

FRONTIERS

Fall 2010

A publication of Spartanburg Methodist College

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From the President's desk...

Welcome from the campus of Spartanburg Methodist College!

This summer, I celebrated the conclusion of my first year here at SMC! What a year it's been. I have traveled across the state meeting dozens of alumni and friends, and been welcomed in each and every venue by people whose enthusiasm for SMC is contagious. I have come away from each meeting buoyed by the high energy and love that you all have for this College. And the stories are amazing ...

- In Myrtle Beach, I met a gentleman whose job as a student was to milk the cows on the SMC farm and deliver a quart of milk each night to President Burgess' back porch.
- In Chapin, I met a gentleman whose student pranks included flooding the shower area in Hammond Hall so that the entire first floor became a "slip and slide." (I thought about not sharing that one so that current students don't get any ideas!)
- Also in Chapin, I witnessed two alumni meeting up with one another 48 years after they dated!
- In Spartanburg, Charleston and Greenville, I met alumni who met and married their spouses here and heard their stories of how they met (and how they evaded curfews...). In Myrtle Beach, I heard the story of how two students met 56 years ago while she was standing in the "girl's line" and he in the "boy's line" for class registration.
- At the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference in Florence, I met many clergy and laity who got their start at SMC and followed God's call into various forms of ministry (all told, more than 100 clergy have gotten their educational start at SMC).
- Over the internet, I met an alumnus who now teaches and writes about student success at another college, using his pivotal experiences as a student at SMC as the basis for his life's work. Our faculty have elected to use his book in our SMC 101 classes starting this fall!

When you read through the table of contents for this issue of *Frontiers*, you will be struck, as I was, about the focus on movement here at SMC. We have people changing career paths, changes happening in our on-line presence, new giving programs being implemented, new capital projects and fundraising campaigns being planned. Not to be missed are special stories about some terrific people who have blessed us, and continue to bless us, here at SMC. Among them are: Roger Young, Reggie Sanders, Lisa Isenhower and Jack Williams. This issue could well be one that you read and re-read time and again!

I invite you to pay special attention to our proposed calendar for our Centennial Year! We kicked off our 100th anniversary celebration with the President's Inauguration on September 10. From there, we are planning regular special events to which you are welcome and we hope you will come. It's sure to be a great year! Our Centennial celebration will be capped off in September 2011 with a big birthday party here on campus – and we certainly need you here for that ... after all, Centennials only happen once!

As always, remember to share the story of SMC with people you meet, remember SMC as you consider your philanthropic giving opportunities and, most importantly, remember SMC in your prayers.

May God's blessings and peace be yours,



Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.
President of the College



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On the cover: The outside stone of Spartanburg Methodist College's Davis Mission Chapel serves as a backdrop for the stories of students, faculty, staff, and alumni of SMC; while serving at the same time as a reminder of just some of the foundations of faith, academic integrity and personal growth that SMC was founded upon and strives to instill in its students.



www.smcsc.edu

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Strengthening Foundations

SMC is embarking on a financial campaign which college administrators say is much needed and is backed by a resounding show of support from the community.

That show of support has come in the form of a feasibility study recently conducted by The Winkler Group. Members of the community, local business and political leaders, and SMC alumni, trustees, faculty and staff were asked their thoughts on whether the institution should pursue a campaign and what needs should be addressed through the resulting monies raised.

Along with the show of support, came some surprising results, say SMC administrators.

According to the study, 82 percent of the study participants say they are in favor of SMC conducting a major campaign.

"The percentages are amazing – it's almost a virtual mandate to move forward with a campaign. People have every right in the world with the economy to say, 'Yes, I think you can do that but don't ask me. However 90 percent said they would support it financially. They didn't take the easy way out,'" says Bob Fuzy, SMC Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

The recommendation: a five-year, \$15 million campaign to address multiple needs on campus.

"That would give us enough money to do a couple of projects. But we need to spend our money wisely so that we're strengthening our enrollment, which would in turn strengthen fundraising at the same time. People would see new and exciting things which they would want to be a part of. It all dovetails together," SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith says.

So after analyzing the needs and the steps involved, the SMC Board of Trustees in August gave the go-ahead for the campaign.

The needs which were recommended to be addressed throughout the campaign include facilities, most notably a new academic building and student scholarships – as well as other campus remodeling and

construction efforts.

"The participants were most interested in a new academic building, which makes sense. It's very typical in this economy that people want to see projects focused on the central mission – and that just happens to be academic," comments Dr. Keith.

Dr. Keith says the campaign will be broken down into phases and will be built around a five-year goal.

"It's sort of a perfect storm coming together with new leadership, the ability to

100th anniversary. This is something we can get people really excited about, as everyone here at SMC is," says Dr. Keith.

Recognizing the need for academic improvements on campus even before the study was complete, SMC enlisted the efforts of McMillan Pazdan Smith architects to consult with the administration, faculty and staff on what were felt to be essential in both a new academic building and in renovations to the Montgomery Science Building.

From those conversations, initial plans

“It's sort of a perfect storm coming together with new leadership, the ability to raise money, specific projects, and the centennial.”

- Bob Fuzy, SMC Vice President for Institutional Advancement

raise money, specific projects, and the centennial. There's a great convergence of so many things that could make this pretty outstanding. Hopefully, three years from now we'll say, "\$15 million? That was just a drop in the bucket. Look what we've been able to accomplish over that," says Fuzy.

As details on how the campaign will be conducted and funded, SMC will also be working on developing new fundraising techniques and initiatives, two of which are The 1911 Society and the Tuition Partners Program (*see p. 14 & 15 for more information*).

"I think the \$15 million that they recommend is reasonable and obtainable. With some breaks, we could easily exceed it. Without some, it could be a battle. Regardless, we're going to start doing things a lot differently than how they have been done at SMC in the past," he states.

Fuzy and Dr. Keith both agree that the timing is perfect, with the college's centennial on the immediate horizon and that there is a great deal of enthusiasm behind the campaign effort.

"Our hope is to tie in the kickoff of the campaign with the celebration of SMC's

call for the new academic center to have several new classrooms; a 250-seat fine arts performance center, which can double as a classroom; multiple office suites; study lounges for students; and even a small café with indoor and outdoor seating. The new building will be located beside Kingman Hall.

"We haven't had a new academic building in 40 years. I think there will be a lot of community energy behind it. I think people will generally be excited that we're going to be doing this," says Dr. Keith.

Fuzy adds that the new building could even include naming opportunities for hallways, office space, and classrooms, which would be a draw for many potential donors.

Renovations to the Montgomery Building would include retrofitting existing labs with new equipment and the addition of at least two new labs, along with more classroom and office space.

Efforts are already underway outside of a major campaign to secure gifts for those two projects, as they have both been deemed necessary in order for SMC to be able to provide a quality, 21st century education to its students. 🏛️

Currently under design, with a large amount of support seen from a recent feasibility study, is SMC's newest academic building.

The multi-function building will be located on the site of the former President's House, beside Kingman Residence Hall.

The facility will provide much needed resources, in the form of several classrooms; a fine-arts suite, along with a performance gallery that can double as a lecture hall; office space; study lounges; and a snack bar.



... For Our Students' Futures



The Montgomery Science Building has served SMC students for nearly 40 years. But as today's curriculum and the technological demands of the modern workforce have increased, SMC finds the ability to meet those needs more challenging.

Plans are being developed to renovate the existing labs and classrooms in the building and construct an additional two new, state-of-the-art labs. A large percentage of funds for this project will be generated through the upcoming capital campaign.

One of the major campaign goals will be to generate new and supplement existing scholarship and financial aid opportunities for SMC students..... students like Holly Atwood, a 2010 SMC alum.

Holly served as a student ambassador, a member of the Dance Team, and as president of the Kappa Alpha Sigma service fraternity during her time at SMC. She is one of the 98% of SMC students who received some form of financial assistance last year.

While at SMC, she received an institutional vocal scholarship, the Josephine and Paul Thomas Scholarship, and lottery tuition assistance.

She is attending the College of Charleston this fall and plans to major in Psychology.



Meet SMC's Newest Staff Members

Terrie Ball serves as a Counselor in the Student Counseling Center. She is also a professor of Psychology and an SMC 102 instructor. Ball has more than 20 years of counseling experience, having most recently worked at the Charles Lea Center. Her career includes experience in a variety of counseling-related roles, including the South Carolina Department of Social Services; the Career Counseling Center in Clinton, SC; The Pace Center; the Spartanburg Mental Health Center; and as director of the Women's Center at the University of South Carolina Upstate. Ball, a Spartanburg native, has bachelors degrees in Psychology and Religion from Columbia College; an M.Ed. in Counseling and Guidance from the University of South Carolina; and an Ed.S. degree in Student Development from Appalachian State University. She has previously served as an adjunct psychology instructor at SMC. Ball lives in Spartanburg with her husband and 18-year-old son. She enjoys reading, exercising, spending time with family and friends, and the outdoors.



Terrie Ball
Counselor

Julie Bright serves as Assistant Controller, a new position at SMC. Bright most recently served for nine years as a payroll coordinator for Blockbuster. She is a 2008 graduate of Converse College with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Bright is currently pursuing a master's degree from Gardner Webb University. A native of Woodruff, SC, and a 1997 graduate of Woodruff High School, she now lives in Boiling Springs, SC. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and cake decorating.



Julie Bright
Assistant Controller

Michael "Doc" Holliday is SMC's Director of Major Gifts, which is a new position. Holliday returns to SMC after 14 years with the American Cancer Society as Vice President of Major Gifts for North Carolina and South Carolina. Prior to that, he served in various positions for seven years at SMC, including in fundraising and as Director of Athletic Recruiting. He is a 1974 graduate of SMC and received his bachelor's degree in Physi-



Doc Holliday
Director of Major Gifts

cal Education from the University of South Carolina. He and his wife Linda, who works as a Data Entry Clerk in SMC's Institutional Advancement office, have two children and two grandchildren. Holliday enjoys golfing in his spare time, as well as music.

Rick Jolley serves as SMC's Director of Facilities Management. Jolley previously worked for 26 years with Celanese as a technical manager. Jolley, a Spartanburg native, has a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of South Carolina Upstate (then USC Spartanburg) and a B.S. in Geology from the University of South Carolina. He is married and has one daughter, who is a graphic communications major at the University of South Carolina. In his spare time, Jolley enjoys playing trombone and running.



Rick Jolley
Director of
Facilities Management

Kelly Tillinghast is SMC's primary Admissions Counselor for the Pee-Dee and Grandstrand regions of the state and is responsible for promoting the college and recruiting students at various events and at high schools in those regions. Tillinghast most recently worked as a sales representative for Enterprise. She is a 2008 graduate of Lander University, with a bachelor of arts in Mass Communications, and a 2004 graduate of Boiling Springs High School. While a student at Lander University, she served as a student ambassador. She and her husband BJ have been married for two years and live in Boiling Springs. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, spending time with family, and is an avid Clemson University athletics fan.



Kelly Tillinghast
Admissions Counselor

Read about our newest coaches, **Jeff Brookman**, Men's Basketball Coach, and **Kurt Owings**, Men's Golf Coach, on page 34.

Spartanburg Methodist College welcomes all of its new staff members and thanks them for their service to our students and the SMC community.

Folklore, Literature, and Opening Students Up to New Ideas

Jack Williams, who was honored this spring with SMC's 2010 South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching award, spends a lot of teaching his students the importance of stories.

That is, stories of their heritage; stories of their family; stories of traditions; and stories of themselves.

One thing that attracted Williams to SMC when he was looking for a new teaching opportunity 26 years ago was that it seemed like a school where he would have the flexibility to use folklore to teach composition.

Williams, who has a diverse educational and teaching background, with a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in British Literature and Medieval Renaissance, says

that folklore is his favorite topic to teach.

Having previously led the Appalachian oral history project, Williams uses folklore as one of the primary ways to give students an experience in a college English class that they didn't quite expect.

"Folklore sort of brings a lot of elements together because it ties so closely to literature. Not only does it tell stories of heritage and tradition, it give you an insight into different cultures as well," he states.

Williams says he finds that SMC students are very open to this type of genre, learning about it and discussing it.

"It makes for some really interesting discussions – especially when I ask students what some of their traditions are and they say, 'Well, we really don't have any traditions'," he comments.

Challenging students is something that Williams says is critical during their college years.

"When students come to college, they don't often know how to think outside the box. I want to help them break that box open. I love it when they do – and when I'm able to teach them something new. My approach to teaching is to try and get students to challenge any idea they accept. Anything you've been taught, challenge it: how can somebody say this, when this is true. There is no writer that has ever written everything that's perfect. You can challenge anything," says Williams.

But at the same time, challenging students' belief systems is something that he does not like to do.

"That's where you have to draw the line as a teacher. I talk about belief systems. I encourage kids to maintain their beliefs - because when you teach folklore, and with the way I

teach English, I have to talk about tradition, culture, belief systems, and religions and myths," he states.


His classes are also an opportunity for students to get to know him – and ask him his beliefs.

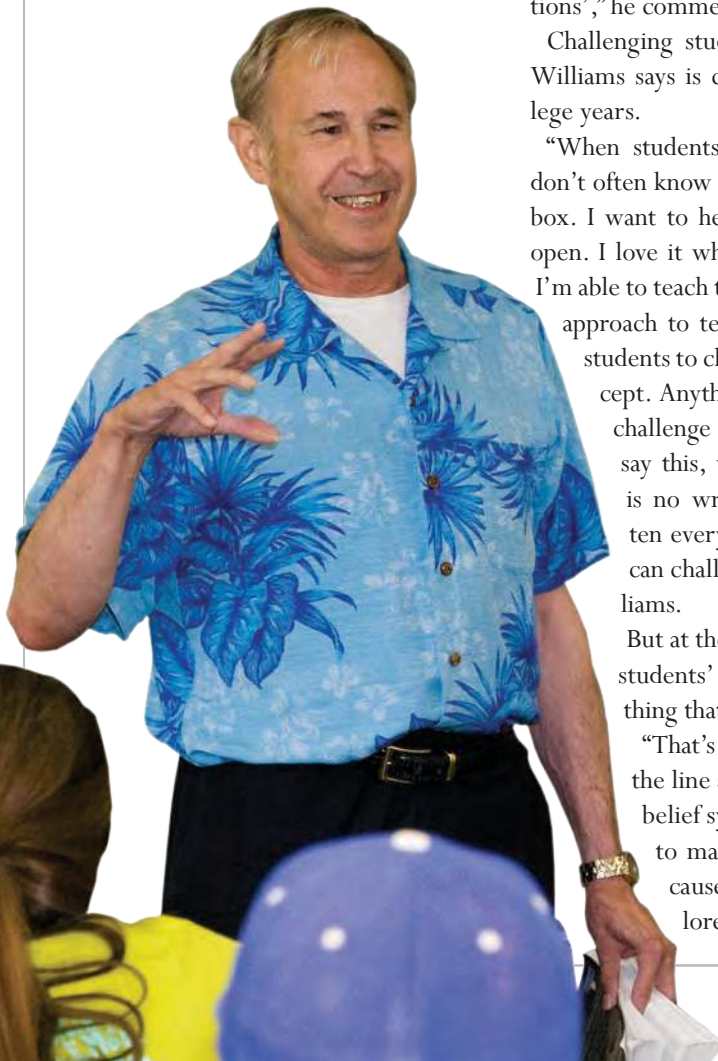
"If you teach a class, they want to know who you are. They don't want to know what's in the book. They want to know what you think. Frankly I tell them it doesn't matter what I think, it matters what you think. I tell them it is important that they develop a belief system that enables them to have strong values to get them through life and enable them to deal with the serious problems that all of us have to face. That's what religion is there for. I tell them their religion is the most important part of their lives and that they need to develop a strong belief system that they can fight for," Williams comments.

Williams says he realized quickly in his teaching career that each class takes on its own personality – and so he adjusts his courses each semester.

"I'll teach something one way one semester, and then totally differently the next. Each is different. English is an eclectic discipline that you can bring any subject to bear when you teach it. I try to get them to talk. Once I get kids to open up and involved in discussions, they don't worry too much about what the consequences are," he states.

Williams put part of his stipend from the SCICU award to use this summer talking with officials at the Smithsonian and Library of Congress about folklore and will be drawing up a proposal to develop a class specifically on folklore at SMC at some point in the future. He will also be attending the American Folklore Society conference in October in Nashville, TN.

"I think a Folklore class would fit in great at SMC. I would be very excited to help make that happen," Williams says. 



*Moving
on to
a new
Ministry*



When Lisa Isenhower started working at SMC in 1984, she didn't realize it would be a place where she would spend more than 25 years of her life.

In that time, she served the SMC community in various capacities – starting off teaching remedial math in the JTPA program.

She soon found out that working at SMC and teaching its students was its own special form of ministry.

"The JTPA program served economically disadvantaged people. I worked with a lot of welfare recipients that needed to transfer from that kind of support, as well as the unemployed and under-employed. I feel we helped a lot of people," says Isenhower.

For her, that led to more and more roles at SMC. She started teaching GED preparation and business English. She then went back and worked on her Master's degree, taught as an adjunct, and worked in the library for a while. Then she moved into the position which she held the longest – as an English instructor.

"I was very happy when I moved to the academic side because that was my goal from the beginning," she states.

Through her time as an English teacher and her other duties at SMC, she leaned heavily on her faith.

"Many times as I walked up these steps my daily prayer was 'God let me shine for you today. Let me be the light of Christ for whomever. Show me how I can share your love today'," Isenhower comments.

Other responsibilities she took on during her time at SMC were as yearbook advisor, newspaper advisor and student advisor.

Each was unique with its own challenge and responsibility.

Some of her most memorable moments are just as a friend and mentor to students.

"I began to really love those times when I couldn't solve problems, but could hand them a Kleenex and listen to them - and being able to sit with a student in a crisis and just love on them – I will miss that a lot," she comments.

Her faith journey she says probably started at a church in England, while she was young and her father was stationed

there as a member of the U.S. military.

"I was a child whose parents took her to church and was baptized as an infant. I was raised in the Lutheran church. Some of my happiest early memories were in the base chapel somewhere in England," she comments.

She says it's often been evident to her students how strong her faith is.

"I had one student write once I can really see your faith when you teach, it shines right out of you. I thought that was the nicest compliment I could have ever receive. As Christian people we try to live our faith and let people see it, but many days I don't know how successful I am with that. I think pretty quickly, students saw me as someone they could talk to, I think some of that has to do with being a mom. Early on when I had to counsel students, I felt unsure of myself," Isenhower says.

But now she's moving on to the next part of her journey – to become a minister.

Isenhower found out in April she had been accepted in the ministry program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

"I was tremendously excited as my steps were affirmed – when applying for candidacy and applying for seminary," she says.

Isenhower started the program this summer, after finishing the semester at SMC.

She reflects on her times at SMC, saying "It's a strange thought to imagine there are so many students I may have taught or interacted with. It's kind of an awesome responsibility to think about that something I might say or do in the classroom could impact a student in ways I would never know."

The decision to leave SMC is not one that she took lightly and spent a great deal of time praying about. But Isenhower says becoming a minister is something that she has determined is her next step.

It's been something that she's thought about for a while.

"I didn't know was in college that ordained ministry would be for me, but I wanted to serve and didn't know what that was going to look like. In those days you couldn't exactly Google 'church-based jobs for women'," she comments.

She has been active in the contemporary service at her church, St. John's Lutheran in

Spartanburg, for a while and has had discussions with her pastor about her faith journey.

That played a big role in her decision to pursue ministry.

"As I took on a more active role in worship leadership, I found I love it. My favorite time of the week is Sunday morning leading worship. That was a surprisingly delightful revelation," Isenhower says.

She comments that she is glad she has been able to use her gifts to serve the SMC community and its students.

"The experiences of having a student really get it in the classroom, those are really rewarding and helped me to feel like I was helping people; it's a ministry of sorts to help students get through a class to get to the next level," Isenhower says.

But she is thankful for the opportunities SMC gave her – and for the experiences that she was able to have with its students.

"I took a spiritual gifts class at church and discovered I have gifts for ministry and one of those gifts is teaching, so I thought that's good. I've been using one of my gifts. I didn't realize I was going to love teaching as much as I have. I was not very confident as a first-time teacher," Isenhower says.

The seminary program will last four years. Two of those are spent on campus, then there is a year of supervised internship in a church. That is followed by a final year on campus. There is also a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in the summertime usually in a hospital or long-term care setting and also a cross-cultural education element.

She adds, "Sometimes I think I am out of my right mind to leave this place – it's such an exciting time to be at SMC. And I will have to observe some of the changes to come from a distance, but I'll be keeping an eye on it because I care so much about it."

Isenhower is excited about how SMC has changed during her time here and for its future.

"The face of the college has changed, but we've kept the traditions and the landmarks. It's been an amazing transformation. I will tremendously miss everyone here, but I will stay in touch and come back and visit as often as I can," she says.



SMC Administrators Receive State Recognition

President Keith Named BPW Career Woman of Year

SMC President Dr. Colleen Perry Keith was selected earlier this year as the 2010 Career Woman of the Year by the S.C. Federation and the Education Foundation of Business and Professional Women.

Dr. Keith was nominated by the Spartanburg Breakfast BPW Club.

"Certainly becoming a college president for a female is quite a feat, and we felt that she mirrored what the criteria was for a career woman," said Cathy McCabe, Spartanburg city attorney and a member of the local BPW club.

"There must be dozens and dozens of women more deserving, and I'm new in town," Dr. Keith was quoted as saying in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*.

"I'm pretty visible... [but] I often think that (SMC) is the best-kept secret in town and I just want people to know about (the college), so I'm out there all the time. I think trying to make sure SMC is on the radar screen of everybody in the community probably had something to do with the nomination. I still just can't believe that I won this," Keith said.



Bowles Honored With Martha Kime Piper Award

Dr. Ann Bowles, SMC Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been named the recipient of the 2010 Martha Kime Piper Award.

The Piper Award is named for the first woman president of a public higher education institution in the state, and is given annually to recognize a woman with a record of advancing and supporting women in higher education and the education of women in South Carolina.

"There are no words to express my gratitude to [SMC President] Dr. Colleen Keith, supporters who wrote letters, and the [SCWHE] Executive Board for the tremendous honor of the Martha Kime Piper Award. To see my name added to the list of recipients still evokes tears and absolute humility," says Dr. Bowles.

In 2009, Dr. Bowles, a Spartanburg native, celebrated her 30th anniversary as a higher education administrator. She is currently in her fourth year as SMC's Vice President for Academic Affairs. She previously served at SMC in the 1990s.



SMC Presents First James S. Barrett Award To Kathy Cann

SMC History professor Dr. Kathy Cann was recently recognized with Spartanburg Methodist College's first annual Dr. James S. Barrett Award.

The award, named in honor of the SMC's fourth president, was established to recognize individuals within the SMC community who have shown a dedication to the college's fundraising, development and institutional advancement efforts.

Dr. Barrett served as president of the college from 1970-1976, after serving as a Religion instructor, chaplain, and dean.

It was during his term as president that he appointed the first Vice-President of Development, George Fields, with the support of the United Methodist Church, the college built the current chapel, gymnasium/ auditorium (Barrett Learning Center) and expanded the current library. Another significant accomplishment during his tenure was the linking forever of the United Methodist Church and the college



Dr. Kathy Cann (3rd from left) is pictured with members of Dr. James S. Barrett's family

by changing the name to Spartanburg Methodist College.

Dr. Barrett dedicated his life to service to others. His career in United Methodist parish ministry, higher education and community foundation work spanned more than 40 years.

He enjoyed his retirement years

in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina playing golf with his wife Mason of 52 years, surrounded by their three children, spouses and several grandchildren. He passed away on June 20, 2007. Because of his tremendous legacy, Dr. Barrett will always be remembered at SMC.

Centennial Celebration Getting Underway

The 2009-2010 academic year was a wonderful time for Spartanburg Methodist College. We began our new year with a new president, and soon, after the opening of the College, a committee of faculty, trustees, staff, administration, alumni, students, and friends began to make plans for the most important event we have had in one-hundred years, celebrating the college's centennial.

The Reverend David English Camak, with the help of many people, founded the Textile Industrial Institute on Sept. 5, 1911. The school was designed to provide basic education for adult mill workers, many of whom could not read or write. From its beginning, TII was different from other schools. Mr. Walter S. Montgomery, president of Spartan Mills, allowed students to work half-time and attend school half-time.

Because we have a great deal to be proud of at SMC, we are in the process of plan-

ning a celebration that will begin at the start of our ninety-ninth year and end in September 2011. Our first event was the inauguration of President Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, was held on Sept. 10.

We will have a variety of events in our year of celebrating the history of Spartanburg Methodist College. These events will be entertaining and informative, and we will all enjoy being a part of these marvelous activities. The members of our committee have been assigned particular projects and have been divided into groups to work on these projects. As time goes on, we will be inviting more people to assist us.

An important tool as we plan for the centennial is Common Ties, A History of Textile Industrial Institute, Spartanburg Junior College & Spartanburg Methodist College, written by Dr. Katherine Davis Cann, a professor at Spartanburg Methodist College. The book gives the readers a wonderful history of how Textile Industrial Institute be-

came Spartanburg Methodist College.

I am especially pleased to be at Spartanburg Methodist College at this time in its history. I earned an Associates in Arts from SMC and went on to earn a bachelor of arts and two master of fine arts degrees. My years at SMC prepared me well, and I am excited to be here and even more excited to be the chair of the committee that is planning the centennial.

We look forward to seeing many SMC alumni, friends, and supporters at the various events we have planned over the next year. Please come out and help us celebrate the college's history and legacy.

You can also find out more about what will be going on throughout the year at www.smcsc.edu/centennial

Thank you!

Briles Lever

Centennial Planning Committee Chairperson

Centennial Events

Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, at 8 pm

Founders Day Celebration, featuring international pianist Teresa Walters

Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011 from 3 - 5 pm

Spartanburg Historical Society's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at 7:30 pm

Celebration of Black History Month including a performance by actor Darryl Van Leer

Monday, Sept. 5, 2011

Birthday party for Spartanburg Methodist College

There are even more events listed on our website. Please check out www.smcsc.edu/centennial to see what all we have planned over the next year



Big Changes Happening Online



If you've visited our website since February, you will have noticed that there's been a pretty big change... but if you haven't, you ought to stop by www.smcsc.edu and check it out!

SMC enlisted the help of the creative geniuses at Whipp, Inc., in Spartanburg, to design a new website for the college (along with all the great work they have been putting together for our marketing and recruitment efforts).

Powered by and maintained through software designed and provided by Seattle-based Ingeniux, the new SMC website offers users a new online experience through which they can learn about and keep up with SMC.

While the full functionality has not yet been tapped, and new tools are still being brought online and developed, the website is already receiving very supportive response and SMC has seen a noticeable uptick in online usage in recent months.

Along with a new look, the new website offers separate portals for prospective students, parents and guests, and alumni.

It also features a comprehensive admissions section geared to providing prospective students more information at a glance than previously allowed, as well as targeted calendar and news functionality.

"We are very pleased and excited about the new website. It is able to provide more comprehensive information, which is more easily accessible than before - and is designed with the user in mind," says Dan Philbeck, SMC Vice President of Enrollment.

"We're also very thankful for all the hard work of the folks at Whipp, Inc., and Ingeniux," he adds.

A feature which has already become a key part of the admissions process is the new applicant portal, powered by Hobson's

EMT Connect, which has the same look and feel as the main SMC website.


"We wanted the VIP pages to flow with the website. We didn't want students to feel like they were being redirected somewhere else," says SMC Admissions Director Mike Queen.

When a student fills out an inquiry form on the website, a customized web portal is developed for them, based on their likes and dislikes. It has counselor and financial aid information, along with details on clubs/organizations, athletics, and numerous other features.

The portal even displays a "to do" list of items that officials at SMC still need and will tell the applicant what their current status is. All of these features combined create a very powerful software package.

"This allows us to qualify students much earlier in the admissions process and make recruiting decisions about where we need to focus more of our efforts. Qualifying students earlier means our counselors can spend more time with students who are genuinely interested and make it a more personable experience for them," says Queen.

The Hobson's software manages all student records from the inquiry status until they enroll. It automates and schedules all of the mailings and emails to students from the Financial Aid and Admissions offices, and also tracks when those emails have been read.

"We will continue to create and improve content. We are also looking into Facebook integration that Hobson's is unveiling and will possibly look at using a text feature for mobile phones in our next recruiting class," adds Queen. 

Also online:

www.smcbookstore.com ... an SMC bookstore Website launched this summer

www.gosmcpioneers.com ... the SMC athletics Website will take on an entirely new look this Fall semester.

2009 Fundraising Exceeds \$2.2 Million

While the national figures for charitable giving have declined substantially the past couple years, SMC's alumni and friends have continued to support the college tremendously! Total receipts in 2009 exceeded \$2.2 million with church-giving reaching nearly \$600,000 and the Annual Fund exceeding \$1 million.

In fact, because of your enthusiastic support, we were forced to split our annual donor recognition dinner into two events this year.

We think everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize in a smaller setting a while having the opportunity to meet and

talk with SMC President Dr. Keith.

Alumni events across the state are also providing additional opportunities to meet Dr. Keith, and we hope you are able to attend some of those as well.

If you have the chance to visit SMC, you will immediately see that your generosity has greatly enhanced the "curb appeal" of campus.

The lush grass, landscaping, and the clean and well-kept buildings are very aesthetically pleasing. Visitors, potential students, and our faculty and staff often make these comments and we owe much of this to your gifts.

Admissions has the very difficult task of competing with


Fundraising Breakdown	2009 total
Annual Fund	\$1,181,511
Capital Fund	\$ 343,686
Endowed Scholarships	\$ 116,047
Planned Giving	\$ 310,000
Grants	\$ 253,845
Total	\$2,205,089

other institutions and your unrestricted annual gifts help dramatically for campus updates and scholarships.

Speaking of scholarships, you'll be happy to know that we continue to boast that no student will be turned away for monetary or financial reasons; our donors, including the South Carolina United Meth-

odist Conference, deserve the credit for that. Both endowed gifts and annual gifts make the difference in recruiting and retaining outstanding young men and women to SMC.

Again, we thank you!

Please keep in touch as many new donor programs, some highlighted in *Frontiers*, are being initiated. 



To view our **2009 Honor Roll of Donors** - a list of those who contributed gifts to Spartanburg Methodist College during the 2009 calendar year - please visit us online at: www.smcsc.edu/honorroll

New Giving Pro



Tuition Partners Program Includes Matching Gift Component

With the ongoing commitment of Spartanburg Methodist College to ensure that the opportunity for quality higher education remains available to deserving students, regardless of their financial situation, the college, with the endorsement of the Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM), has introduced the Tuition Partners program.

SMC continues to be blessed with the

that they attend the college.

The donor's gift and matching funds will provide support to two to four students for both years. The donor may designate the parameters that will be used in selecting the recipients; geographic area, athletic, academic, etc. During this two-year period, each donor will have the opportunity to meet, dine and interact with the student recipients through SMC coor-

"As I have shared information about our Tuition Partners Program with our friends and supporters in the South Carolina Annual Conference, I have found great support and appreciation for this initiative as it truly brings us into a more meaningful partnership with the Annual Conference. We recognize the sacrificial giving of United Methodists across the state and at the same time, we recognize that churches are facing fiscal constraints like never before," says SMC president Dr. Colleen Keith.

"By leveraging a portion of the funds we receive from the Annual Conference through this program, we are bringing new donors to SMC and increasing our ability and capacity to fundraise for scholarships. All funds are used for annual scholarships and through our efforts, we are sharing with donors the story of SMC's relationship to the Annual Conference. It's a story we cherish and love to share," she adds.

For more information on the Tuition Partners program, contact:

Don Tate, Director of Development
(864) 587-4227
tated@smcsc.edu

“We are sharing with donors the story of SMC's relationship to the Annual Conference. It's a story we cherish and love to share.”

- SMC President Dr. Colleen P. Keith

endorsement of the CCOM, or apportionment, and a portion of the CCOM contributions will be used as a “match” for donor commitments to this special program.

In initiating this new program, SMC will match any scholarship donation of \$5,000 or more to Tuition Partners.

The donor is asked to make a \$5,000 or more commitment for at least two years, with the benefit of seeing his/her gift have twice the impact in the shaping of a student's development for the two years

that they attend the college.

Leveraging both the CCOM support and the matching scholarship support vividly shows the importance SMC places on this partnership with our supporters, our students and their families. In this first year of the program, up to \$100,000 of the CCOM gift total will be set aside to allow the SMC financial aid, admissions and development offices the opportunity to launch this program without disrupting “normal” procedures.

grams Unveiled

1911 Societies Focused On Unrestricted Giving

Providing a scholarship to a young student with great promise but whose family has been hit hard by the current economy and cannot manage the staggering costs of a college education; landscaping the lawn area in front of Judd Hall to make it more garden-like and appealing to students and visitors; or updating technology in the Montgomery Science Building to improve teaching and learning...these are all examples of uses for your unrestricted annual gifts to SMC.

Every academic institution strives to financially support their students and provide an environment conducive to their academic and social life. This is a daunting task that demands emphasis and direction, and we are no exception.

SMC will soon celebrate its centennial! With celebration events planned to begin in late 2010 and culminating in September of 2011, every alum, parent, and friend will have opportunities to participate on campus or at local gatherings in their area.

To forever commemorate our heritage, The 1911 Societies have been created.

These unrestricted societies will fund the above examples and many other unplanned for needs each year.

The overwhelming majority of the funds will obviously go to maintaining our commitment to be sure "no student will be turned away from SMC because of money".

The transition to unrestricted societies will occur over the next year and be final on June 30, 2011.

Those that join these societies prior to June 30, 2011 will be forever recognized as a **Founding Member* in publications and Honor Rolls as long as they remain members.

Obviously, continued support to endowments and capital projects are needed and will be sought, but recognition for them will be given in the "naming" of the fund or facility.



The 1911 Societies celebrate the legacy of SMC, from its founding by Dr. David English Camak, to the current administration of President Dr. Colleen Perry Keith.



However, giving SMC the flexibility and options to use unrestricted funds where they are most needed at the moment is important.

With this, all gifts at society levels in the 2010-11 year will be recognized, but only unrestricted gifts after that point. 🏰

The 1911 Societies will include:

The President's Society - \$1,000-2,499

The Heritage Society - \$2,500- 4,999

The Founder's Society - \$5,000-9,999

The Trustee Society - \$10,000 and up

Among the capital projects slated for the near future at SMC are a renovation and expansion of the labs and classrooms in the Montgomery Science Building, as well as a new academic facility on campus.

Your contributions will help insure that SMC's students are able to benefit from the most capable and state-of-the-art programs, facilities, and equipment, which will provide them a strong foundation in today's knowledge-based economy



From the Alumni Director

Dear Alumni,

I am very excited about the alumni gatherings and activities that have been going on all around South Carolina this year. We are taking SMC President Dr. Colleen P. Keith around the state to meet alumni. So far, we have hosted alumni gatherings in Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Spartanburg and Columbia, Newberry; and held an SMC night at the Greenville Drive's Fluor Field.

Each month we have events planned and all alumni are welcome to attend all events. All of our events are posted online so please check our website at www.smcsc.edu/alumni for more information for upcoming events on the SMC campus, in Rock Hill, and a special SMC alumni gathering at the Clemson/Carolina football game.

In addition to events around the state, we will also have events on campus to celebrate SMC's centennial. In 2011, SMC will turn 100 years old so we have a year-long series of events planned in which you are all invited to participate. In November we will have our annual Homecoming with a fun-filled weekend the entire family can enjoy. All of the events will be posted online with full schedules for the day as well as other important information.

I encourage you to participate in the events and activities and reconnect with your classmates. It has been so nice to meet so many wonderful alumni and see so much Pioneer pride when we travel.

Also, please stay updated with what's going on at SMC and with your fellow alums on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages!



Sincerely,

Leah L. Pruitt

Leah L. Pruitt '98



From the Alumni Council President

Dear Alumni,

As you will notice in this *Frontiers* magazine, there is a visible energy these days at SMC. It's energizing – and it's great to be a part of.

SMC has a rich tradition of excellence which is not to be ignored. It's a place in our community that some people may not be familiar with, but we all need to help spread the word about the great things happening at SMC.

Take this into consideration for a moment: among the graduates of community colleges are individuals who have gone on to be astronauts, ambassadors, CEOs of billion-dollar corporations. From SMC, we have seen alums become state representatives and leaders, law enforcement officials, nuclear physicists, and globally-known physicians. There are so many stories to tell about our alumni and their successes!

My wife and I met at SMC. We got our start there and draw from our experiences gained there in our every day lives and our careers. We are truly thankful for that – as each SMC alumnus should be. SMC is where they received their start as well.

As you can see, I am very enthusiastic about SMC and very proud to call it my alma mater. As president of the Alumni Council, I offer my assistance to you, for those who you would like to host an alumni event or class reunion. We're Pioneers – and we should stick together and support each other and the current students of this fine institution.

We are also holding alumni events throughout South Carolina to which you are invited to attend. We expect the participation in these events only to increase, so please take time to come out and join us!

So let's all get behind the efforts of the SMC community and support the leadership of President Dr. Colleen Keith and her administrative team, and each and every department at SMC! It's already a great place to call our alma mater, but let's help make it an even better place for future Pioneers.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bannister

Jeff Bannister, SMC Alumni Council president

Alumni and friends

...at the 2010 Alumni Weekend



More than 100 alumni came out for the 2010 Alumni Weekend at SMC on March 26 and 27. Events for the weekend including a reception at SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith's home; an awards luncheon; a Pioneer baseball doubleheader; and a reception at the BMW Zentrum in Greer, SC. Annual awards were also presented; please see the following two pages for information on the 2010 award recipients.

Reconnecting

... across South Carolina



The Alumni Office at SMC has begun hosting "Meet and Greet" events for alumni and friends across South Carolina. During the 2009-2010 academic year, events were held in Spartanburg, Greenville, Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Chapin. To see what our upcoming events are, check out the back cover of this issue of **Frontiers** and visit www.smcsc.edu/alumni

Alumnus of the Year

Craig Newton is a Greenville, SC native and graduated from Wade Hampton High School in 1974.

He is a 1976 alumnus of SMC, having majored in Police Science and Administration, and graduated with honors. After leaving SMC, Craig fulfilled a lifelong dream and became a state trooper with the South Carolina Highway Patrol. After 25 years of service and obtaining the supervisory rank of Sergeant, he retired from law enforcement.

Craig then immediately went to work for Strategic Security Services in Greenville, SC, where he served as Operations Director for eight years.

In November of 2008, Craig was elected as Coroner of Newberry County and has served in that capacity since taking his oath of office in January, 2009. In his first year in office, Craig was named the recipient of the prestigious Sue Townsend Coroner of the Year award. He is the seventh recipient to receive this honor which is voted on by his peers and presented by the SC Coroners Association.

Craig has been married for 33 years to Spartanburg native Robyn Frye Newton. They have two adult sons, Brad and Brett and one grandson, Brayden.

Craig Newton Class of 1976

"Spartanburg Methodist College has always meant the world to me. It has been my foundation for my entire adult life."

Young Alumnus of the Year

Abby Fordree is a 2008 graduate of SMC, who graduated this spring from the College of Charleston with a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies.

While a student at SMC, Abby was involved in many organizations and also served as president of the Student Government Association. She was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society; president of Campus Crusade for Christ; a board member of the Kappa Sigma Alpha service fraternity; recipient of the Outstanding Freshman Award, Olin D. Johnston Good Citizenship Award, and SGA Leadership Award; and a recipient of the Wesley Fellowship.

"SMC was the greatest two years of my life. I not only received an education equipping me for further studies, but I also made life-long relationships, including meeting my husband," Abby says.

In June, Abby married her college sweetheart Ben Fordree, whom she met during her first year at SMC. They plan to move to Colorado and explore the western part of the United States, before Abby returns to school to pursue a Master's of Arts in Teaching. She plans to become an elementary school teacher.



"I knew at SMC that its professors and faculty cared about my success, and that was a vital part of my learning process which has taken me to where I am today."

Abby Fordree Class of 2008

Distinguished Service Award

Sharon Porter is a Spartanburg native and graduate of Spartanburg High School. She earned a B. S. Degree in Social Welfare from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, and her Master's Degree from South Carolina State University.

Sharon is the Director of the Student Support Services program at Spartanburg Methodist College and has been employed with SMC for twenty-nine years.

Active in community affairs, she is a member of the Board of Trustees for Spartanburg School District Seven to which she was recently re-elected to another term and is the Chairwoman. She is a member of the American Personnel and Guidance Association and the South Carolina Personnel and Guidance Association; and is a board member for Christian Allied Support Services in Spartanburg. She is active in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., volunteers at The Soup Kitchen of Second Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg and is a Guardian ad Litem.

Sharon is an active and life-long member of Majority Baptist Church in Spartanburg. She is a member of the Majorityettes YWA Missionary Ministry and the Ministry Leader for the Trustee Ministry.



Sharon Porter

"I have been at SMC for 29 years - and I enjoy my work here very much. I enjoy the people I work with - they are just like a family."

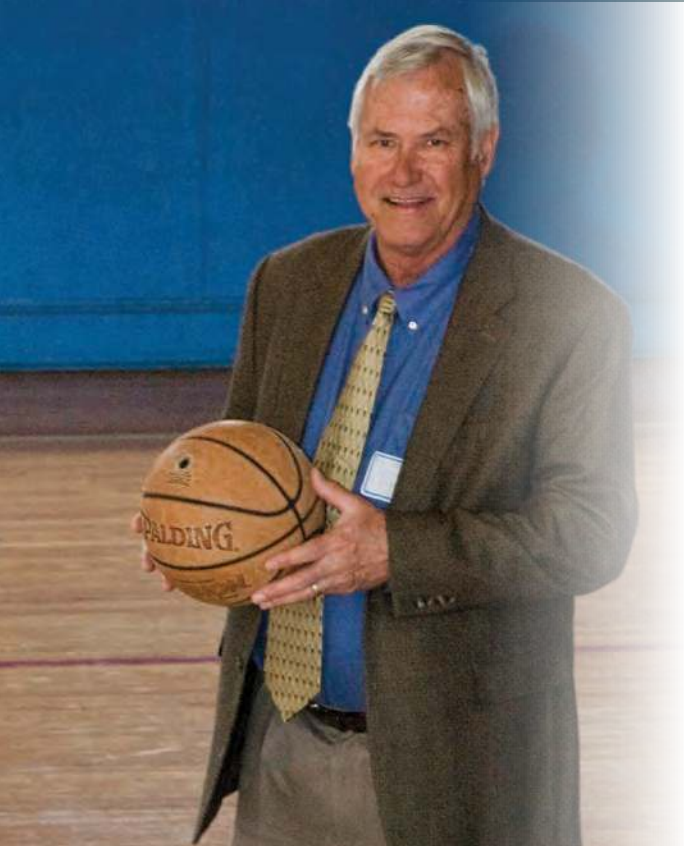
Distinguished Alumni Award

Frank Mathis was born in Charleston, SC and is a graduate of Murray Vocational High School. He moved on to Spartanburg Junior College and the University of South Carolina, before embarking into a lifelong career in the engineering and construction business.

While at SJC, he was a key member of the baseball and men's basketball teams.

Frank started his career with Lockwood-Greene Engineers in Spartanburg and Catalytic Engineers in Charlotte, NC, before spending 25 years with Fluor Corporation working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology area as a process engineer, project director and director of operations for the life sciences division. Frank was also responsible for all the business development work, both domestic and international for life sciences. He joined Parsons Corporation in 1995 as Vice President of Operations for their global life sciences division. He retired from Parsons in December of 2008 and has rejoined the company in a consulting role supporting their ongoing business ventures.

Frank is married to the former Catherine Ann Yoder and has three children who are all graduates of the University of South Carolina. His youngest son Stephen is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College.



Frank Mathis
Class of 1967

"I can not tell you what a wonderful place SMC is or stress enough the continued support we need to give this college to help it grow."

Notes and Updates

1950

Roberta "Bert" O. Hodge resides in Spartanburg, SC.

1952

Jeannette B. Hatzenbulher recounts her enjoyment of all the new opportunities presented to her and relives the days at SJC and the joy she shared with her classmates from 1950 until 1952.

1967

Robert B. Gibbons, Jr., who is retired in New Zion, SC, was elected Grand Chef de Gare du South Carolina for the 4018 Society, a military organization. He is also one of only 30 members nationally on the American Legion National Americanism Commission. He celebrated his 26th wedding anniversary with second wife Jean Claire on June 24th. He has four children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild from both marriages.

Brenda C. Libner, of Sumter, SC, is an administrative specialist with the University of South Carolina at Sumter

1968

Dr. A. Dean Byrd of Salt Lake City, UT, is president of the Thrasher Research Fund and a faculty member of the University of Utah's School of Medicine, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, and is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Family Studies. The Thrasher Research Fund has funded research at both the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, and University of South Carolina School of Medicine, in Columbia.

1980

Burness W. O'Cain, Jr. "Burney", of Charleston, SC, is operations manager for Caro-

lina Supplies & Materials.

1983

Robin Betsill-Cohen and husband Michael E. Cohen, of Ridgeway, SC, have three children: James Michael 16, Micah Niel 14, Rylen Betsill 11. Robin is employed with Companion Property & Casualty Group of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina.

1984

Paul T. Rawl, Jr., of Pelion, SC, has a daughter, Sarah; a small home improvement company; and a small sawmill.

1985

Jennifer Numberger, of Greenville, SC is a teacher/coach with the Christ Church Episcopal School.

Tim B. Sease, president of First Southeast in Mt. Pleasant, SC, was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for Winthrop University. Sease and his wife, Tina, live in Mt. Pleasant, SC with their 16-year-old twin sons.

1986

Douglas L. Bouknight, of Lexington, SC is a management information specialist with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2003

Erica Tidwell Chisolm of West Columbia, SC, is employed with Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity as a financial assistant. She and husband Sgt. Joshua Chisolm have one child, Cadence Reese.

2004

William Franklin Irwin, II, and his wife Amy, live in Irmo, SC, with daughter Faye Elizabeth. Will graduated from Newberry College with a B.S. in Chemistry with a concentration in

Forensic Science. He has joined the U.S. Army and will begin basic training in August of 2010. Presently, he is a field chemist with Pollution Control Industries/Tradebe, Inc.

2005

Devon Holder, of Inman, SC is employed in the Human Services Dept. of the SCDSS.

New Arrivals

2002

Sarah Hyder Collins and husband Joe have recently had two sons: Nolan Payne Collins, born July 27, 2008, and Landon Clark Collins born Dec. 28, 2009. Sarah is an accountant with AgSouth Farm Credit ACA.

Retirements

1944

Mary Elizabeth O'Sullivan, of Savannah, GA.

Betty H. Barkley, of Gastonia, NC.

1949

A. Bernard Martin retired from the United State Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service

1950

Ruth King Eason, of Matthews, NC

1951

Betty Atkins Barnwell, of Gramling, SC

1952

Rev. Gerald Thomas McCray, Sr., of McMinnville, OR

Stay in contact with SMC

Please make sure to send us your current contact information, news about what's going on in your life, and especially your E-mail address - You can use the form on the inside back cover of this issue of Frontiers!

1954

Roland G. Elmore, Jr., of Spartanburg, SC, retired from Fabric & Yarn Associates.

1966

Nancy F. Watson, of Inman, SC

1968

Gaynelle Caldwell West retired from the Department of Social Services.

Rebecca Stroud Fentress retired from the United States Army's Child and Youth Services.

1969

Winifred Ann Page Hamrick, of Spartanburg, SC

1973

John W. Irwin, Ph.D., of Laurens, SC, retired from Clemson University.

1974

Brenda Pearson-Foster, of Enoree, SC

1976

Robert J. Howard, Sr., of Greer, SC

1980

Paula Marie Henry Worthy, of Inman, SC

In Memorium

1936

Royal R. Hayes - April 4, 2010
Jack. J. Wyatt - April 19, 2010

1939

Elizabeth Allen

1940

Sarah Campbell Carter - Aug. 30, 2007
Lyda Burt - May 7, 2010

1943

Evelyn McCrary - Nov. 18, 2009

1945

Marvin Muse Burley, Jr - April 19, 2010

1948

Mary Louise Wingo Stokes

1949

Clyde Coleman
Betty Williams Stepp - April 12, 2010

1950

Rev. Buster T. Huggins - June 18, 2009

1951

Saralyn Turner Overstreet

1952

Joseph Howard "Joe" Frye - Jan. 23, 2010

1953

Marvin Walker Wall - Dec. 30, 2009

1954

Christine Justice Hope - Nov. 25, 2009

1956

Rev. Melvin Edward Calvert - Dec. 12, 2009

1957

William L. Sumner - Jan. 22, 2010

1959

James D. Devore
Miriam J. Keels

1960

Jimmy Wayne Gallman - Jan. 5, 2010

1966

Sandra H. Bonner

1968

Otha Phillip Cudd - May 21, 2010

1969

James "Alan" Mason - Jan. 1, 2010

1972

Larry Eugene Bogan - Apr. 8, 2010

1973

Michael Hugh Hogan - Apr. 11, 2010

1975

Jeff Christ Brown
Irma Brown
Rev. F. LaRue Cook - Nov. 11, 2009

1977

Robert Lawrence Rhodes - Feb. 19, 2009

1978

Elizabeth Bryant
Lynne Davis Turner - Mar. 26, 2010

1981

Michael Bradley
William "Bill" Edward White

1983

Joe L. Cooley
Jimmy Dean Pruitt

1985

Michael Dezern

2004

Clementine Bradley Smith - Apr. 16, 2010

Spartanburg Methodist College extends its deepest sympathies and prayers to the families and friends of those SMC alums who have recently passed on. As members of the SMC family, we will always remember their legacies.



Having a Vision of Success

Spartanburg Methodist College conferred degrees on 125 students during its 2010 Commencement Services.

Serving as keynote speaker for the event was Reggie Sanders, a 1988 alumnus of SMC and former major league baseball player.

Sanders is a 2001 World Series champion and 1995 baseball All-Star. While at SMC, Sanders was named an All-Region and All-District player. He played professionally with the St. Louis Cardinals, Pittsburgh Pirates, Atlanta Braves, San Francisco Giants, San Diego Padres, Kansas City Royals, and the Arizona Diamondbacks' 2001 World Series championship team. He and his wife have four daughters and live in Myrtle Beach, SC.

In his address to students, Sanders talked about decision-making and having vision, saying, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams....Your greatest gift is your ability to choose and to create your own destiny, so I challenge you to never let others put limitations on you."

Sanders talked about key moments from his baseball career, most significantly recalling the 2001 World Series, also known as "The November Series" in which he played for the Arizona Diamondbacks in their first series appearance in franchise history. The Diamondbacks won the seven-game series against the New York Yankees, seven weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"During the raising of the tattered 'Old Glory' that was taken from the World Trade Center, chants of 'U-S-A, U-S-A' rang throughout Yankee Stadium. That's when I thought, 'You know what? We are going to be okay'. When you get knocked down...You must reexamine what you think...We are what we think...What we think determines what we believe...What we believe determines how we feel...The way we feel, influences how we are going to act," he stated.

Sanders added, "After losing three games in Yankee Stadium, I analyzed our situation and it resembled what I was trying to accomplish in my baseball career...As a kid I dreamed of coming from behind to

win a World Series. Dream fulfilled...We won in seven games and that series has been labeled the best series ever played. Now I know it's possible to create anything which you can imagine."

He also stressed the significance of hard work and determination as key factors in being successful, as well as the power of a person's dreams.


"Believe the life you wish to live, is at this very moment, waiting for you to summon it up. You cannot get there by bus, only by hard work and risk. During these times, surround yourself with positive mentors to feed your emotional bank account and believe in your dream... There are times when you are going to do well, and times when you are going to fail. But neither the doing well nor failure is the measure of success. The measure of success is doing things that make you proud," he said.

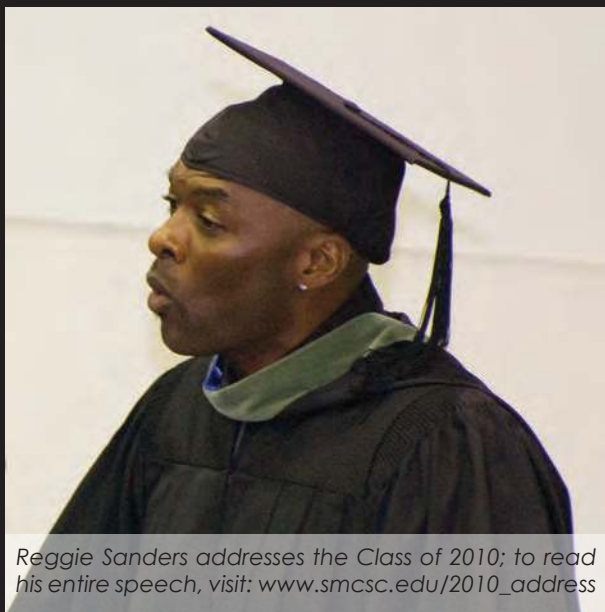
Sophomore Dana Smith served as the student speaker and also was named the 2010 recipient of the SMC Trustee Medal, which goes to the highest honor graduate each year.

As she addressed her fellow graduates, Smith said, "Today may mark the end of our journey here, but it also marks the beginning of our new life's journey... Every choice we make once we walk through those doors will determine the rest of our life's journey... Whatever you decide to do, do it with all your might and be successful."

SMC president Dr. Colleen Keith recognized the many accomplishments of the Class of 2010, and congratulated the graduates on their hard work and dedication during their time at SMC.

"We salute you for your accomplishments and congratulate you on reaching this significant milestone in your academic career. Be proud of the work you have completed, the goals you have reached, and the honors you have earned. We know that this is just the start of more great things for you," she added.

Serving as graduation marshals were freshmen Robert Gilliam, Andrew King, and Chandler Pace. 



Reggie Sanders addresses the Class of 2010; to read his entire speech, visit: www.smcsc.edu/2010_address



Dana Smith is presented with the 2010 Trustee Medal by SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith

“Your greatest gift is your ability to choose and to create your own destiny, so I challenge you to never let others put limitations on you”
- Reggie Sanders



To view our Commencement 2010 galleries, go to www.smcsc.edu/commencement

SMC Receives Shoestring Programming Award

Spartanburg Methodist College's division of Student Activities and Leadership Development was recently honored by a national organization for its student programming efforts.

SMC received the "Shoestring Award," presented by the National Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities, for excellence in programming on a shoestring budget. The award was presented at the NAPCA annual conference in Atlanta.

The NAPCA is a national campus activities organization that was founded in 1994 and services the needs of Campus Activities Programming Departments throughout the United States.

The award was based on a nomination written by SMC student leaders Ashley Burris, president of the POPS Programming Board, and Brandon Hunter, president of the SMC Student Government Association.

This was the third year SMC had been a finalist for the award.

"We were surprised, but really excited to receive the award. I think the overall programming and the amount of programming we do on a limited budget is very impressive. We're doing as much on our budget as a lot of other schools with a budget two or three times the size of ours or more, are doing," says Kim Day, SMC Director of Student Activities and Development.

"We have two to three programs a month, and are adding more and more weekend programming. The students work really hard to provide the types of programs the student body here at SMC want -- and this is really their award," adds Day.

Arms Receives ASIS Scholarship



Sophomore Sarah Arms, of Travelers Rest, SC, was recently awarded \$1,000 by the Upstate chapter of ASIS International. ASIS International is the preeminent organization for security professionals, with more than 37,000 members worldwide.

A committee selected Arms based on the scholarship requirements and Criminal Justice criteria. ASIS requirements for the scholarship are that the student must be either full-time or part-time, they must have completed at least one year of study (30 credits), and they have at last a 3.0 GPA.

She will be graduating from SMC in December with an Associate in Criminal Justice degree and an Associate in Arts degree. Arms plans to transfer to a four-year institution and is yet undecided on an undergraduate major.

While at SMC, Arms has been a student-athlete on the women's cross country team and served as a member of Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society, Sigma Kappa Delta English Honors Society, and Kappa Sigma Alpha service fraternity. She was a Dean's List and President's List honoree and has had various pieces published in *Illusions*, the college's fine arts magazine.

Brown Honored With Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar Recognition

SMC sophomore Jordan Brown, of Greenville, SC, was selected as a 2010 Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar, based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team Competition. As a national finalist, Brown will receive a \$1,000 stipend. The Coca-Cola All-USA/All-State Academic Teams are sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The All-USA/All-State Academic Team programs annually recognizes up to 370 outstanding two-year college students. Selection is based on nominations submitted by community college presidents or campus CEOs, who receive nomination materials in the fall. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

As a member of Phi Theta Kappa and in order to be nominated for the award, Brown conducted a service project to raise awareness of special needs voters in his precinct - Cherokee Springs B in Chesnee, SC. As vice-president of that precinct, he proposed and saw a policy implemented that would allow voters with disabilities in that precinct to bypass the lines on election days.

While at SMC, he was also a member of Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology, and president and a founding member of the religion and philosophy fraternity, Theta Lambda Nu. He has also been nominated for the Hites Scholarship and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, and was named to the Who's Who of American College and University Students. He is also an AYSO volunteer soccer coach in Spartanburg and a Special Olympics volunteer in Greenville. He is also the owner of two small businesses in Spartanburg, Greenscape Lawn Maintenance and Premier Pressure Washing.

Brown plans to major in Political Science, but is undecided as to which four-year college he will transfer.



Life Outside the Majors



The Sanders family enjoys some time outside their Myrtle Beach home. (front, l-r) Cooper, Carrigon, Carson; (back, l-r) Cody, Wyndee, and Reggie

Student athlete, professional baseball player, husband, father – and commencement speaker.

That last title was one that Reggie Sanders says he never expected. But that all changed when he received a phone call in fall 2009 saying that the President of Spartanburg Methodist College wanted him to be the college's 2010 commencement speaker.

"I was like, 'You're kidding me, right?,' he recalls, laughing

"So I said I would think about it. President Keith called me a week later and I told her I'd be honored. I had ample time to get myself together and get my speech intact – and really pull from my experiences and give the students things to look forward to to help them move forward. It took me a good two months to get it all together," Sanders comments.

So Sanders took the stage at SMC's 2010 commencement, reflected on his experiences, and told students, "Whatever you decide to do, do it with all your might and be successful."

Coming Full Circle

It had been 23 years since Sanders first stepped up to the plate on Mooneyham Baseball Field as a Pioneer student athlete.

"It was really emotional because it was full-circle moment for me. Although back then I didn't know where my life was going to take me or what the journey was going to be. The journey was successful and it made it so emotional because those two-years were so nerve racking. To be able to go back to that the person I am today, I was like, 'Wow.' It just took me for a loop," he states.

He reflects back on his time at SMC with great fondness.

"My early career, because it was so fresh, SMC was a big part of that. As more experiences happened and I started to grow, it kind of moved away a bit. But SMC has always been near

and dear to my heart. It paved a way for me.”

Being a Pioneer – And Beyond

As a Pioneer, Sanders was named an All-Region and All-District player. During his sophomore year, he nailed 10 homeruns, had 50+ RBIs and 28 stolen bases, and batted in excess of .390.

One of his years at SMC, the Pioneers came close to making it to the Junior College World Series, but fell short because of what Sanders now recalls humorously as a “scary incident”

“We were one game away at regionals from going to the JUCO World Series. The local team recommended a place for us to go to dinner – and half of our starters got food poisoning. We were in the room, sick as dogs, and couldn’t go to the game. We had a great team and we could have done it, but couldn’t,” he says.

He took a lot of lessons from his experiences under then-head coach Lon Joyce.

“I think the thing with Lon Joyce, what he was so diligent about, is that when you do something, do it to perfection. He’d rather you do one right then 10 wrong. When we messed up, he’d make us run – to the point where we were like ‘come on, coach’ and he would say, ‘no, not until you get it right’. What that did psychologically is that it gave you drive and understanding the importance of doing everything you do correctly,” Sanders recalls.

Sanders’ path from SMC started when he was drafted in the seventh round of the 1987 draft by the Cincinnati Reds. He went on to play for the Billings Mustangs in 1988 and made his major league debut Aug. 22, 1991.

He recalls his first game with the Reds, a 4-1 loss to the Atlanta Braves, vividly. He was first in the lineup,

and had four at bats, but no hits.

“It felt crazy and is forever in my mind. I was in center field. I could not wait for the ball to come down to the field. I literally jumped up in the field to catch it. You could hear the crowd scream. Then I got my first at-bat. It was a little nerve wracking because you don’t want to swing at the first pitch and make a mistake,” he recalls.

Struggling with Injury

Throughout his career, he battled injury after injury. He says that breaking his fibula in a game early in his career in Greensboro, NC was a defining moment for him.

“I still have seven screws from that,” he comments.

But battling injuries was part of his journey that he now says made him a stronger person.

“It’s a crazy feeling because I could feel sorry for myself and not deal with the problem or I could take it head on, realize it happened and do the work to make myself stronger than before,” he adds.

A knee injury ultimately was what led to his decision to leave the majors.

“I couldn’t get myself healthy enough. Boston was going to draft me from Kansas City to be on their World Series team but I said, ‘You know what, I’m done’,” Sanders states.

Defining Moments

During his pro career, Sanders played for six teams in 17 years.

“That played a bit of a psychological game – it’s like do I say, ‘I’m a hired gun’ or ‘What’s wrong with me?’ I told myself I was hired to come in and put the team over the top. They just need that one little piece to get them to that goal,” he states.

Sanders was fifth of the six members of major league baseball’s 300-

“There’s nothing I love more than my family. Baseball will always be part of me, but they are my life.”



300 club (300 home runs, 300 stolen bases) and is the only player in league history to hit 20 or more home runs in one season for six different teams.

He also holds the distinction of being one of only 301 (No. 276) major league players in history to score more than 1,000 runs. He scored 1,037 during his time in the majors.

When asked what those accomplishments show about his own character and abilities, he responded, “That tells me I was diligent – which I still am. That tells me my head was in the right place and through it all I was able to overcome all those obstacles that I faced,” Sanders says.

The most defining moment he recalls in his career was in his sixth year with Cincinnati.

“I really starting to feel a lot of pressure from the organization and the fans, and from listening to the networks, because I ‘was the guy’. There was really a point at that time when I had to go and talk to somebody because it was really weighing heavily on me. It made me focus on two things: making sure I’m doing things right by God and my family and making sure I’m taking care of myself. Other than that, everything else is icing on the cake,” he says.

The November Series

The November 2001 World Series was at an emotional time for the country, seven weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sanders was on the Arizona Diamondbacks’ roster at the time - a franchise that had reached the series in only its fourth year.



"We prayed before we went out. Everyone was emotional. It was such a horrible time, but a great time at the same time," he says.

The Diamondbacks won the Series 4-3.

But Sanders recalls that at the first game of the Series played in New York City, everything "just felt different."

"It was nerve racking; it was fun. Ray Charles sang – and I started crying. It was amazing. You could just feel the energy and the excitement," he comments.

Leaving the Pros

Although Sanders' last season in the majors was in 2007 with Kansas City, he considered leaving two years prior.

"That made the transition easier when I did get out. I think I was tired. The game itself was becoming work for me and wasn't as much fun as it used to be. When you're on a winning ball club, you play forever. When you're on a team that wasn't going anyway, it was always the same – mundane and you're fighting with everyone," he states.

That most critical part of his support system the entire time he was in the majors was his family.

"Most people think it [being a major league baseball family] is great and wonderful. Yes, it has its perks. But it was like being a single parent. When we started out, we moved right along with him. But we knew we would get to a point where we wanted to stay put. We dealt with our kids ourselves. They get along well. We would travel a lot each summer. They would be perfectly fine being a part of that life with him. But it was

a job and it was hard. Luckily he is different than most players because he liked having his family around," his wife Wyndee says.

Family Life

Reggie and Wyndee met on a blind date in San Diego, set up through mutual friends. When hers said that Reggie was a pro-baseball player, "I thought, 'really? I am so not into baseball. I'm more of a football or basketball girl,'" she laughs.

"We're just the opposite as opposed to the typical husband-wife relationship. I'm in a football pool. I'm the one yelling at the TV set. It's backwards, but it works. It might be because I had brothers though and was very much a tom-boy," Wyndee adds.

Of her husband, Wyndee says, "Baseball was a job. That wasn't his first love. Cooking would be No. 1. If he could go find a house, decorate it and flip it, that would be number two. Who would ever think that? He's a HGTV nerd. And he's at the games, being dad and coaching."

But they fell in love and got married.

Reggie and Wyndee now have four children - Cody, 17; Carrigon, 12; Carson, 8; and Cooper, 5.

Daughter Cody is interested in pursuing a career in forensic science.

"But she can't stand blood! We've told her she'll have to get used to that if that's the career she wants to be in," Reggie laughs.

Three years out of the majors, the Sanders recently relocated their family from Arizona to Myrtle Beach, SC.

"It's been a great move for us and it's made us a much closer family. There's nothing I love more than my family. Baseball will always be part of me, but they are my life,"

Reggie says.

But being out of the majors doesn't mean life is slow for the Sanders family either.

"Our average day is crazy. In the summer time they're competing about who can stay up the latest. Then they're trying to sleep in. Our kids would be hilarious on a reality TV show because they are so comical – they're so different, but they're so much the same," says Wyndee.

Between four girls, their daily schedule is covered in activities. From Girl Scouts to sports to workouts, they are always on the go.

The Sanders say they always stress family time – and strengthening their bodies, minds, and faith.

"We're up every morning, early. We run on the beach. I have one of my daughters literally flipping tires, she's that strong. And we teach them to eat healthy and live good, responsible, and respectable lives.


"Wyndee and I are leaders by example. We really strive to lead by example instead of by the verbal part, unless we have to," Reggie says.

The Future

Sanders says that baseball is not out of his life – not by far. He is currently a co-owner of The Cal Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach and works as a trainer to other players.

He also is active with the Players' Trust Association which does volunteer work for and gives money back to the community.

But Sanders says coaching may be in his future at some point not too far down the road.

"If there's an opportunity that comes up that I'm interested in, I'll certainly pursue it. But right now, I'm good with where we are. We're strong and my family has a bright future ahead," he adds. 



KSA Helps Out HALTER Students

In 2009-2010, members of the Kappa Alpha Sigma fraternity participated in a second year of providing assistance to the HALTER program and students at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. The HALTER program allows students at the school the opportunity to ride horses, which has therapeutic benefits for many disabled individuals.

SMC Students Serving Community In Many Ways



Clockwise from left, SMC students Kaity DeHaven, Aubree Johnson, and Cammie Parks help out with a roadside cleanup project during the annual CollegeTown Service Initiative; SMC students help out at the Manna Food Bank in Asheville during SMC's Alternative Spring Break service projects; freshman Michael Smeader helps mix up some soup for the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen during the Martin Luther King Day Service Project; SMC students participate in the Spartanburg's 2010 Relay for Life at Converse College. SMC students held several fund-raising events, including a dinner theater and pie toss, along with developing a cookbook, with a campus-wide total of more than \$9,000 being raised for Relay for Life.

Roger's Story

Finding SMC, New Friends, and Strengthened Faith

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

On sunny days, Roger Young would sit outside on the SMC campus to eat the lunch he had brought from home. A cane by his side and his bookbag on the bench, he would take the sights of campus in.

He didn't really know anybody at SMC when he first started in fall of 2008. Admittedly, he says he's a shy type of person.

But then along came Randy Carpenter; and along came a community of friends; and along came an extended family.

Randy started greeting Roger when he would see him, often when he was outside eating lunch.

"I make friends easily, but with Roger it was a little harder at first. He's kind of like a turtle - when they get scared, they hide. Roger wouldn't hide, but at first it seemed like he didn't want to be bothered," says Randy.

Roger says that's not really true though - it wasn't that he didn't want to be bothered.

"It was just that I really didn't know how to connect to him at first because of our age difference, other than to just say 'Hi'," he says.

At 40, Roger isn't your typical college student. His unique story is one of triumph over extreme adversity.

"I had a dream in high school to go to college, but things kept happening to me to keep me from that dream," Roger recalls.

After high school, Roger had been accepted to Syracuse University, but couldn't afford to go. He became a truck driver, and then a paramedic, in his hometown of Rochester, NY.

He asked his high school sweetheart of six years, Jennifer Blayzak, to marry him and she said, "yes." But Jennifer was killed by a drunk driver a month before they were to be married. Nineteen months later, the death of a close friend took an emotional toll on Roger also.

"I thought my world was going to end. I just couldn't handle it all," Roger recalls.

On Jan. 21, 1994, Roger tried to commit suicide. Knowing that blood pressure pills, in large quantity, would slow his heartbeat down, he took a near fatal combination with alcohol.

He was rushed to the hospital the next morning. After his suicide attempt, Roger was hospitalized for an extended period of time with post-traumatic stress disorder. While he has healed physically, the emotional scars of losing his fiancée and his friend still haven't completely.

"I still struggle with my demon of losing my fiancée. There's been a lot of times when I've been able to talk to my close friends at SMC about it and they've really helped me try to work through that and still stay focused on school," Roger says.

He left his job as a paramedic and became a long haul trucker,

and his family moved to South Carolina in 1997. But an incident of dizziness during a cross-country trip forced him to go on disability.

Then about eight years ago, Roger was diagnosed with a painful and debilitating condition called peripheral neuropathy, a disorder of the peripheral nerves - the motor, sensory, and autonomic nerves that connect the spinal cord to muscles, skin and internal organs. An estimated 20 million Americans suffer from the illness, which is mostly incurable.

Roger's symptoms include numbness and a prickly sensation in his feet and legs, as well as a burning sensation.

He spent a few years dealing with his disease and trying to figure out a new direction for himself. Roger turned heavily to his faith. His pastor mentioned the idea of going to college and suggested that he check out SMC.

"He told me he thought I had a calling to the ministry. I had actually been thinking about that for a few years, but I never followed through because I was never sure that I felt called at the time. But after I talked with him and he got me into lay-speaking at the church, he talked me into it. SMC's connection to the United

Methodist Church was one of the first and main things that attracted me to coming here. But during the last two years, I've found many more reasons why I'm glad I chose SMC," he says.

He researched SMC, visited the campus and was pleasantly surprised.

"Everyone was so wonderful and accommodating. I started to think, 'I could really do this'," he recalls.

So Roger enrolled at SMC and was welcomed to campus by everyone, especially

after former Dean of Students Art Hartzog talked about him in the 2008 convocation speech.

Roger did, however, initially have doubts that he would be able to succeed at SMC, primarily because of his health.

"I really had a lot of doubts. I had been out of high school for 20 years. I wondered what it would be like to get back into full-time schooling. But a lot of people I knew helped instill confidence in me. Plus, I thought it would be better for me to come to a small school like SMC because of those challenges -- the professors would have more ability to work with you, one on one, and you wouldn't be a number in the system," says Roger.

He found all that was true at SMC.

Shortly after his first semester classes began, however, he found getting around campus to be more of a struggle than he had anticipated. But through a generous donation, he was able to get a motorized scooter to use on campus.

He also found being around much younger students an interesting



(l-r) Randy Carpenter and Roger Young share some laughs, talking about how they became friends

situation.

"I'm the type of person who is usually very private. I never had a lot of friends, so at first I felt a little awkward making friends with people who were 20 years younger than me," Roger says.

Orientation, and other activities like Freshman Day of Service, got Roger involved with his fellow students.

"It was interactions like that that really stand out in my mind. That made me feel like age wasn't going to make a difference, and over the two years I've definitely seen that repeated over and over," Roger says.

Both he and Randy say that age doesn't really make a difference with friends.

"To me, friends don't come with age. They come with experience. He and I have so much in common, I think that's why we're such

good friends. When I try to find friends, I look at what's on the inside and what sticks out," Randy says.

Roger agrees, commenting that, "One thing Randy taught me when he reached out to me is that age doesn't matter when it comes to friends. That's helped me to reach out and not be that turtle."

There was a buzz around campus about Roger. His spirit and determination touched everyone. Teachers took notice of Roger, and his classmates looked up to him.

"I had a couple classes with Roger. He would often ask questions to the instructor that were just as tough as were being asked to us. It's almost like he was teaching us, also," says fellow student and Student Government Association president Brandon Hunter.

Roger was even nominated for Homecoming Court.

"When I heard about that, I was like 'You've got to be kidding me. Really?' But it was a good feeling that they had nominated me," Roger laughs.

Before the end of his first semester, however, another obstacle took shape. The friend who was driving Roger to Spartanburg every day from his home in Laurens County moved away. But SMC allowed Roger to move into a residence hall -- he moved in with Randy.

Living in a residence hall was a new experience, especially with being around students much younger than him.

"It was different being around the other students 24/7 versus as a commuter. There were times when I'd try to help them out when they were struggling or needed someone to talk to. I told them I wouldn't judge them and I'd try to help them out by sharing my experiences. I looked at it as more like an uncle role. But I would tend to feed off of their energy and it made me feel younger and more invigorated. Plus, I started to stay up a lot later, to study and work on papers," Roger says.

Tragedy struck again, though, when Roger cut his foot in his dorm room during the fall of his sophomore year. He returned home to heal, but ended up having surgery on his foot over Christmas holidays, which prohibited him from returning to campus.

"When the doctors told me that I really needed to take the se-

mester off, I thought it would be lost," he says.

Roger did an independent study during the spring while at home. Through the world of email and Facebook, he and his friends at SMC stayed connected.

"It was a blessing that everyone was willing to work with me. But I missed my friends," Roger recalls.

Things were different for his friends on campus too.

"It was like something was missing. Everyone felt it - especially me and Roger's closest friends," Randy recalls.

Those friendships played a big part in Roger's determination to finish out his course-work and receive his degree. His faith did also.

In the fall of his sophomore year, SMC started its newest degree

"I will never be able to thank my friends and family here at SMC enough. It is such a special place" - Roger Young

program -- the Associate in Religious Studies.

"I thought that was perfect for me. I was really excited when I heard about it. I look to my faith for my strength. It is an important part of who I am," he says.

Campus ministry also became a big part of Roger's life, as he attended campus worship services and participated in Bible studies with classmates and friends.

Although he has coursework to officially complete, Roger was awarded SMC's first ARS degree during the 2010 Commencement Services. He hopes to continue his education next year at Wofford College or the University of South Carolina -- Upstate, and ultimately go into the ministry.

"I want people to know they are meant for something. I was meant to come to SMC and have these experiences," he says.


Of those experiences, Roger says that SMC has taught him a lot, given him a new outlook, strengthened his faith and helped him create friendships for a lifetime.

"It's taught me to treasure my friendships...and that even in the toughest times, there is hope. I will never be able to thank my friends and family here at SMC enough. It is such a special place," Roger states.

He has left an equally strong impression on SMC, as it has on him.

"Some people really do let God direct what they do. Roger lives that. He is a person of great faith and is so bright. You can tell he brings everything he has ever learned to bear in what he does. It plays a role in who he is today. You don't see that a lot of times," says SMC President Dr. Colleen P. Keith.

She adds that Roger's role among his fellow students illustrates something very special about the college.

"What I love about this community is, for example, when you would go on Roger's Facebook page, he might be having a bad day, but it's like he never left campus. People say, 'Hey Roger, how are you today?' It's as if he's just sitting in his dorm room and people are just checking in on him. That really speaks to his role in this community and the character of our students," she adds. 

Helping a Friend in Need

When freshman Steven Green started building a personal computer in fall 2009, he wasn't sure at first what he was going to do with it.

"I didn't really need it. It was more of a project for me to do on my own and get some more experience," he says.

In high school, he and his classmates built some computers as part of a computer repair course in 12th grade. So he had the experience and the know-how. And with money from a scholarship sponsored by Rep. James Clyburn, he ordered the parts for the system and began to piece everything together.

"At first I thought I'd keep it for myself. Then I talked with my Residence Hall Director and we came up with a contest idea," he recalls.

Green decided to give the computer away.

So he talked with some faculty and staff at SMC and decided he wanted to hold an essay contest – and the winner of the contest would receive the computer.

"I talked with Kim Day (SMC's Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development) and Lisa Isenhower (an English professor at SMC) about it. They were really excited about the idea," Green says.

His project ended up being a blessing for another SMC freshman.

When Meaghan Gillis heard about the contest, she didn't think twice about how to put the computer to use.

She decided that if she won, she would give the computer away as well – to a friend in need.

"I knew that Samantha didn't



(l-r) Steven Green peers over the screen as Samantha McSwain works on the computer won and given to her by friend Meaghan Gillis

have a computer. I didn't need one, but I wanted to help her out," says Gillis.

She was talking about fellow SMC freshman Samantha McSwain.

"I had the opportunity to get to know her and learn more about her and I thought that she deserved it just because she always talks about how much she likes it at SMC for everything she's gotten from the school, so I figured I'd take it to the next step and give her just one more thing," said Gillis.

"Samantha was the first person I thought of when I heard about this contest," she adds.

A total of 12 entries were submitted.

"I was elated to see students getting excited about this. I thought everyone deserved it and it was a really tough decision," says Green.

But after reading all 12, one

stood out above all the others.

"Meaghan's essay was so heartfelt. You could tell from reading it that she is truly a selfless person and really wanted to help her friend out," says SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith.

If you haven't figured it out

almost immediately.

"I had three papers due within a week afterwards, so as soon as I had it hooked up I was working on it. I never expected anything like this, but I am SO thankful to both Meaghan and Steven. They are great friends,

"Meaghan is a great friend and we've got so much similar stuff that we can relate to each other. But I never expected her to do something like this."

- Samantha McSwain


by now, Gillis won the computer. On a Wednesday morning after chapel service, she announced she was giving it to McSwain.

"Meaghan is a great friend and we've got through so much similar stuff that we can relate to each other. I never expected her to do something like this," says McSwain.

She adds that she was able to put the computer to good use

but this just shows the kind of people they both are. They're awesome," McSwain says.

All three students have plans to transfer to four-year schools next year after SMC.

But none have definitely decided yet which schools they want to attend, however, Green wants to major in Computer Science, Gillis in Sociology, and McSwain says she has an interest in mathematics. 

Jerica Lemon Named 2010 Miss SMC

Jerica Lemon, a sophomore from Spartanburg, was named the 2010 Miss SMC. Lemon competed in the pageant on a platform for Relay for Life.

As Miss SMC, Lemon received a \$500 scholarship.

Lemon, 20, is involved in the Spartanburg-area Relay for Life, is an Upward basketball coach, a committee member of the 2010 Miss Spartanburg pageant, and was Miss Spartanburg Teen 2007. She plans to transfer to the University of South Carolina at Aiken and major in Broadcast Journalism and Communications.

Erica Barnes, a freshman from Anderson, SC, was named first runner up, and received a \$250 scholarship.

Barnes, 19, is a member of the SMC cheerleading squad. She is involved in print modeling and is also a member of the Jaycees, a fundraising program for mentally challenged children. She plans to transfer to the University of South Carolina and major in Radiology.

Other pageant award recipients included:

* Brianda Zuniga, a freshman from Gilbert, SC, was named Miss Congeniality. This award was voted on by the contestants.

* Jessica Buzhardt, a freshman from Batesburg, SC, was named Miss Photogenic. This award was voted on by the audience.



SCICU Day with State Legislators



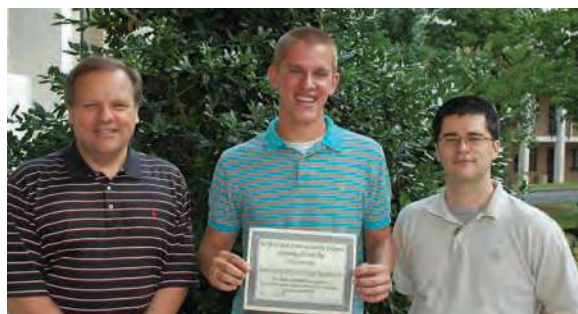
Each year, the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities organization hosts a day during which students from each SCICU college are able to meet with members of the state General Assembly. Pictured from SMC are (l-r) Steven Green; DeShawn Clement; Brianda Zuniga; state Rep. Rita Allison (District 36); Chandler Pace; and Johnathan Blanton.

Admiration of Artistic Talent



An SMC student takes time to admire some of the works of internationally known artist Scot Belville, who teaches at the University of Georgia, and whose works were on display in SMC's Mary Ellen Suitt Gallery during the month of February.

College Republicans Chartered at SMC



A group of SMC students has chartered a College Republican chapter at the college, which will begin this fall. Pictured (l-r) are advisor Pete Aylor; sophomore Phillip Cox; and advisor Dr. Cole Cheek.

Orlando Comes Back Home To Practice With Pioneers



Major league baseball player Orlando Hudson spent the afternoon of Jan. 19 on the field with the SMC Pioneers baseball team, giving them some pointers on how to improve their technique.

Hudson is in his ninth-year of play on the major league level and his first as a second baseman for the Minnesota Twins.

He is a 1998 graduate of SMC, who was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 43rd round of the 1997 draft.

Baseball Ends Season in Disappointment

SMC entered the Region X tournament with the regular season title in hand and as the No. 1 seed, but lost in both the second and semi-final rounds against USC Sumter and ended a successful season on a disappointing note.

SMC ventured back from the tournament with several regional honors. Head coach Tim Wallace was named Region X Coach of the Year; and six Pioneers were named to the 2010 All-Region First Team - infielders Rob Harding and Sloan Gilliam, outfielder Marty Gantt, pitchers Corey Rhoney and Kyle Owings (Reliever of the Year), and designated hitter Tyler Jackson.

Prior to the end of the regular season, the Pioneers had posted a 32-game winning streak, which was broken by Pitt Community College.

In June, two Pioneer alums were drafted into the majors — Heath

Hembree, who went in the fifth round to the San Francisco Giants, and Taylor Black, who was picked up in the 14th round by the Houston Astros.

The Pioneer program looks forward to another strong year, with 14 returners and 21 new additions to its roster.

“2010 was another great year for SMC baseball. Our 46-10 record and regular season championship were both great accomplishments for the Pioneers. The 32-game win streak was exciting and record-setting. All of these accomplishments not only strengthened our resume, they set the bar a little higher for next year’s group. The next wave of players should be as talented, if not more so, as this past season’s squad. As always, expectations will be high as we begin preparing in August,” says Wallace.

Wrestling Comes Home With 6th All-American

The SMC wrestling team ended its season on a high note, with a 29th place finish in the Division I National Tournament and its sixth All-American.

Sophomore Chris Jones finished eighth in his weight division (133) to qualify for All-American status. Freshman Luke Campbell also earned points for SMC at the nationals by advancing to the second round of consolation.

Freshmen Andrew Tillman and Nick Voss also participated in the national tournament, although both were defeated in early rounds.

Despite going 0-8 in dual meets, against opponents who were primarily NAIA and NCAA Division II and III schools, SMC wrestling claimed 13 top-five finishes in open tournaments during the season.



Chris Jones

SMC Basketball Goes to Regionals

The SMC basketball programs both advanced to the Region X tournaments in 2010.

Men’s Basketball

The men’s team entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed and won their first game against Denmark Tech. But Brunswick CC was able to pull ahead of SMC in the semi-final round and send the Pioneers home with a 3rd place finish at the tournament - and a 7-6, 19-11 season record.

Twelve returners are expected to be on the Pioneers roster in the fall, along with at least three new recruits.

“There’s a lot of talent on this team. We just need to develop that further and make sure everyone is focused,” says coach Jeff Brookman.

Women’s Basketball

The Lady Pioneers entered their tournament as the No. 4 seed and went out early with a loss to Clinton Junior College.

Despite that, the team had a winning record of 6-4 in Region X, and 12-15 overall.

The 2010-11 roster will consist of four returners and 17 new recruits.

“I am really excited about my first recruiting class at SMC because I truly feel they have the talent, passion, selflessness and work ethic to take this program to the national level,” says coach Melissa Nafzger.

Basketball and Men’s Golf Name New Coaches

Jeff Brookman

Brookman, 34, has taken over the helm of the SMC Pioneers’ men’s basketball team. He comes from Anderson University, where he served as Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach and Recruiting Coordinator for three years.

Brookman started his coaching career in Switzerland. He then served as an assistant coach at Belmont Abbey for two seasons and then at Radford University for three.

He also served for one year as head coach of the ABA’s Charlotte Krunk, and one year on the staff of the Charlotte Royals, a 17-and-under AAU team.

Brookman is a member of the Charlotte Catholic High School Sports Hall of Fame.

He graduated cum laude with a B.S. degree



from Belmont Abbey College in ‘97. He is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy.

He resides in Anderson, S.C. with his wife Rachel, who is a teacher at Palmetto Elementary School in Williamston, SC.

Kurt Owings

The 2010-2011 season will be Kurt Owings’ first as head coach of the SMC men’s golf team. He previously served for two years as an assistant coach with the program. He is a Spartanburg native and a Dorman High School graduate.

Owings is a graduate of Anderson University, where he was a 4-year starter for the university’s men’s golf team.



Softball Falls Short of Three-peat Trip to Nationals

The spring softball season was a battle for dominance of Region X.

At the Region X tournament, the No. 3 seed Lady Pioneers played four games before losing 3-0 in an all-out battle with Pitt for the Region title in the championship round.

"2009-2010 was a season of learning and adapting to each other. The players worked very hard to become better players and by the last part of the season we finally put all the hard work together," says Thad Fox, SMC head coach.

In their last 15 games, SMC went 12-3 and outscored opponents 108-31. The Lady Pio-

neers ended the season with records of 15-10 in Region X, 21-17 overall.

Several Lady Pioneers also received regional recognition. Ashira Dobison, Jackie Slawson and Kelsey Pruitt were named to the All-Tournament team. Slawson, Jazmine Holliday, and Jena Westmoreland were named 1st Team All-Region, while Dobison and Leah Babson were named to the 2nd Team All-Region.

The Lady Pioneers will return 10 players in the fall, along with 16 incoming freshmen.

"2010-2011 season is full of expectations. We want to return to the NJCAA World Se-



Ashira Dobison winds up a pitch

ries! From day one this fall, we will prepare to be playing in Utah. With the talent level we have returning, mixed with the incoming freshman, we can obtain the goal of winning the Region X tournament," says Fox.

Men's Tennis Sends Six to National Tournament



(l-r) Troy Lanford, Trent Jackson, Matt Kennamer, coach Rodney McAlister, Austin McAlister, Aubrey Johnson, and Matthew Banks

The SMC men's tennis team sent its largest contingent ever to the Division I national tournament and finished ranked No. 26 in the nation.

Six members of the Pioneers squad participated in the national event, including Matthew Banks, Trent Jackson, Aubrey Johnson, Matt Kennamer, Troy Lanford, and Austin McAlister,

The men finished the tournament with the following individual rankings: Lanford, 74; McAlister, 92; Jackson, 98; Kennamer, 99.

The team played a tough season, having suffered some losses from

their roster and went 2-7 for the spring - including a win over Emmanuel College and at the Region championship over USC Lancaster.

With a roster primarily made up of freshmen, the women's team was unable to post a win during their spring season.

The men's roster this fall will consist of two returners and nine new signees; the women's team will have four returners and six new signees.

"Both teams look to be stronger than last year's teams. I look forward to having a great season," says coach Rodney McAlister.

Women Golfers Finish In JUCO Top 50

In only its third year, the SMC women's golf program made its first trip to the national tournament in Daytona Beach, FL.

Freshmen Kaitlyn Prescott and Takima Butler finished 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the Region X tournament and qualified to play at nationals, where they both finished in the Top 50 individually.

Without a full roster, the ladies were unable to place as a team in their spring events, but performed well and posted impressive finishes at each event.

Coach Kyle Owings expects a strong season next year, with four returners and three freshmen.

"This team is capable of being a Top 5 team in the nation and I am looking forward to reaching our potential," Owings states.



Takima Butler



Kaitlyn Prescott

Men's Golf Struggles Through Season

The Pioneers finished fourth in the Region X tournament, which they hosted at Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg.

Sophomore Cally Bell finished fifth individually and was named to the All-Region X Team.

The men's team placed 8th at the District V tournament, two spots below qualifying for nationals.

Men's golf coach Mark Perdue says, "The team under-achieved as a team this past season. We just could not put enough good rounds together. We finished strong at the District tournament, but came up short of making the NJCAA nationals. We should do much better next year."

The men's golf team is returning four players and has six new signees on its roster for 2010-2011.

Total *Determination*



It was 9 am on a Saturday morning, of the Pioneer's first road trip of the 2009-2010 season, when [former] SMC men's basketball coach Rob Burke went to go check on his players and start getting them going for the day; they had a 3:30 pm game in the Roger Taylor Classic that day.

Burke was surprised when he didn't have to wake one of his players up.

"When I go to knock on his door, it's wide open and the blinds are too – the other guys in the room were sleeping, but he's sitting in there studying. That one memory that will always stick out in my mind about DJ," Burke says.

Burke's talking about DJ Brown, a freshman from Belton, SC, and graduate of Wren High School, for whom he only has glowing praise.

When asked to describe DJ, Burke pauses, then responds, "How would I describe DJ?... Total determination. I would say he is as determined of a young man I've ever been around. He will attain every goal he has in life. He's not going to let the outside factors that a lot of other athletes or regular students get caught up in steer him off track. He's just that determined."

DJ describes himself as a quiet guy, which is something Burke agrees with – to a degree.

"Early on, he was kind of shy, but I saw him grow with confidence from a player standpoint. He's not a laugher, joker, or clown, even though he loosened up over the year. But everyone knows that if DJ speaks up in the locker room, he's serious - and they're going to shut up and listen," comments Burke.

DJ's father, a Physical Education teacher and a coach, got him started playing basketball when he was about five years old. His father played college basketball at Baker University in Kansas, and all of his family play basketball as well. His mother is a teacher at Wren High School in Powdersville, SC.

"Obviously, it's something I've done all my life – and I love it. In my family, if you didn't play basketball, it was kind of weird," DJ laughs.

DJ played high school basketball and football, but says basketball is his passion.

“For me it’s not the self-gratification and people around me – it’s [about] making my teammates better -- and us, collectively, as a group, getting better. It’s such a team-oriented sport. It’s not just one person that does everything,” he says.

During his junior year at Wren, he hit the game winning shot against North Augusta High School in the Upper State semi-finals and his team went on play for the title against Spartanburg High School.

The following year, he was one of only two players on the team who had experience on the varsity level – and he averaged 19 points a game. DJ left Wren with the most three-pointers in a career of any basketball player in school history.

“That’s one thing I’m shackled with. Three-point shooting is a large part of my game,” he says.

He went on to lead NJCAA Region X in three-point field percentage this past season at SMC.

Above everything, though, his parents stressed academics first.

“The first thing that was set in my head was books, then athletics and extracurricular activities. That has helped get me where I am today. But I really wanted the opportunity to play college basketball and that is what SMC and coach Burke gave to me,” DJ says.

Burke says that the night he met DJ, he was there to see another player.

“But DJ really impressed with how he carried himself. It took me 45 minutes to talk to him after the game because he was doing the laundry with the team,” Burke says.

After DJ attended a Discovery Day at SMC, he wrote Burke a note thanking him for recruiting him and working with him as he prepared to come to SMC.

“I had been involved with 150 to 200 players over my six years at SMC and he is the only one who has done that. He is the only one who has ever written me a note,” Burke states.

Being a student at SMC was an adjustment for DJ though, but one which he took on diligently.

“It was definitely a major adjustment. People don’t realize just how much time management goes in to being successful in the classroom and on the court,” DJ states.

But his first year at SMC was a big success – both academically and on the court. He made the President’s List both semesters and help lead his team to a third place finish in their Region X tournament.

“My personality may be different from other people and what they would expect out of college. I knew I wanted to be successful academically and on the basketball court. Basketball isn’t all about competition and being athletic, it’s also about life. You can learn from it and apply it directly to your life. I know I learn from it all the time,” DJ says.

He says that with each game, he and his teammates learned about each other and what their strengths and weaknesses were, and bonded like a family.

“Everyone gets along with everyone. This is probably the best team I’ve been a part of,” he says.

Playing on the college level though, was a bit intimidating at first.

“The coach-player relationship is critical at this level. Coach Burke knew what we were each capable of – but he brought us up to another level. He always told us he wasn’t going to come down to ours. You have to get out of your comfort zone to do that. So by the end of the season, we were playing a lot harder and faster,” DJ says.

DJ knew there were certain aspects of his game he would need to improve from the start of the season, on.

“In college, everyone is on your level – or even better. Someone is as fast as you and someone is as quick as you. So you have to just play smart,” he comments.

The Pioneers went into the Region X tournament as the No. 3 seed, following a regular season 7-5 record in the region and 19-11 overall. They finished third in the tournament.

“We faced a lot of adversity this year, but busted it over the hump. We came together as a team during the season. We adjusted to each other, learned what we’re each capable of and pushed each other. It’s so important to do that,” he adds.

“Not only is basketball competitive, it’s also about life. You can learn from it and apply it directly to your life.” - DJ Brown

The 2010-11 season will be a bit different though, as DJ returns as a sophomore and as one of the team leaders – who the freshmen players will be looking up to.

“We’ll start off with next year’s freshman on a good note, in the classroom and on the court. All of us sophomores will be making sure they’re here for conditioning and making sure they are buying into what the coach says,” DJ states.

“If we all stress to them that you can’t lay down and to take on all the challenges they face during the two years they’re here – hopefully we’ll lay a foundation that passes down to future teams.”

And at the end of his freshmen year, DJ says without a doubt that he “... would absolutely choose SMC again.

“I would come play for SMC any day of the week because of the relationship with the coaches and the exposure you can get here. I know it’s small and kind of secluded, but there is a lot to do here. There is a great social aspect, all kinds of programs, religious life, and the people here are great.”

DJ adds that he is looking forward to a successful season next year and hopes that the Pioneers will make it past regionals and advance to the national tournament.

“That was our goal all year, this year. And that will be our goal, next year,” he states.

DJ says after graduating from SMC, he plans to transfer to a four-year college, pursue a Physical Education degree, and follow in his father’s footsteps by becoming a Physical Education teacher and a coach. 🏀

SMC Spring Golf Classic May 2011

River Falls Plantation Duncan, SC

More details will be posted on our website as they are determined. Call now to reserve your spot!

Contact Mark Perdue, Athletic Director,
at perduem@smcsc.edu or (864) 587-4237

www.smcsc.edu/golfclassic

Each year, more than 200 players participate in the Spring Golf Classic, one of the largest fund raising tournaments in the Greenville-Spartanburg area. The tournament provides program support for more than 250 student athletes who annually attend SMC. More than 90 percent of SMC students require some form of financial support with some coming from families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Through your generous support, these student athletes are afforded the opportunity to fulfill the dream of earning a college education. Join many SMC friends, sponsors, and alumni for a day of golf at River Falls Plantation Golf Club.

Sping 2010 Golf Classic winning team

(l-r) Bill Landrum, SMC class of '78 (former SMC baseball and major league pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates); Vernon Davis, SMC class of '63; Terry Bouknight; and Austin Bowen.

As the winning foursome, the group received the grand prize of a round of golf for four at The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island



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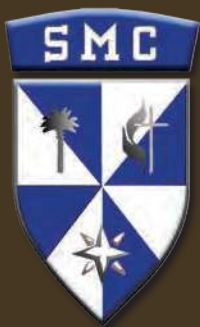
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You're invited!

- ✓ November 13: SMC Homecoming
featuring an SMC Pioneers
Alumni Baseball Game
- ✓ November 27: SMC Alumni Tailgating at
Clemson vs. Carolina football game

SMC alumni, parents, and friends are invited to come out to any of our Meet and Greets being held this year across South Carolina!

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