010 – Celebrating 5th Reunion

**ALL graduating classes of the
SMC PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (2005 to 2015)
will also be celebrating their reunions.**

SMC Alumni & Friends

Christmas in Asheville Day Trip

December 15th, 2015



Tuesday, December 15th, 2015 Itinerary

\$139*

Depart from SMC in the morning on a deluxe motor coach and travel to Asheville, NC. Arrive at the **Grove Park Inn** and discover the story behind the historic hotel with a **History Tour**. Relax by fire in the grand lobby and view the **National Gingerbread House Competition Display**. Eat lunch on your own at one of the hotel's many dining options. After lunch, travel to Flat Rock, NC and enjoy reserved seats at the **Flat Rock Playhouse** for **Chasing Rainbows: the Road to Oz**, a new musical about an immensely talented underdog with the soul of a poet and the personality of a pep squad. This overweight and insecure "hunchback" beat the odds and emerged a star as she donned the famed ruby slippers and stepped onto the set of what is arguably one of the greatest movies of all time. This teenager was Judy Garland. Eat an included Dinner in Downtown Hendersonville, NC in the evening and travel home. Estimated departure is 8am & arrival is 8pm. *LIMITED SEATING!

Register online today at

www.goodnewstravels.com/smc

Registration and payment are due on or before
October 1st, 2015 and are based on availability.



GOOD NEWS TRAVELS
Explore. Experience. Enjoy.

**For more info contact Leah Pruitt, SMC Alumni Director at 864.587.4225
or email PruittL@SMCSC.EDU.**

The Write Place

On Friday, the April 10th SMC Celebrated the formal dedication and official ribbon cutting for **The Write Place**, the college's newly renamed writing center, located in the Dr. Edgar H. Ellis, Jr. Hall.

Nearly 18 years ago, SMC officially opened a writing center on the third floor of the Frank Walker Building. Since the fall of 1997, the center has been staffed by full-time faculty of the English Division who give two hours per week to assist students from all academic divisions (computer science, health, natural sciences statistics, criminal justice, psychology, history, literature, and of course, English composition) with their class writing assignments, but also with scholarship and university application writing needs. Over 200 students visit the writing center each semester.



*Drs. Marvin and Kathy Cann pictured with SMC's
Director of Development Don Tate*

Dr. Katherine Cann, Professor of History and Chairperson of the Social Sciences Division, and her husband, Dr. Marvin Cann, who has taught at SMC as an adjunct faculty member, were the benefactors of **The Write Place**. It is established in memory of their parents, Harold and Mary Davis, and Roy and Catherine Cann. **The Write Place** serves as a living memorial to the passion, sacrifices, and enthusiasm that their parents had for education. Over the years, the Canns have shared that same appreciation and awakening to the power of learning in their classrooms. Now, future generations of SMC students will benefit from the Canns' commitment to education.

During the ceremony, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, read several quotes from the book *Give to Live: How Giving Can Change Your Life* by Douglas M. Lawson. In particular, Keith shared Lawson's words

"Change and growth can occur only when each of us accepts the truth that we must all give of ourselves so that we all may live....We cannot heal all of the problems of the earth by ourselves, but we have to believe that if enough of us commit ourselves and turn loose our energies and resources, collectively we can create wholeness...Once you decide you are ready to go the extra mile, you will need to re-allocate your time, energy, and talents...Progress and change live only in the mind and the hearts of committed, compassionate citizens."

Keith concluded with Lawson's quote

"Once you accept the reality that a better world begins with you, relax in the knowledge that you will be the beneficiary of wonderfully rich, life-sustaining experiences. Your journey will not lead you down a road of sacrifice and drudgery. With grace and perseverance, you'll get much more than you give."

Harold and Mary Davis and Roy and Catherine Cann would be proud of the SMC legacy they set in motion and the tribute that will forever bear their names, **The Write Place**, truly is at the right place.

Search for the 8th President of SMC

The Board of Trustees of Spartanburg Methodist College announce the search for the eighth President of the College. The Board and the Presidential Search Committee have retained the services of Coleman Lew + Associates, Inc. to assist in managing the search and the recruiting and evaluation of qualified candidates.

Reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, the President serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the College with responsibility for ensuring the success of the institutions mission, enrollment management, academic integrity, fiscal stability, fundraising efforts, personnel development, and physical plant management. Positions reporting to the President include: VP for Academic Affairs; VP for Institutional Advancement; VP for Enrollment Management; Dean of Students; and the VP for Business Affairs.



The ideal candidate will have a passion for and commitment to an academically excellent, student-centered, liberal arts education in a faith-based environment . This leader will be a visionary and a strategic thinker with the ability to think creatively and innovatively and also possess an understanding of the changing landscape in higher education. Exceptional interpersonal, financial, managerial, marketing, fundraising, and communication skills are required along with a proven record of successful leadership in his or her vocation, whether within or outside of an academic environment. Appropriate academic credentials are required with a preference for a terminal degree; however, success in business or a professional career will be considered. Compensation will be commensurate with experience, which includes a competitive base salary, benefits, housing assistance, and relocation assistance.

Search Committee Members representing the SMC Board of Trustees:

Dr. Phinnize Fisher, co-chair
 Ms. Kathleen McKinney, co-chair
 Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Patterson
 Mr. Ray Lattimore
 Rev. William Malambri
 Mr. John P. Moore

Search Committee Members representing the SMC campus include:

Coach Tim Wallace, staff representative
 Dr. Mark Gibbs, faculty representative
 Ashley Rogers, Current Miss SMC, student representative
 * Jenny Dunn, administrative representative to the committee

Eric McDonald, SMC Vice President of Business Affairs, has been named Interim President during the search process.

HOMEFRONT



Janet Wilson, Chairperson of the Division of Business, Math, and Computer Science, as well as Professor of Mathematics at SMC since 1978 has laid down the proverbial chalk and retired from the classroom. Wilson, who holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts from Appalachian State University, was recently honored for her 37 years in the classroom that spanned the evolution from slide rulers to digital technology. Wilson was the SCICU Professor of the Year in 2014; won the 2012 Exemplary Teaching Award from the General Board/UMC and was the AV Huff Faculty winner in 1984. Wilson is retiring from full-time responsibilities at SMC but will return as an adjunct professor of mathematics.

SMC celebrated **Chaplain Candice Y. Sloan's** completion of her Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. with a campus-wide surprise reception following Chapel on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. Chaplain Sloan, who has served SMC for the past 13 years, is affectionately known as "Chappy" around campus. Chappy is an adjunct professor of religion, who holds an undergraduate degree from Southwestern University and a Masters of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School. She began her recent studies in January, 2013 and presented her Doctorate paper and project on *The Use of Spiritual Disciplines to Help College Students Grow Closer to God*.



Professor Kent Newberry was recognized with the SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award, and awarded a \$3000 professional development grant. Professor of Drama and Speech and Director of SMC Theater Productions, Newberry has been motivating and listening to his students and advisees at SMC for more than thirty-five years. Newberry earned baccalaureate, master's and educational specialist degrees at the University of Florida. He has been honored twice by the SMC faculty with the A.V. Huff Faculty Prize for teaching excellence as well as the Exemplary Teacher Award presented by the

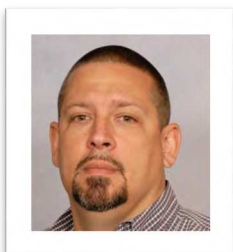
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

SMC Professor of English, Dr. Jill Coyle, recently won the Emrys Poetry Award presented by the Hub City Writers Group for her piece entitled "Walker Creek." Ms. Marjory Wentworth, poet laureate of South Carolina, served as judge for the competition. She said of Coyle's poem, "I admire everything about this poet. The attention to specific image detail is superb and reminds me of Elizabeth Bishop's work. The poems are beautifully crafted; there isn't a spare syllable. What an accomplishment." Coyle earned her PhD in Classical Studies from Duke University and her MA in English from N.C. State University. Her poems have appeared in *Blueline*, *Avocet*, *Main Street Rag*, and *Pinesong*. As a result of her award, Coyle, of Travelers Rest, will receive a scholarship to the week-long Wildacres Writers Workshop in Little Switzerland, N.C. in July.



HOMEFRONT

Wells Shepard (Class of 1995) has been named Executive Director of Enrollment. He most recently



served the College as the Retention Officer and Athletic Recruiter. Shepard has 16 years of experience in counseling and recruiting students and previously worked as Director of Admission for both Wofford College and LaGrange College (GA). He is well versed in the SMC enrollment process having previously served as an Admission Counselor, Assistant Director of Admissions and Director of Admissions. Shepard holds an Associate of Arts degree from SMC, and a Bachelor of Science degree in research psychology from Wofford.

In May, the SMC Board of Trustees awarded tenure to **Dr. Cole Cheek**, Professor of History and Anthropology. Cheek began his SMC teaching career as Professor of History in the fall of 2008. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College, and his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from Mississippi State University. Cheek advises several student organizations including Kappa Sigma Alpha service society and Phi Theta Kappa. A vital member of the Upstate Research Symposium planning committee, Cheek has brought recognition to a number of SMC student-researchers. Cheek was the 2013 recipient of the Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Prize and received the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Exemplary Teaching Award in 2011.



Teresa Ferguson, Chief of Campus Safety, was awarded the J.L. Geddis Award for outstanding service



to the College. Geddis served admirably at SMC for 41 years, beginning in 1964 as a student at Spartanburg Junior College and held many areas of responsibility during his 41 years here at SJC and SMC. In 2007 the college established the J. L. Geddis Award to honor an outstanding SMC staff member each year. Ferguson has been the Chief of Campus Safety for eight years and serves as one of only a few female chiefs in SC. She holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor's in Liberal Studies from Limestone

College. Ferguson has 20 years of experience in law enforcement, six years as a School Resource Officer in a local public school district, and five years as a Community Patrol Officer. She is a graduate of the SC Criminal Justice Academy, is certified as a Class I Law Enforcement Officer, and is a State Constable.

Barry Ward (Class of 1979) was selected as the 2015 recipient of the Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Prize by his colleagues for outstanding professional qualifications, demonstration of exceptional service and teaching skill. Ward previously won this same distinction in 2002. In 2011 Ward was the recipient of the SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award and he was the 2014 inaugural award winner of the SGA's Founder Day Faculty Award. Ward earned his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from SMC and continued his studies at the University of South Carolina, earning a Bachelor of Science, and his Masters of Arts from Gardner Webb.



SJC & SMC Class Notes



Ralph A. Brown (SJC Class of 1967) has been married to Ann Bolding Brown for 41 years. Ralph retired in 2006 from Colonial Pipeline Company and Ann retired from Douglas County School System in 2010. They have 2 children and 6 grandchildren. "SJC was my favorite college!"



James "Jim" R. Epting, Jr. (Class of 1969 SJC) retired after 27 years as Director of Computer Services, USC - School of Law.



Wayne Casasanta (Class of SJC 1969) retired as a Regional Director with the S. C. Commission for the Blind in 2004. Since that time, he does some volunteer work, playing music and singing, at various local nursing homes, assisted living facilities and is a Direct Patient Volunteer with Spartanburg Regional Hospice. Wayne primarily performs hymns and gospel songs, as well as some secular songs from Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong to the Marshall Tucker Band (he played in the original Toy Factory, before it became the MTB), Allman Brothers, etc.

Robin Betsill-Cohen (Class of December 1983) has been employed by United Way of South Carolina for three years. She currently lives in Ridgeway, SC and is married to Michael Cohen and has three children, James is the oldest and is gainfully employed, Micah is attending USC Beaufort and Ryen is a sophomore at Blythewood High School.

Charles "Chip" Shealy (Class of 1986) is a licensed cosmetologist and loved his years @ SMC!



Andre Godfrey (Class of 1995) is a Fitness professional specializing in Postural Assessment, Injury Prevention, Knee and Shoulder rehab, Pre and Post Natal Training, Basketball Coaching and Training, Athletic and Flexibility Training. He is the Owner of FirmFitInc Fitness, is a basketball trainer for 8 years, and is also owner of a nutritional business partnering with amway.com/andregodfrey.

Nelson "Kipp" Woods II (Class of 1998) and his wife, **Kathleen McIntyre Woods** (who attended SMC 97-98) started a new pest control business in the SC Upstate area—ProCore Pest Control www.bugsdead.com. Kipp and Katie prove great marriages and great business partnerships begin at SMC!



Randal Wallace (Class of 1994 and 1996), City Councilman of Myrtle Beach, was given an award by the SC Republican Party as the Local Government Elected Official of the year for 2015.

Anthony P. Helms (Class of 2002) has received his second promotion in two years and is now the Director of Academic Advising for the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University. Anthony moved to Michigan to pursue his bachelor's degree after meeting his beautiful wife, Sara, while working overseas as a firefighter in 2005. He now resides in Kalamazoo, MI with Sara and their two young sons, Cavan (7) and Kaelem (2). Anthony earned his BA and MA from WMU, and plans to pursue his doctorate in Higher Education Leadership in the fall.



SMC TEACHES THE



Dale King (Class of 1973) recently retired from Spartanburg District 2 Schools where she taught for 35 years. She is now a member of the SCEA-Retired Teachers'



Association, and has enjoyed attending the convention in Columbia representing the retired teachers of SC. "Our past president of the Spartanburg group was **Janet Agnew** who was my Elementary Math instructor at SMC. It has been fun getting to know her as a fellow educator. I've also enjoyed my St. Paul Methodist Women Circles since I have retired, and one of the presidents of that group is **Doris Luther**, who was my Glee Club and music instructor while attending SMC. It has been such a pleasure getting to know these ladies as fellow educators, and reminiscing about our days at SMC, especially the stories of Glee Club trips from Mrs. Luther. My SMC days were wonderful and the college holds a special place in my heart!"

Beth Lee Adams (Class of 1982) lives in her hometown of Laurens, SC with her husband, John, and their two sons: Hunter, 19, a sophomore at Anderson University; and Will, 13, an eighth grader who plays tennis on the Laurens District High School team as well as middle school football. Hunter keeps busy with youth ministry volunteer work, intramural sports, and fishing and hunting. John is a business analyst and is over IT at his plant. Beth retired from SCDMH a little over two years ago and now works at an elementary school as a shadow for an autistic child.

Patrick Brickhouse (Class of 2004) spent three and a half years teaching English at an after school academy in Seoul. Traveling to Asia had always been a desire, but to actually live in a wonderful country like South Korea and experience their amazing culture was a dream. My advice..."take a chance and get cultured!!"



Aly Decken (Class of 2006) was recently named the EP Todd Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ryan Heaton (Class of 2011) worked for Teach Thailand Corps for eleven months teaching English (to 1st, 2nd and 7-10th grade students) in the small town of Phrae, in Northern Thailand. "Living abroad taught me that **LOVING STUDENTS and TRUE JOY know NO LANGUAGE BARRIER!**"



Laura Morales (Class of 2013) graduated in May from Converse College and is currently teaching in Oklahoma, OK for the Teach For America program. After two years she will be off to grad school to continue her own studies!

Why teach?

1000s of possible answers...

from social, philanthropic, economic and even diplomatic reasons...

but the MOST important answer would be to MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

How, where and to whom YOU make a difference is up to *YOU!*

Name This Residence Hall Room

Attention ALL Former

HAMMOND, JUDD & KINGMAN RESIDENCE HALL ALUMNI!

SMC has staged Kingman 107, Judd 102 and Hammond 109 as Admission SHOWROOMS for future students and their parents.

NOW is YOUR chance to PASS ON your SMC memories by sponsoring the decorating!! ALL sponsors will have their name, class year and a hand-selected photo of themselves on display in the room.



Sponsorships \$125.

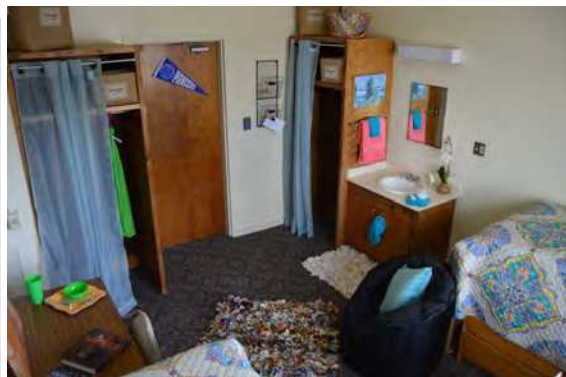
Contact Leah Pruitt

pruittl@smcsc.edu or 864-587-4225

To reserve your room today!

Name This Residence Hall Room

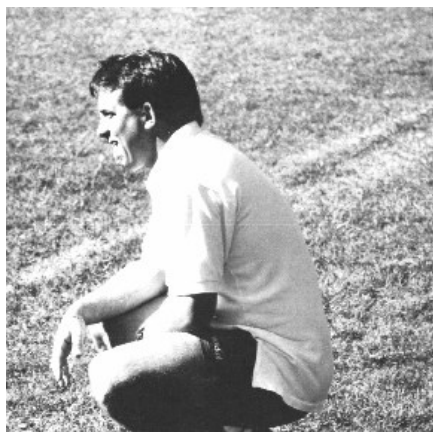
JUDD 102



KINGMAN 107



TWO DECADES OF DAN KENNEALLY



Alumni & Friends are invited to attend a special Soccer Celebration

**Please join us on
Saturday, September 5, 2015
to celebrate
Coach Dan Kenneally's
20th season of coaching at SMC!**

We will have a cook-out at 5 pm at the Soccer Field.

Please RSVP to Coach Kenneally
Kennead@smcsc.edu if you plan to attend.

Friends and family are also welcome!!



Please
join us





SMC is currently seeking sponsors to assist with the SMC Fishing Club.

For more information, contact Kim Caton, catonk@smcsc.edu

SMC's Dalton Smith & Rex Pierson at the June 20th Fatsack Outdoors 1st Annual Summer Bass Bash presented by Booyah Bait Company



Jalen Nesbitt (Class of 2013) recently signed with US Heffingen to play professional basketball in Germany! Nesbitt graduated from the University of North Florida in 2015.



Region X Player of the Year Caroline Hill earns NJCAA All-American 2nd Team Honors

SMC

Paralegal Certificate Evening Program Celebrates 11 Years of Legal Education and Graduates!

On June 10, 2004, Yvonne Harper had little idea of the magnitude of each step she was taking as she lugged boxes of student and instruction files from the Converse College campus to the third floor of the Walker Building at SMC.

Harper and SMC were embarking on an adventure that would transform the Upstate legal community - the creation of the SMC Paralegal Certificate Evening Program. Soon adult students would have access to the education they needed for the legal careers they sought with convenient evening hours, reasonable tuition and practical courses taught by legal professionals.

Harper, who graduated with a double major in business and paralegal/prelaw studies, had worked for 13 years as a bankruptcy, civil litigation and trial paralegal while also serving as assistant director and an instructor in her alma mater's ABA-Approved paralegal/pre-law program in Virginia. After relocating to SC in 1998, Harper learned about the professional legal assistant program at Converse College and reached out to the Director, Liz Patterson. Patterson invited Harper to join their Advisory Board and soon after she was teaching in the Converse evening program. "Then one afternoon in the spring of 2004 Liz called and asked if I could come to the SMC campus and speak with a few folks about how to start up a paralegal program. I had no idea I would leave that meeting with the task of transitioning the Converse program to SMC," shared Harper.

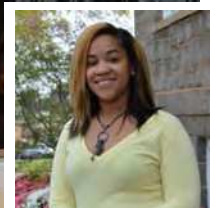
SMC began offering paralegal courses on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the fall of 2004. "We believe in hands-on practical application. Our instructors, who are judges, attorneys and paralegals, teach in the area they currently practice, for instance, Probate Law is taught by the Spartanburg County Probate Judge," explained Harper. SMC paralegal courses relate to areas of law in which paralegals are most in demand. Over the years the program has offered courses on Domestic Violence and Victimology, Real Estate Title Search, Spanish Communication Tools for Legal Professionals, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Cyber Crime, and most recently Immigration Law.

Fast forward 11 years and 122 students have earned paralegal certificates to advance their careers, increase their salaries, and create better opportunities for their families. On Sunday, November 22, the program will hold its 10th annual graduation.



"Every paralegal student, whether they only audited one class, or completed the 14-course program and earned a certificate, are my 'children' - despite being adults! I hold their hands and calm their fears as they begin the educational process. I cheer with them after they receive that **first** grade, *sometimes after 20+ years of being out of school*, and I LEAP with JOY every time one of them lands **their DREAM job** working in the legal field. I am blessed with an amazing job and I love helping students find their passion in the SMC Paralegal Certificate Program," summed up Harper.

P A R A L E G A L



For more information, visit www.smccsc.edu/paralegal/

In Memoriam

"Those we hold dear never truly leave us...They live on in the kindness they showed, the comfort they shared, and the love they brought into our lives." Norton

Mrs. Viri Morrow Momier

'41 of Landrum, SC, died May 6, 2015.

Mrs. Bessie Hatchette Lawson

'44 of Spartanburg, SC, died February 27, 2015.

Mr. Robert Joseph Skelton

'60 of Spartanburg, SC, died May 3, 2015.

Mr. Edward D. Pruitt

'77 of Landrum, SC, died March 8, 2015.

Ms. Peggy Jean Dill

'81 of Spartanburg, SC, died May 30, 2015.



Young Alums Charting their Own Course

Brent Poynter (Class of 2005) met his future wife **Kayla** at SMC on September 9, 2004, they married September 5, 2009, and have two daughters, Regan (August 6, 2010), and Arriston (September 18, 2012) and welcomed their third daughter, Brantley, on June 11th.



Ty Orr (Class of 2010) is an Ambassador for the Greater than Aids Organization and co-owner of the family business Frady's Moving Inc. in Walhalla, SC.



Wells Pierce (attended 2009-2011) graduated from USC-Columbia and has been accepted into USC's Doctor of Physical Therapy program.



Jonathan Blanton (Class of 2011) graduated from USC-Upstate in Political Science and will complete his law degree (JD) this coming December.

Hannah Gibbs (Class of 2011) after a 4 year apprenticeship will be sitting for her NC State Board of Opticians licensure exam.



Josh Dacey (Class of 2013) graduated from UNCA in May with honors and has been accepted into the dual Masters in Public History/Master of Library Science program at USC-Columbia.

Yaro Radtsevich (Class of 2013) graduated from USC-Columbia In May with a double major in Political Science/History. He is headed into the Officers Training Program for the US Marine Corp and then to law school.



Sarah Montgomery (Class of 2014) has been accepted into Louisville Seminary for the Fall 2016 term.



Lindsey Hoffmann (Class of 2014) received Lander University's Transfer Student Award. The award recognizes students who have demonstrated a successful, seem-less, transition to the Lander campus community.



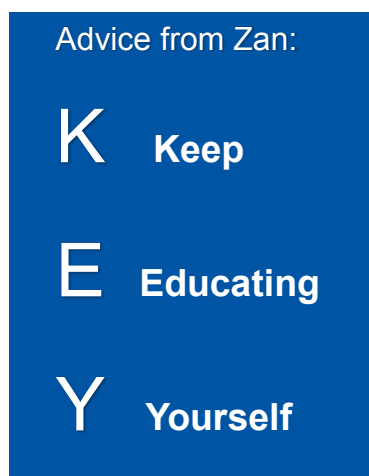
Zan Marie Raymond is a **NERD!**

No, I did not just read that scrawled across an elementary school desk. I am just repeating what she said...and is PROUD to say!

Zan Raymond received her first Associate Degree in Office Administration from SMC in July of 1988, and her second Associate in Arts Degree from SMC in July of 1996. In August of 1998, she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Psychology and Sociology from the University of South Carolina—Spartanburg. But she wasn't finished with SMC...she returned to earn her Certificate in Paralegal Studies in December of 2014 and walked away with the coveted Liz Patterson Paralegal Student of the Year Award!!

Since August of 2013, Zan has worked as a Victim Advocate with the Seventh Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in Cherokee County, SC, where she previously worked as a paralegal. Prior to the Solicitor's Office she worked as a paralegal and certified adoption investigator with the Law Office of Vanesa H. Kormylo and as a legal assistant and office manager for the Law Offices of James Fletcher Thompson. Lifelong learning is a passion of Zan's and she feels she is privileged to have had SMC play such an integral part in her ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge!

And for the record, Zan is **Not Even Remotely Dorky!**





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Here's to Summer, Sun and Pioneer Fun!

SMC Director of Alumni Relations Leah Pruitt '98 and SMC Executive Director of Enrollment Wells Shepard '95 catch up on their summer reading while enjoying a little sun on the SMC Volleyball Court.



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TO BE & TO DO.

Keep up with ALL the SMC happenings...**24/7, 365 days a year**...visit our website

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