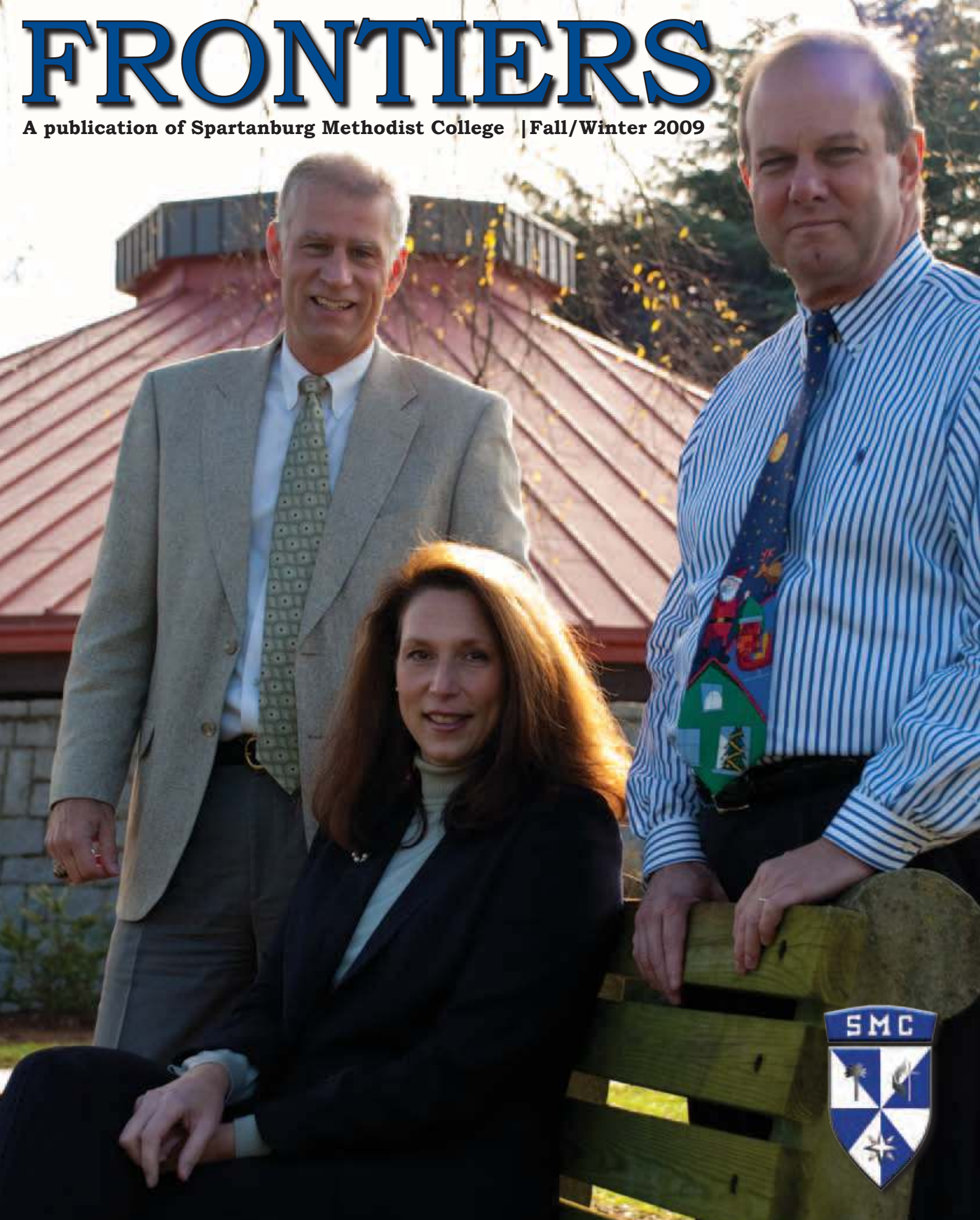


FRONTIERS

A publication of Spartanburg Methodist College | Fall/Winter 2009



SMC Reaffirmed For 10 Years • Flipping Duties on their Side • Being on the Frontlines • Bonds of Brothers

From the President's Desk...

On behalf of the entire SMC community, I bring you greetings! As I write this letter for *Frontiers*, the campus is in the midst of fall semester finals and preparing for Christmas break. It's a time of anticipation: students are anticipating their grades; faculty and staff are anticipating a time of renewal; and, as people of faith, we are anticipating the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

As you read through the pages of this issue of *Frontiers*, I hope you do so with excited anticipation of what you are about to experience! You will read about a new degree program and approach to student learning (our Pioneer Learning Communities); features on new staff members who have replaced some long-time and much-beloved staffers; a new worship service that has taken hold on campus and spiritually feeds our community; and a very special story about two soccer players on our men's team, Sebo and David Alexander. These young men came to us by way of an African orphanage in Liberia, a touring boy's choir, and two amazing adoptive parents, Debbie and David Alexander, whose example proves to us all that love and compassion know no geographic boundaries.

Clearly, this is an issue of *Frontiers* that you will not want to miss!

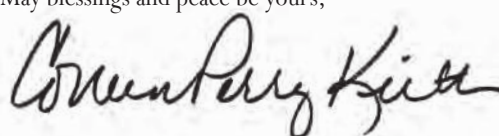
As I have made my way through Upstate South Carolina, the community of Spartanburg and the South Carolina Annual Conference, I have been touched by the many people I have met who have a tremendous love for Spartanburg Methodist College. Thank you for sharing your stories and memories with me. This is one special place!

As I have met people, many have asked what they can do to help. There are three particular areas in which we can use your help:

- Share the SMC story with families and high school students who are considering college. Encourage them to visit SMC and put it on the list of their options for college. We need to employ the learning from Matthew 5:15: "Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house." We have a great story to tell and need your help in sharing it with others.
- Remember SMC as you consider your philanthropic giving opportunities. In a time when South Carolina Tuition Grants are being cut, and other financial aid is in jeopardy, your gifts matter even more to help provide a quality educational experience for our students. And what a difference your gifts can make at SMC! Given the success of so many SMC graduates, there is no doubt that your gifts are an investment in future leaders.
- Remember SMC in your prayers.

Finally, I invite you to look ahead with great anticipation as SMC prepares for its Centennial in September 2011! We will be celebrating in various ways in the coming months, and want you to be involved. It has been nearly 100 years since Rev. David English Camak, with a dream for improving the lives of mill folk, opened the doors of our predecessor institution, the Textile Industrial Institute. Much has happened over the past century, and in this season of anticipation, I invite you to look ahead for all good things to come.

May blessings and peace be yours,



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

CONTENTS

5 - The Perfect Fit: Size SMC



Dr. Colleen Keith had an eventful first semester as President of Spartanburg Methodist College. It's one in which she learned a lot about herself and what her role is. She realized that SMC is a great fit for her and her family -- and so have the students.

11 - Being a Mentor for Students



Trina Gilliam wears a lot of hats at SMC, all of which involve her directly working with students. That's why she says the most important part of her job is to be a good role model.



12 - Flipping Duties On Their Side

SMC's new Vice President for Institutional Advancement has big plans to help move the College forward and keep it on solid financial ground.

18 - Being on the Frontlines



Ron Laffitte says he sees a great community at SMC - one in which he, as Dean of Students, hopes to make an even safer and active experience for the College's students.

24 - Overflowing with Praise



New this year at SMC, Overflow is a student-led worship experience that is aimed at helping students strengthen their faith and connection to God.

28 - Bonds of Brothers

Meet David and Sebo Alexander - both orphaned by civil war in their home country of Liberia and adopted by a family in North Carolina. Now brothers, they are playing soccer together at SMC.



Academic Updates	4	SMC in Service	22 - 23
New Trustees	9	Homecoming / Family Day 2009	26
New Faces on Campus	10	Athletic News	27
Alumni News	15	Spring 2010 SMC Golf Classic	30
Starting Out a New Year	20	Alumni Weekend Information	32

Cover photo: (l-r) Bob Fuzy, Vice President of Institutional Affairs; Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, President; and Ron Laffitte, Dean of Students, are all poised to help lead SMC into the next chapter of its history as its newest administrators

Photo credit: Brandon Hunter, Class of 2010



www.smcsc.edu

Editor: Brian Fulkerson, Director of Public Information
fulkersonb@smcsc.edu / Ph: (864) 587-4254 / Fax: (864) 587-4360

Frontiers magazine is a bi-annual publication by Spartanburg Methodist College, printed for alumni and friends. This publication is protected under copyright and cannot be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission. All rights reserved in all countries.

POSTMASTER -- Please send address changes to:
Spartanburg Methodist College
1000 Powell Mill Road, Spartanburg, SC, 29301



Officers of Spartanburg Methodist College

President
Dr. Colleen Perry Keith

Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Anita K. Bowles

Vice President for Enrollment Management
Daniel L. Philbeck

Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Bob Fuzy

Vice President for Business Affairs
Eric McDonald

Spartanburg Methodist College 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Chairperson - Mr. John Gramling II
Vice Chairperson- Mr. Bill Painter
Secretary - Marianna Habisreutinger
Mr. John Bell
Ms. Mellnee Buchheit
Mr. Justin Converse
Mrs. Phyllis DeLapp
Dr. Edgar H. Ellis
Dr. Phinnize Fisher
Mr. Steven Hahn
Mr. Mark Hammond
Reverend Larry Hays
Mr. Patrick Henry
Reverend Mitch Houston
Reverend Jean Osborne
Mrs. Liz Patterson
Mr. Craig Phillips
Mrs. Patsy Simmons
Mr. Guy Spriggs
Reverend Kenneth B. Timmerman
Reverend Lillian Washington

SMC Receives 10-Year Reaffirmation From SACS

Spartanburg Methodist College has been reaffirmed for full accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The reaffirmation comes after a more than two-year long process and self-study, which led to the development of SMC's Pioneer Learning Community as the primary part of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan.

As part of the reaffirmation process, SACS requires every institution to have a QEP which addresses key student learning outcomes.

SACS officials conducted their on-site visit to SMC in September 2008 and followed that up with additional questions which were

responded to in March of 2009. The SACS Principles for Accreditation include more than 75 core requirements and comprehensive standards by which the college must comply.

"We are very pleased to have Spartanburg Methodist College's accreditation reaffirmed. The accreditation process is labor-intensive and looks at every aspect of a college's operations. We are proud to have our high standards and hard work recognized," says SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith.

"There is no question about the academic excellence found at SMC's for we take our role in providing the first two years of education at the college level very seriously," she added.

New Religious Studies Degree Being Offered

SMC began offering a fourth degree in Fall 2009 - the Associates in Religious Studies.

The program expects to graduate its first students in Spring 2010.

The ARS degree requires six Religion courses - four required and two elective courses - as part of the 64 credits required to graduate.

This degree is designed to strengthen the ties between the College and the Church by providing a basic understanding of biblical, historical, and theological issues, as well as broadening the student's understanding of various religious perspectives.

SMC Participating in Post 9/11 GI Bill

Spartanburg Methodist College is one of only two colleges in Spartanburg and a handful in South Carolina that is participating in the Post 9/11 GI-Bill, also known as the Yellow Ribbon Financial Aid program.

The package is only available to US military veterans who have served since 9/11. It covers the complete cost of tuition, however does not cover room and board or other fees.

"There are men and women who have done their part in serving our country and defending our freedoms, and we want to extend to them the possibility of higher education," says Kendra Burnette, SMC Director of Financial Aid.

Learning Community Creating Tight Bonds

The new Pioneer Learning Community at SMC is off to a great start, with an unexpected twist - its director reports that its students are "hyperbonding."

"It's a new phenomenon - when students develop extremely close bonds within one particular group of students, versus their other classmates. It's not a social-circle type thing. I learned about it at a conference in Atlanta. In talking with folks who work with other Learning Communities, it seems that this is happening quite frequently," says Learning Community Director Kathy Brown.

The Pioneer Learning Community is a purposeful structuring of courses and activities designed to increase the chance for student success in personal, academic, and professional arenas.

It provides multiple opportunities for planned student-to-faculty and student-to-student interaction. In-class and out-of-class experiences enrich the Learning Community and encourage students to apply their learning to everyday situations.

Fifty-two students took part in the Pioneer Learning Community in the fall, taking English, Psychology, and SMC 101 in two specific sections that were for Learning Community students only.

She says the students report that being in those three classes together has bonded them quickly.

"We surveyed the students quite a bit throughout the semester - and they report that they really have made a lot of friends and connections in the Learning Commu-

nity. They say they know the people in the Learning Community classes much better than they know anyone else. They feel comfortable asking about the homework assignments and studying together. They say they don't interact with people in other classes as much as they do in the Learning Community classes," says Brown.

Their professors report that they "are always talkative and always participating. They skipped that whole part of not knowing anybody in class and not being willing to speak up," comments Brown.

"As a group, they have a tendency to act as a group. They can be really attentive as a group on any given day, or disruptive as a group. It's actually kind of funny," laughs Brown.


In the SMC 101 class, the students were asked to look at themselves through a career assessment, a learning skills assessment, a personality assessment, and reflect about their goals and journal about why they are in college.

Each individual has also had the opportunity to do a joint term paper and other joint work for which they receive credit in two classes. They also did a group career fair.

In the spring, those same students will take English, Religion, and SMC 102 together.

"I think we've given them a lot of tools to use that they might not be getting in other courses. Since we could incorporate that into their academics, they've had a lot of those types of opportunities. It's been a great experience so far. We're excited about it," says Brown.

The Perfect Fit: Size SMC



Being president of a college...

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith knew she was prepared for it. She just needed to find out if it was a good fit for her and her family.

And it has been.

When Dr. Colleen Keith's husband Barry saw the information that had been sent to her about SMC's presidential search in early 2009, he said, "Honey, I think this is you..."

"I said, 'I don't know, it's in South Carolina and I haven't been at OU [Ohio University] that long. Then he said, 'I would be fine with this. It would probably be a bigger adjustment for me than you'," Dr. Keith recalls.

But she says her role as a mother played the biggest part in her decision to pursue the opportunity at SMC.

"My identity is tied up in being a mother and a wife. And I had that right where I wanted it. All I could think of was 'Would Tim [my son] want to come to South Carolina for Christmas.' Then I realized, I have loved every age that kid has been and every stage he's gone through. This is just the next version. And it was time. He's almost 21. So we all talked about it - and he was fine with it. So I submitted all the materials," says Dr. Keith.

"Later, when I told my son about being offered the position it almost felt like I was asking his permission - which, in a sense, I was. If we were to move, I would be taking away his home. But he said, 'Mom, I'm fine with it. I'm proud of you.' He has been tremendously supportive," she adds.

Starting Out

Six months after starting her job as SMC's seventh president, she reflects on what it's been like.

"It's been amazing," she states. "Sometimes I wonder how I got here from Parish, New York."

Dr. Keith describes herself as a small-town girl who has done a little of everything. She was an athlete in high school, in drama club, and a state recognized drum major.

"I went to a consolidated high school, so the band was huge. That was extremely fun," she recalls.

She cut her teeth in various jobs in high school, working at one point in restaurant work. She spent quite a bit of time in high school and college working at the newspaper for which her father worked - doing everything from taking obituaries to insert-

ing sales circulars.

But her interest even in high school was in pursuing a career in higher education.

"My parents are very bright people and did very well, despite not having a college education. There was always a great desire on their part for us to go to college. But with six children, they didn't have the resources. So I had to do it all on my own," says Dr. Keith.

"I always enjoyed working with rules, organizations, systems and how things worked. My initial interest was in communications and to go to Syracuse University and major in Broadcast Journalism."

But she went on to attend the State University of New York at Binghamton, where she received a Bachelor's in Political Science.

While working for a job placement agency in Pittsburgh during the steel industry downturn in the mid 1980s, her career took another turn.

"It was hard seeing these older gentlemen come in looking for work who had been making \$20 or \$30 an hour, looking for work, and the best I could offer them was minimum wage. And they had nothing because they had depended on the steel mill. Nobody had ever encouraged most of them to go to college. I just decided at that point that I wanted to work in education, so I went back to college thinking I was going to become a guidance counselor," she recalls.

She received her Masters in Counseling and went to work at Rogers State College in Oklahoma, as an advising specialist.

Throughout her higher education career she has worked in many other departments and capacities - from student services, to counseling, as an instructor, in fund raising, and the list goes on.

"It all was a good fit. I knew that from everything I did, there was going to be a trickle down to the student. So I wanted to make sure I did it right so that the students had what they needed to go on to do what they want. I really don't know whether I could have planned it any better with the variety of positions I've worked in," she laughs.

She went on to receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs from The Ohio State University.



(l-r) Dr. Keith plays in a staff and faculty versus students game of dodgeball; Kevin Cunningham and Dr. Keith chat during a "Pizza with the President" event held in Judd Cellar; Dr. Keith enjoys watching a Pioneer basketball game from the stands



Dr. Keith catches up with a group of SMC students, including (l-r) Rosa Young, Holly Atwood, Brandon Hunter, Kimberly Carroll, and Zach Register.

"I've worked in every area of higher education. And it's all that experience that I draw from as a college president," she adds.

Interest In Something Bigger

It was while she was serving as Executive Director of Development at Ohio University that she learned of the presidential search at SMC.

"Being a college president didn't interest me for a long time. When I worked at the Methodist Theological School, I first worked as an assistant to the President. He would always say, 'You could be a college president. And I would always say, 'I don't want that lifestyle.' And he would tell me, 'You have a very limited view now.' My son was in elementary school at the time and I was focused on being a mom - but he was right, I couldn't see past that" she recalls.

She says "the role of being a mom" was always in the forefront of her mind. But as her role as Executive Vice President continued, her interest in a college presidency began to grow - more specifically, for a small college.

"I've worked at big places and small. I've worked at private colleges and public colleges. I like the sense of family that you have at small colleges. You can make connections happen on small campuses; you can really only make that happen in pockets at large institutions. But here you see the sense of community between the faculty, staff and students. I love watching students at the basketball games and seeing that we have students of different backgrounds and socioeconomic groups just being students - they're living, worshipping, breaking bread together - and all cheering their team on. You don't get that everywhere. We have that here at SMC. And it's a very special thing," she comments.

Learning About - And Being Sold On - SMC

Dr. Keith found out about the SMC presidential search when she was nominated by one of the search firm consultants, whom

she knew from when the same firm was conducting a presidential search for the Methodist Theological School.

"The more I learned about SMC, what really attracted me prior to being here was the close connection with the United Methodist Conference and the Board of Global Ministries. I love that connection. It's a great church with strong social principles and I really enjoy it," she says.

After her initial interviews, she and her husband came down for a campus visit and interview.

"I instantly fell in love with SMC. Everyone was so genuine and had a sense of family. There was a true sense of purpose - that everyone believed in the same mission.... And the students, oh goodness, they're amazing," comments Dr. Keith.

She had lunch during her campus visit in the cafeteria with a group of students who shared their stories with her.

She recalls in particular sophomore wrestler Michael Slaughter [who is now at Gardner Webb University] telling her his story.

"I asked him where he would be if he weren't at SMC and he said, 'Dead.' He had had friends killed in drive-by shootings. And he said wrestling got him out of it. Hearing that sort of thing just tears you up inside. But these students... they are just great kids," she adds.

"They're inspiring. They are why I do this job. They are what motivates me," Dr. Keith states.

After touring the campus, she says she was very impressed with the facilities and especially the academic program.

"You could tell the school has had some challenges in some aspects. But I was very impressed with the academic programs. You could tell what [immediate past SMC President] Charlie Teague's gift was - to insure that the academic program was sound and that it would attract the best qualified people. And I could see immediately where my gift could fit in. I was impressed with everything, but I knew I would need to make sure the necessary resources were coming in the door so we can all do what we need to do," Dr. Keith states.

She says she knew the second day she was on campus that SMC was where she wanted and needed to be.

"I felt like I fit in. Probably because I've been in a lot of their shoes and knew what they were talking about. But it was the whole package that sold me. And Barry really enjoyed his experience here," she comments.

Her only hesitation was her husband's work and making sure he would be able to continue his career in South Carolina.

Barry is a clinical therapist who has practiced for 20 years. He's currently in the process of setting up a private practice in Spartanburg. In the meantime, he

to," said sophomore Lindsay Allen.

"She's great. I love her. I want to call her 'mom' every time I see her," said sophomore Rosa Young.

"I would say (she's) a perfect fit," states Allen.

"It's like when you have the perfect sweater — that's one size fits all," Young commented.

But Allen interrupted to add, "Except it's one size fits SMC."

"Or Size SMC," laughed Young.

Goals and Objectives

In looking back on her first semester at

ship qualities.

As far as her initial goals, in the short term she says making sure enrollment is stabilized and growing is critical, in light of recent state funding cuts for student financial aid programs.

"We will have to really look at enrollment and determine what is the right size for us," she says.

Her major long-term goal is a fund raising program to secure an influx of funds coming in the door to take care of any capital needs and endowment needs the College has.

"I want to also make sure we're always in a meaningful relationship with the church. We need to make sure we're seeking new ways to build on that relationship. But I love our relationship with the church - I think it goes both ways," she adds.

She adds that making sure the College's resources are strong needs to be in the forefront at all times.

"We have these phenomenal athletic teams and these strong academic programs. Why wouldn't we have a strong campus to support them? That's what our faculty, staff and students deserve - they deserve the best," Dr. Keith states.

Right At Home

Despite any question she made have had about becoming a college president or moving to South Carolina, Dr. Keith says it was a move for which she is thankful.

"SMC is home now. I am so pleased to be part of the family here. And I am so proud of this institution. It is such an amazing place with such a great history. We have wonderful staff, faculty and students to all be proud of," she states.

Don't believe her?

Go read her Facebook page and you'll find notes of support to the Pioneer athletic teams and congratulatory comments to the SMC students, faculty and staff for all of their accomplishments.

One thing Dr. Keith is not afraid of is showing her enthusiasm and love for SMC and its students, faculty and staff.

It obviously doesn't take much for the outsider to know that she and SMC have found a good fit with each other — it's "Size SMC."



The Presidents of SMC

(l-r) Kappa Sigma Alpha service fraternity President Holly Atwood; Student Government Association President Brandon Hunter; and SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith

taught an SMC 101 class in the fall and has taken on the role of an assistant baseball coach under SMC's Tim Wallace also.

Student Focused

The students at SMC immediately took notice of Dr. Keith — of her presence, of her enthusiasm, and of her warm spirit.

She's played in a dodgeball game with students. She knows many of them by first name. And to the women of SMC, she serves as an example of what they can achieve.

Less than three weeks into the semester, the *Spartanburg Herald Journal* interviewed a group of female SMC students on their views of Dr. Keith and of women in leadership positions.

"I think she's amazing. And she is a great leader and example for all of us to look up

SMC, Dr. Keith says it has been a wonderful experience, but she's already encountered some challenges and is laying down some short and long-term goals.

She says things which have stuck out as being memorable are the feelings of support from the Board of Trustees and the faculty and staff - and the excitement for that is energizing.

"I think people appreciate the fact I'm collaborative and I want to make sure everyone has a say - that we maintain some level of consensus in the center," Dr. Keith states.

She says there haven't been any major issues to tackle yet with students. There have been decisions to make, which is part of the job, but she credits new Dean of Students Ron Laffitte and his staff with an outstanding program and admirable leader-

Three New Trustees Named to SMC Board

The South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church elected three new members to Spartanburg Methodist College's Board of Trustees in 2009.

New trustees elected include Steven Hahn, Mark Hammond, and Craig Phillips. They were elected by the Conference to replace outgoing trustees Charles Atchison, Dan Foster and Jamie Fulmer.

Steven Hahn, of Spartanburg, is a retired management consultant who also serves on the boards of the Spartanburg County Accelerated Business Center; Fast Forward Group LLC; GudFudMarshmallows LLC; MXT Golf Ltd.; 19th Hole Magazine Inc; and River Hills Baptist Church.

Hahn is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Circolo Villa D'Este, and the Golf Writers Association of America. He and his wife Sook-Kyung have two sons and are members of River Hills Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

Mark Hammond, of Spartanburg, is currently serving a second term as South Carolina Secretary of State. He also serves as a member of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), for which he is co-chair of business services, and as a member of the South Carolina Consumer Affairs and Legislative Council.

He is also a member of the Spartanburg



Steven Hahn



Mark Hammond



Craig Phillips

Lions Club. Hammond is an Outstanding Alumni of Newberry College and a recipient of its Shrine Bowl Award for Public Service, as well as its Sesquicentennial Medal of Honor Award. He served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention, in 2004 and 2008; is a Henry Toll Fellow and member of the Council of State Governments; and was recognized as a 2008 Rising State Leader by the Canadian Embassy & Canada's network of Consulates General. Hammond and his wife Ginny have three children and are members of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Spartanburg.

Craig Phillips, of Spartanburg, is president of Budweiser of Spartanburg and a veteran of the United States Army. He

serves on the boards of the Carolina Country Club and Spartanburg Gun Club. He is a former board member for the American Red Cross, Columbia College Board of Visitors, and the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association.

Phillips is a life member of the 4th Infantry Division Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9539, Ducks Unlimited, the South Carolina Waterfowl Association, and Quail Unlimited. He and his wife Kay have two children and are members at the Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Spartanburg.

The Board of Trustees has also elected its officers for 2009-2010. Those include John Gramling II, chairman, and Bill Painter, vice chairman.

SMC Hosts Forum With Mayoral Candidate

SMC sponsored a Mayoral Candidate Forum on October 30, during which students and the general public had a chance to talk with candidate Junie White about his platform. White, who was elected mayor of Spartanburg the following Tuesday, told SMC students that he would have an open-door policy and encouraged them to develop a committee to provide his office with student input.



SMC Welcomes New Staff, Faculty

Thad Fox was hired in August as the head coach of the Lady Pioneers softball team. Fox previously served as the assistant coach of the Mars Hill College softball team. He organized and has coached the North Carolina Sun Devils-Elite travel softball team. He also previously served for four seasons as the head softball coach at Freedom High School in Morganton, NC. In addition, he previously served as an assistant coach in football, women's basketball and baseball during different times at Freedom High School. Fox and his wife Amber, the head women's basketball coach at Freedom High School, resides in Morganton, NC.



Thad Fox

Julie Lanford was hired in April as an admissions counselor. She is a 2007 SMC graduate and a 2009 graduate of Anderson University with a degree in Communications and Advertising, with a concentration in Public Relations. During the summer of 2008, she worked an internship with the Westgate Mall marketing office. Lanford is a 2005 graduate of Woodruff High School. While a student at SMC, she completed three semesters as a work study in the Financial Aid office. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the beach, playing tennis, hanging out with friends, shopping, and spending time with her dog Molly.



Julie Lanford

Briles Lever was hired in August as a Professor of Art. He is a graduate of SMC with an Associate in Arts in 1990, and went on to Lander University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts in 1993. From there, he went to the University of Georgia where he received a Master's in Fine Arts in 1996. Lever also has a Master's degree in Graphic Design with a computer emphasis from the University of Tennessee. At SMC he teaches Introduction to Drawing, Introduction to Painting, Advanced Painting and Drawing, and two Art Appreciation classes. Lever has been interested in art since a young age and spends most of his time creating his own artwork. He is a 1987 graduate of Spartanburg High School.



Briles Lever

Melissa J. Nafzger was hired in August as coach of the Lady Pioneers basketball team. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from the University of West Florida and is currently pursuing a Master's in Mental Health Counseling from UWF. She most recently served as head coach of the women's basketball team at John Curtis Chris-

tian High School, in New Orleans. She also coached the school's junior varsity and Little Dribblers programs. Her coaching experience also includes one year as an assistant women's basketball coach at Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Ala.; and two years as head coach of the Pensacola Flames AAU team in Pensacola, FL. Also, Nafzger served as a skills development instructor this past summer at the Nike regional and national skills academies, training the top girls in the nation.



Melissa Nafzger

Bethany Perkins was hired in August as a Professor of English. Perkins is a New Orleans native and a 1992 graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in English. She also earned a Paralegal Certificate in 1993. In 2000, she received a Masters of English Literature from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She holds a PhD, earned in 2007, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is an avid fan of gothic and southern literature, as well as folklore. In the fall semester, she taught English 100 (Basic Writing), English 101 (Composition), and World Literature. Perkins enjoys traveling and lived in Italy for several years. She is married, lives in Spartanburg, and has a five-year old daughter. Although she considers herself a dog person, she has a lot of pets.



Bethany Perkins

Susie Williams was hired in July as coach of the SMC volleyball team and Sports Information Director. Williams' coaching experience includes six months as the Assistant 18's National Coach at the Cape Fear Volleyball Club in Wilmington, NC; head coach of the Ravenna Power Aces Club's Lady Jays in 2008; and head freshman volleyball coach and assistant Junior Varsity/Varsity coach at Ravenna High School in 2007. She has also interned with the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators. She previously served as Assistant of Compliance at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Williams earned a Masters of Arts in Education/General Physical Education, with an emphasis in Sports Administration. Originally from Illinois, she earned an Associate in Liberal Studies from Elgin Community College, in Elgin, IL, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in Marketing, from California University of Pennsylvania. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering in the community, and outdoor activities including running and whitewater rafting.



Susie Williams

Being A Mentor For Students



Photo by Brandon Hunter

Trina Gilliam has a lot on her plate at SMC.

She is the Assistant Director of Residence Life. She's the Yearbook advisor. And she is also a Residence Hall Director for Kingman Hall.

It's because of all of her hard work and dedication in those roles, plus more, that she was awarded the 2009 J.L. Geddis Staff Excellence Award. The award's namesake is a former Vice President of Business Affairs at SMC.

"Actually it was pretty exciting [to receive the award]. I worked for J.L. for about a year before he retired. I know his character and what this institution means to him, so it was an honor to receive an award named after him," says Gilliam.

Gilliam has worked at SMC for eight years, having started out in accounts receivable.

"In a position like accounts receivable, you get to know the students and their parents - and even more so as a residence hall director. But the students see me a lot because I'm here all the time. I do a lot; I'm elected for a lot; I volunteer for a lot. For me, it is all about having a rapport with the students," adds Gilliam.

Gilliam is a former Army reservist - having spent six years active, two years inactive - and she feels like she has taken a lot from that experience which she has both put into practice at SMC and given her the ability to learn more about students.

"The biggest difference in working with students, is that in the military you have order. You always follow the chain of command. That's the biggest difference - especially when you're dealing with students. For me, understanding that they don't have that training, that was the biggest adjustment for me," she says.

That philosophy and understanding is most put into play in her roles as Assistant Director of Residence Life and as a Residence Hall Director.

"It helps to have very productive and responsible residence assistants. Because if they're trained the way they're

supposed to be, the people on their hall will go to them. I push the chain of command in my building," she comments.

And she enjoys all of her interactions with the students - save the random 3 a.m. call.

"I don't mind being there for the students - I enjoy it. If I didn't I would have stopped doing it a long time ago. The students keep me young," she laughs.

But she hopes the students she interacts with take away some lessons at the same time they will find useful in life.

"They come to me with quite a bit of stuff. That's what I enjoy the most. That's why I help out with activities outside of work. I think one of the main things is the feedback you get from the students after the fact - that's what keeps me going," she says.

Living and working with college students is something that Gilliam says has been a rewarding experience though, because she works with so many in her different capacities and gets to know many new students each year.

"It's fun to watch them grow here at SMC. I try to be there for them and I want to mentor them and be available for them," she adds.

Her most recent duty has been as yearbook advisor, a job which she picked up last year. She says she enjoys the creativity, helping lead the students on a project, and watching them work together.

"With yearbook staff, we have a lot of fun - sometimes it's just in talking about pictures and facial expressions because you catch people off guard. I enjoy it a lot though," she laughs.

A major part of what makes working at SMC such a wonderful experience comments Gilliam is the staff.

"We just have a really good group of people. You connect with everyone. There is someone in each department that I've built a great relationship with. That's what makes SMC special. That's why people come here and stay forever," Gilliam says.

Flipping D



Bob Fuzy is looking forward to helping Spartanburg Methodist College grow.

That's what he says he's good at.

"I started off in the insurance industry. But because of a friend of mine, I found my way into development. And that, it turns out, is where I found my niche," Fuzy says.

Fuzy previously worked for The Buckley Foundation in Camden, as their Vice President and chief foundation officer. Prior to that, he served in various other development and fundraising roles including as Director of Major Gifts at Furman University and Director Major Gifts for Clemson University's College of Business.

"I have a lot of experience in higher education. And that's really meant a lot to me," he adds.

His first experience with SMC was through sports.

Fuzy has spent several years as a college referee. After becoming licensed to referee college soccer several years ago, he visited SMC to officiate a game.

"I appreciated the curb appeal of SMC and thought it was a nice looking campus," he recalls.

Then he found out last summer about the College's search for a new Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

"I had been out of educational fundraising for about four years and did miss it. There's nothing like it - with the enthusiasm of donors, the excitement of students and the direction you're going," Fuzy says.

He became SMC's newest Vice President in October. But even before starting the job, he knew there was a lot of potential for the College to explore new avenues and sources of growth.

"Even early on I thought there was real potential here. I didn't know much about the potential of the fund raising situation, but with small offices there's generally a lot of opportunities. Plus, I found President Keith's thought process and mine seemed to mesh pretty well. She understands the need and role of fund raising in an operation. I thought this could be really fun and gratifying to be a part of. So I was excited," says Fuzy.

He instantly noticed the cohesiveness and sense of duty to the College that the people in his office have.

"There is a great loyalty on the part of the College's staff, its employees and the alumni. The campus and what's its doing - it's mission - are so appreciated. It's much more deep-seeded than what I thought it would be. It probably applies to the fact there hasn't been an active campaign culture here and that more people have not been given larger, more comprehensive proposals," Fuzy comments.

He says the key to tapping that potential is by giving the

uties On Their Side

Institutional Advancement team more responsibilities.

"They are a great team. And they want to do more. So we need to take advantage of that," states Fuzy.

Some changes are already underway to do just that.

Fuzy says his staff is being given more of an ability to raise funds and conduct the job duties on a much broader scale than in the past.

"It's not uncommon for people to have very strict responsibilities and duties. It's almost silo like. But we're going to flip that on the side and people are going to have a lot more, wider varieties of responsibility. We're jacks of all trades because we're a small staff. That's reinvigorated some because they don't want to be narrowly focused in what they're doing," he states.

Each of the offices within Institutional Advancement are already taking a look at new ways they can better serve the College and cultivate new relationships.

And they're going to get some additional help in early 2010 with the addition of a new Director of Major gifts.

Also underway is a project to help the Institutional Advancement offices identify potential donors.

"We're currently doing a project with Blackbaud on our database to try and help us be able to better quantify the potential of the alumni base. That in itself will give this office a lot of focus where we should be working and who we should be working with," says Fuzy.

He believes that determining where the best resources are and the best methods of tapping those is key to any successful program and campaign

"I saw a lot of opportunities coming in. Based on my experiences, I think there's some different thing we can do to generate some neat results," he comments.



(l-r) Alumni Relations director Leah Pruitt and Vice President of Institutional Advancement Bob Fuzy review some of SMC's recently printed materials

Also being planned is a feasibility study to determine the potential of a campaign and what its priorities will be if we SMC conducts one.

New gift societies may also be in the works too, along with the hopes of growing unrestricted monies for annual scholarship funds utilized by students.

"We need to create some leveraged and stewardship related gift societies that people want to be involved in," states Fuzy.

Fuzy's philosophy is that what works at one college will more than likely work at another.

"The principles are all the same, whether it's Clemson, Furman or SMC. You just have to tweak it to fit the alumni base. We don't have football, but we have successful programs – and we can do things around those. We don't necessarily do events for fund raising. We do things for cultivation so that hopefully on down the road they lead to fundraising," he says.

His primary goal though right now is figure out if SMC is ready for a campaign and who the prospects for it may be.

"We're going to be seeing more people, getting more face to face and being on the road more – but the results will be the

same as with larger institutions. We will need to focus more on larger goals though," he states.

In the end, his larger goal is to help the students. Seeing them utilize the resources which have been provided to them by donors is very rewarding.

"I also look forward to getting to know folks in the Spartanburg community better. I think there's a great amount of support in the community for SMC and we need to find new ways to take advantage of that," he says.

One of his fondest memories is of working with a donor at Furman University.

"He was a \$10,000 annual donor who I worked with six months or so and moved him up to \$125,000. I worked with him for a while more. We secured a \$1,000,000 gift from him to name the development office after his wife. Then I went back to see the dedication of the building when he invited me and it was really cool to see," Fuzy recalls.

"I wish all donors would have the opportunity to realize their gift through their lifetime though; if they could experience their gift working while they're alive, it's really cool," he adds.

From the Alumni Director...

Hello from the Alumni Office!

It's hard to believe we are starting a new year. I hope this letter finds you all happy and healthy and enjoying the New Year's season. We are experiencing many new changes here at SMC and are continuing to expand our campus. In recent years, we have erected several new buildings, restructured our road system, redesigned our main entrance...and best of all, in 2009, we named the seventh President of Spartanburg Methodist College, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith.

I would like to personally invite you and your guests to come back and visit our beautiful campus and meet our new president during Alumni Weekend 2010, on March 26 and 27. We have many exciting events planned and I hope you will be a part of them. We will kick-off Alumni Weekend 2010 with a reception at Dr. Keith's home. This is your chance to meet her personally, tour her beautiful home and enjoy reconnecting with your classmates and other Alumni. In addition to this kick-off reception, we will have our traditional Alumni Awards Luncheon where we recognize the leadership of our Alumni and their service to SMC. We will also have an Alumni Reception at BMW's North American production facility in Greer, SC.

A schedule of events and your R.S.V.P. slip is listed on the back cover of Frontiers. Please save the date and make plans to attend Alumni Weekend 2010. Space is limited to these events so please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible by completing the registration form and mailing it (in the envelope provided in Frontiers) to the College, along with your method of payment. I look forward to seeing YOU at Alumni Weekend.

All the best for a wonderful 2010!

Sincerely,

Leah L. Pruitt '98

Director of Alumni Relations



Leave Your Mark at SMC



Honor your loved one with a personalized brick for our "Walk of Memories," located between the Walker and Montgomery buildings at SMC. The cost of a brick to be placed in the "Walk of Memories" is \$100. Contact Leah Pruitt, Director of Alumni Relations, at (864)587-4225 or alumni@smcsc.edu for more information and ordering.

Network And Share Memories With Other SMC Alums



Join us on LinkedIn and Facebook - keep up with SMC news, events, and each other!

Notes and Updates

1943

Guy F. Fain, Jr. finished Wofford in 1949 and served in WWII for two years. He and wife, **Naomi**, also an SMC alum ('49), have a son, Dr. Guy F. Fain, III who finished Wake Forest University in 1974, Bowman Gray University in 1978, served his residency in Newport News, VA in 1980 and is now a doctor in Chattanooga, TN.

1949

Leonard A. McDowell is enjoying retirement in Chesnee, SC with his wife Elsie.

1961

Elizabeth S. Jack writes, "My husband, **Jim Jack**, played basketball at SMC under Coach Mooneyham, assisted coaching with Mooneyham at Wofford, and coached at Byrnes, Dorman, Greer and Daniel High Schools. I retired from the Health Department in 1991....lost my husband in 2002 to cancer."

1962

Alfred McGaha is a sales agent with Buice-Bowers Realty in Gaffney, SC.

1965

Jane Reed Dyches, of St. Matthews, SC, works in the Development/Chamber of Calhoun County.

1967

Thomas Mullins, of Hanahan, SC, currently is the Head of School at the First Baptist School in Hanahan. He is retired from 31 years in the public school system. He coached high school basketball and led the 1977 Chicora High School team to a state championship. After SJC, he graduated from Charleston Southern in 1971. He went on to receive a Masters degree from The Citadel in 1977 and an EdS from The Citadel in 1985.

1975

Adell E. Bell, MHA, RDCS of Mt. Pleasant, SC, is a clinical manager for Cardiovascular Non-Invasive Services at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

1977

Foster M. "Billy" Routh III is a Principal

with MG&C Consulting Services in Columbia, SC, specializing in Legislative, Governmental Relations and Public Affairs.

1979

Amy Ammons Mullis of Moore, SC writes, "...The two years I attended SMC are among the most enjoyable I can remember. SMC remains dear to my heart even though I'm just a tiny part of its timeline." Mullis is secretary of Lyman United Methodist Church and was in the old church building when it caught fire in 2004. Through God's grace, Amy and the children of the daycare managed to escape. "I remember SMC sending hymnals for us to use after the fire," she says. Amy was a journalism major at SMC and was the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg's (now USC Upstate) English Major of the Year 1981. She enjoys writing and has essays in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Sasee*, various servings of *Chicken Soup*, *Cup of Comfort*, the *Ultimate Series*, and *Adams Media*. She has a humor blog at www.mindovermullis.blogspot.com. "Mostly I just wanted to say thank you for the job you do. It made my day to happen across the site and see the old alma mater going strong. Keep up the good work!," she adds.

1988

James A. Pratt is employed with the Police Department of York County, SC.

1990

Darren C. Dukes, of Boiling Springs, SC, has been with the Sheriff's Dept. for 11 1/2 years. He was promoted to Uniform Patrol Sergeant in March 2009.

1995

Tamika A. Wilkerson, of Charlotte, NC, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix in 2008. She is currently attending Liberty University online for a Masters in Professional Counseling. She is a Reimbursement Counselor for a health care consultant company.

1998

Brad Beck, of Clinton, SC has been employed with the Clinton Department of Public Safety for three years and has been in law enforcement for eight. He has two daughters — Kaitlyn Victoria Beck and Adrienne Dawn Beck.

1999

William "Will" Moore Hickerson, of Laurens, SC, graduated from the University of South Carolina Upstate in 2004 in Business Management and is owner of Hickerson Property Management in Greenville, SC.

2005

Michael Borders, of Arlington, VA, is employed with Freddie Mac.

Retirement

1947

J. Fred Lister is retired in Columbia, SC.

1950

Leslie Stewart ('50) and **Ed Babb** ('51), of Gray Court, SC, are the proud parents of four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, and are enjoying retirement on their farm while staying busy with church and family.

Frances Austin Day, of Whitesburg, KY, is a retired elementary school teacher.

Rev. Charles Edwin McKinney, of Boone, NC, retired from part-time pastorate on June 30, 2009.

1958

Ralph M. Kesler is enjoying retirement with his wife Annette in Anderson, SC.

1960

Alice G. Pruitt retired as a volunteer for the Dream Center, sponsored by Seacoast Church. Her husband Maxie retired in 2000, but continues working to stay active.

1976

Gloria Elledge, of Duncan, SC, has retired from teaching and is enjoying time with her husband Marvin, her children and grandchildren. She likes to shop and work with flowers in her flower bed. She takes several trips with senior citizens, is involved with church activities, and loves to read.

1982

Deborah F. Ghanayem retired from the

U.S. Coast Guard on Sept. 1, 2009.

Marriages

1976

Ricky Alvin McAbee of Roebuck, SC, and his wife, Joy, announce the marriage of their daughter Emily Joy McAbee of Birmingham, Alabama, to John Albert Lucas IV, also of Birmingham, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Albert Lucas III of



Nashville, Tennessee. The couple were married on October 10, 2009, at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg. Emily is a 2009 graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. She is currently employed with RAM, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama. Her husband is a graduate of Samford University. He currently attends the University of Alabama School of Medicine and will graduate in May 2010.

Birth

1992

Teresa Wells Woods and her husband, David, have a first son, Colin, born Oct 22, 2008. Teresa is employed with SCE&G.

In Memoriam

Former Trustees

Former SMC Trustee and South Carolina United Methodist minister **Rev. Clyde L. Calhoun**, died July 4, 2009 in Neeses, SC.

Former SJC/SMC Trustee **Rev. L. Porter Anderson, Jr.**, a retired full member of the South Carolina Annual Conference and a Trustee for SJC/SMC from 1966-1975, died Sept. 28, 2009. He was a 1942 graduate of Rock Hill High School and attended Clemson College in 1942-

43. He served in the U.S. Navy 1943-46 in Japan and the Philippines, attaining the rank of ensign. He received his B.A. from Duke University in 1948 and his Master's of Divinity from Emory University/Candler School of Theology in 1952. He was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1953. Rev. Anderson served many Methodist churches throughout South Carolina. He was also a past president of the Forest Acres Rotary Club, a 24-year volunteer at Harvest Hope Food Bank, a trustee for the Greenwood Methodist Home from 1977-82, and served on many other committees and boards. He was predeceased by his parents and two sisters - Jean Anderson Stone and Mary Anderson Hunter. He is survived by two children, Leonard Porter Anderson, III and Elizabeth Anderson Bridges, as well as his son-in-law, Scott Bridges and beloved grandchildren, Drew Rankin and Meredith Rankin.

Former Faculty

Rev. George Jerome Mitchell, a retired Baptist minister of Taylors, SC, died Oct. 1, 2009.

1934

Ethel Garrison Simon of Swoope, VA died July 12, 2008.

1936

Joe M. Logan of Durham, NC, died Sept. 4, 2008.

1940

Earl Mayo died Feb. 29, 2008 in Columbia, SC.

1942

Warren H. Abernathy died June 22, 2009. He worked for Senator Strom Thurmond for 45 years and served as secretary-treasurer of the Strom Thurmond Foundation. He received the Order of the Palmetto from Gov. David Beasley in 1998. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaretta Scruggs Abernathy. He graduated from Spartanburg High School, SMC; attended both Wofford College and the University of South Carolina; and received a master's in business administration from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Voorhees College. A WWII veteran, he retired as a colonel with the U. S. Army Reserves.

1942

Juanita Bittle Simpson of West Columbia, SC died June 17, 2009.

1946

Jack Edward Foster, 82, of Lake Gaston, SC died July 27, 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Paige Foster Lamberson and her husband, Bill Lamberson; granddaughter, Elizabeth Morgan Lamberson; sister-in-law, Edith Brown Foster; and brother, Harry Foster. Jack was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Johnnie Katherine Kennedy Foster; son, John Edward Foster; daughter, Pamela Sue Foster; and brother, Ret. Col. Virgil Parker Foster, Sr. of Davidson, NC. Mr. Foster graduated from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC and is a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy. He retired from Montgomery Ward and Company. He served on the Boards of Directors of the North Carolina Merchants Associations, the Lake Gaston Medical Center, and the Rural Health Group. He was a former President of the Eaton Ferry Property association. Mr. Foster was a life time Mason of St. John 333 AFM; life time Hejaz Shrine Temple member; and a member of American Legion Post 308. He was also an elder of Littleton Presbyterian Church.

1947

Phoebe Turner Lambert, daughter of Lannes Clinton & Mallie Thacker Turner, died October 27, 2009 in Pacolet, SC. She is survived by her husband James "Peewee" Lambert Jr.; daughters Linda (Ric) Burns and Anne Lambert; and son David (Ruth Ann) Lambert. Phoebe attended San Francisco State College and once worked for Pacolet United Methodist Church.

B. Jack Ross of Duncan, SC, died Feb. 28, 2008.

1956

Barbara "Bunnie" Thomas Stone died Aug 11, 2009 in Greenville, NC. She graduated from Spartanburg High School, SMC and Converse College. She was a research technician in the Brody School of Medicine, member of First Presbyterian Church as a Deacon and Elder, Empty Nester Home Church and involved with May Fest event. Predeceased are

her husband Dr. Henry O. Stone Jr. and sister Claudia T. Lipscomb. Surviving are a son Michael, a brother Bud Thomas and a sister Elizabeth McCants.

Mark Causey, of Supply, NC, died Feb. 21, 2008.

1958

Rev. Roger E. Thompson died September 25, 2009. He was retired at the time of his death and was serving Ledbetter United Methodist Church in Rockingham, NC. He is survived by his wife Roberta (SJC, '55), who taught high school business for 30 years.

Jean Sugg Gaines, a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and the Paul Morris Sunday School Class in Spartanburg, SC, died Oct. 23, 2009. She was a former member of the SMC Alumni Council; a well-known, sharp skilled Spartanburg realtor; and served on a number of boards and committees. She always had a keen interest in helping the less fortunate and loved beautiful flower arrangements. She is survived by children Walter Perry Gaines II and Mandy G. Phillips.

1967

Timothy W. Welker of Spartanburg, SC died July 1, 2009. His wife, Linda Starnes Toms-Welker (SMC, '85); sisters, Cathy Blackwell and Amy Eskew; sister-in-law, Carol Clarkson; and two nephews, Evan Eskew and Bradford Young survive. His deceased parents

were Ted and Jewel Scism Welker.

1969

Dennis Jones, of Spartanburg, died.

Burnett Harp "Bunny" Womack, Jr. died on Aug. 31, 2009, in Spartanburg, SC. He is survived by a daughter, Ashley Womack, and a sister, Jane W. Gibson. He was a Technical Service Representative for Nord Photo Engineering. He served three years in the U.S. Army in Okinawa, Japan and graduated from Blue Ridge High School in Hendersonville, NC.

1974

Edna S. Burnett died in 2006.

1977

Kim Nanette Fowler McCraw, of Spartanburg, died July 28, 2009. She is survived by husband Teddie N. McCraw, Jr.; and daughters Meghan Avalon McCraw, of Converse College, and Mollie Margaret McCraw, of Lander University. She attended Arcadia First Baptist and Saint Luke United Methodist churches.

Robert Rhodes died Feb. 29, 2008 in Charleston, SC.

1981

Barbara Jean Searcy Hamrick, died on Sept. 27, 2009. She was the wife of Mark Hamrick. Mrs. Hamrick was a native of Spar-

tanburg County, and the daughter of Frances Searcy Nagle and the late Ernest G. Searcy. She was a graduate of Boiling Springs High School and Spartanburg Methodist College where she was a Cheerleader throughout school. She was employed with the State of South Carolina for 20 years. She was a member of Green Point Baptist Church. She is survived by a step-father, Robert Nagle of Boiling Springs; one brother, Ernest Gene Searcy, Jr. of Boiling Springs; two sisters, Sharon Searcy Fry of Boiling Springs and Connie Searcy Teague of Gaffney; two nephews, Trevor and Ashton Searcy; a niece, Alyssa Searcy; and her beloved pet dog, Chloe.

1991

Daniel Joseph Moore, of Newton, NC, died May 14, 2009. He was a graduate of Dorman High School and an Eagle Scout with St. James Methodist Church's Troop 28. He was an Army Ranger Veteran from 1992-1997. Survivors include his wife, Scottie Moore; children, Morgana, William and Catherine Moore; daughter, Caeliea Duncan; son, Carl Duncan; his parents, W. H. and Charlene Moore, of Spartanburg, SC; sister, Earlene and David Leonard, of Kings Mountain, NC and their son, Matthew Leonard; brothers, Jim and Barbara Moore, of Spartanburg, SC and their children, Natasha Taylor, Jim Moore, Christian and Karene; and Adam and Shawn Robbins, of Newton, NC and their children, Nicole and Holly Robbins and Alan Robbins.



'72 Alum Moss Retires From SMC

Charlie Moss, SMC's Director of Facilities Management, retired effective Jan. 1, 2010 from SMC. Moss is a 1972 graduate of SMC and a 1974 graduate of Wofford College. He served SMC for 37 1/2 years, in various capacities including as a security guard, Campus Safety director, Assistant Dean of Students, and Director of Facilities Management. His wife Deddie currently works for SMC. They have two children, David and Kim, and a grandson, Brett.

(l-r) Charlie Moss is presented a retirement gift from SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith



Being on the Frontlines

Being on the frontlines at SMC is something that Ron Laffitte looks forward to each day.

"I wake up in the mornings and think, man, this is such an awesome place to work and such a great place for us to make a difference at," says Laffitte.

Laffitte, who has only served as SMC's Dean of Students since July 1, after serving for four years as the Associate Dean of Students at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, says that from day one he has been excited to be leading the SMC student development staff on those front lines.

"There's a real genuine spirit between the folks that work here," he says.

When Laffitte learned of the opportunity at SMC, he said he was immediately interested. Working at a small college was appealing to him. Plus, it would get him back closer to home — he is originally from Rock Hill, SC.

"I knew that professionally I could get some great experiences. I think it's always important to be learning and growing. I had always worked at a bigger school; you wonder what it's like to work at a smaller school," he comments.

Laffitte's experience in student affairs and development also previously included positions at the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and the University of Denver.

"But SMC has ended up being a really good fit for me and my family," he comments.

And now he looks back at his first semester here and says he is "very impressed with how it went. Our staff did an awesome job. I think I students currently enjoyed the semester also. And we didn't have any major problems."

He finds that although the size of SMC is different than what he is used to, many of the concerns are the same from institution to institution.

"Students are students; there are a lot of similarities as to what they go through whether here or at a four-year school," adds Laffitte.

A unique challenge, however, at SMC, he says, are that the students here who hold leadership positions are holding those at a younger age than they typically might at a four-year school.

"You have to be aware of that, but it's a good challenge. That benefits them for the

future — it prepares them for the next step. Someone who has that experience early on, they won't get lost. There is real value for them having an experience early on," comments Laffitte.

Laffitte came into his position at SMC in the middle of the summer, which he says was good timing.

"That gave me time to come in, get things ready and prepare," he says.

From Orientation to the Freshmen Day of Service, to housing and to student health, Laffitte says the semester was a very busy one.

Now, having a semester under his belt as Dean, he can look back and start to evaluate how that semester went and start putting together plans for the next academic year.

"For me it's been learning the culture, seeing how it works and adding to it. Maybe there's a new way to do things. What does assessment tell us about the success of our programs?," states Laffitte.

"I learned a lot in the first month and over the course of the semester. Looking back, I wouldn't change a thing. It was a really good semester," he adds.

Being able to go back and review and as-

sess every area is something Laffitte says is critical in student development. That assessment can come in various forms, whether through personal review, looking at staff components and needs, and seeing what works for the students and what doesn't.

"Am I still looking at things with a different lens, sure. I learn something new every day. But I want to spend more time with the staff saying well, while we do this, let's think of this. It all comes back to the students. What do students want? Right now we just kind of ask them. I would love to come up with some ways to assess what students want and come up with some programs," adds Laffitte.

Doing all of that is up to the entire team though.

"We're all frontline over here. At a bigger school, there are more barriers for students and it's harder for them to meet people. I like being frontline. What works great in our favor is that the staff here is incredibly hard working; I think, college-wide, they want to help the students. The staff is real open to questions though and to why do we do this or that. Everyone is professional. It's a good working group," he comments.

Having that team be able to assess the program collaboratively will play a big part in future programs at SMC, according to Laffitte.

"We're so busy with the day to day we often don't have a chance to ask did this go well. But we need to be real focused on that. We need to be focused on using our time the best we can. Let's look at our traditional programs and see if they're what the students want and do they benefit the college. Are there new things that we want to get into? That all needs to be discussed," he adds.

Growing the staff will also be beneficial.

Being added to the frontline in 2010 is a new counselor, which Laffitte says will be a critical asset to the students and the department.

"That's a position that we've desperately needed to add. We're fortunate to be able to increase our staff. The highest enrollment in 20 years benefits everyone," he

says

Being able to interact with the students on a more one-on-one basis has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of the job for Laffitte.

"It's been great to get to know students and to interact with them. The beauty of this place is you can get to know them, even commuter students. I think there's a real sense of 'we want you to be successful at this level so you can go on to the next level'," he says.

Helping the students out as they face their own challenges is something Laffitte says he has had more personal opportunities to do over the semester also.

"What I've enjoyed is talking to students we know aren't doing well. There have been some I've had really heart-to-heart conversations with. It's panning out with some, it's not with others and I hate that. I know it's a balance and you have some pluses or minuses. We, of course, would

ments.

He would also like to grow more programs to help students understand what it means to be a college student — whether about what they need to do as far as transferring to another institution, how they need to manage their time and resources; or even increased study skills seminars.

Student health is another area in which Laffitte says there are opportunities for more educational programs.

But there is always the issue of budget constraints which Laffitte says will be examined along with every other aspect of the programs under his direction.

Overall, Laffitte's experiences thus far at SMC have been exciting and rewarding.

"I have a lot of good, fresh memories," he says.

He also adds that living on campus is a new experience for him.

"It's great I'm so close. I tend to be a little reserved, especially when I'm at



Dean of Students Ron Laffitte (left) gets in on a game of pool with some SMC students

like for it work out with all of them," Laffitte says.

Looking to the students for their input needs to be a critical element in the mix also.

"Getting the students' input on more things tells you a lot. I think we can do more things student-body wide," he com-

ments. But it's good if there's a crisis or bad weather, I'm right here. I'm sitting in the front row all the time. But there's a really good reason for that. I wish more colleges would do that. Some people may not want that, but I think it's a real benefit," Laffitte comments.

Starting Out a N



Freshman Justin Lykins carries an armful into Sparrow Hall on Freshman Move-in Day.

ew Year at SMC

Convocation Opens Year of Record Enrollment

Spartanburg Methodist College's 2009 convocation ceremonies on Sept. 9 kicked off an academic year which is seeing the College's largest enrollment in 20 years with a headcount of 808 and full-time enrollment at 798.

SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith, who served as keynote speaker for the event, applauded other recent milestones of the college and its students, including the college's recent 10-year reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, its eight athletic teams that went to national competitions in the 2008-2009 season, the recent publishing of faculty member Dr. Joseph Onger's doctoral dissertation, and service initiatives that various students have individually spearheaded.

She also addressed topics of individualism, success, and the power of dreams.

"Don't compromise your individuality as you choose your path in life. What I mean by that is you need to really think about who you are and what's important to you as you go through your classes here and as you think about what you want your eventual major, and eventual career, to be," she told students.



(l-r) SMC Dean of Students Ron Laffitte installs Brandon Hunter as Student Government Association President, while SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith watches.

Dr. Keith added, "The challenge facing the SMC community, faculty, staff and students alike, is to weave together needs of the individual while at the same time to build a sense of community, to foster a climate that enhances opportunities for success and to allow dreams to happen. It is a challenge that I feel SMC has met for the past 98 years, and will continue

to meet well into the future. It is the essence of the SMC experience."

During the ceremonies, SMC also inducted Brandon Hunter as its Student Government Association President for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Hunter, a sophomore and 2008 graduate of Greenville High School, is the son Drico and Bridget Hunter, of Greenville, SC.

"Scene" Around Campus During Freshman Move-In



Move-in day is always a busy time for freshmen as they get their rooms in order and get settled in to the life of a college student

SMC Family Helps Out One Of Its Own

October 3 was a brisk, foggy morning but was also one in which the SMC spirit and sense of family showed brightly.

More than 300 participants came out to show their support for 2008 SMC alum Jeremy Vangsnes and his family in the Jeremy Vangsnes 5K Benefit Run.

Vangsnes, a cross country runner both his years at SMC, was severely injured in a July 21 automobile accident in Bozeman, MT.

The Vangsnes brothers were returning to a summer missions program after a weekend getaway when the accident occurred. Their brother Ryan suffered only minor injuries in the crash; however, Jeremy and Dan were both seriously injured. Jeremy suffered a severe closed head injury and was airlifted to a hospital in Billings where he would stay for over a month.

After his long stay in an ICU

and later an acute care facility in Montana he returned to South Carolina on a medical flight in September. Dan suffered multiple deep wound injuries and spent several months in rehabilitation in Montana before returning home in time to watch the Jeremy Vangsnes 5K Benefit run take place.

The event raised more than \$4,000 to help the Vangsnes family out with Jeremy's and his brothers' medical expenses.

Since the event, Jeremy spent time in a acute care facility in Charlotte, NC, and is now at the Spartanburg Hospital for Restorative Care.

Although still unconscious, he is responding to verbal commands to a degree and has said, "Hi Scott" to one of his brothers.

Jeremy's father Mark Vangsnes said that he was overwhelmed by the amount of support and turnout at the benefit run.

"This is tremendous. The support that Jeremy and our entire family has received from SMC



Left: Jeremy Vangsnes during the 2007 NJCAA Half Marathon Championship; Right: Shane Kyzer, who finished in 1st place in the 2009 Jeremy Vangsnes 5k Benefit Run. To view more photos and read more information on the event, visit: www.smcsc.edu/jeremy

and the entire community has been so amazing. We've talked with Jeremy and told him about this event and what's going on. I wish he could be here to see this; he would be so proud and tickled by it. But he knows that his friends here are praying for him — we've told him that," said Mark Vangsnes.

A fund is set up at First Baptist Spartanburg to help cover family expenses for the Vangsnes.

For more information on Jeremy and to follow his progress, you can visit his CaringBridge Web site at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/vangsnesboys/mystory>

KSA Service Fraternity Awarded \$1,500



Vector Corp. of Olean, NY is a direct marketing company that employs only college students in their sales force. Of all of the colleges on the east coast SMC students had the highest per capita of sales in their company for the last calendar year. As recognition for SMC's great accomplishment, the Kappa Sigma Alpha service fraternity at SMC was awarded \$1,500 for use in community service projects in the greater Spartanburg area. Pictured (l-r) are KSA Advisor Pete Aylor; KSA President Holly Atwood; and Vector Corp. General Manager Trey Harris and Assistant Manager Jessica Knox.

Helping Feed the Hungry



SMC students, including sophomore Michelle Vise, above, participated in the Hub City Empty Bowls project this semester by making bowls for the initiative, which helps feed hungry citizens. All bowls used in the program are made by volunteers and soup is provided by local restaurants. The program also takes minimum donations of \$15 for a bowl, of which all proceeds go to the Second Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg's Soup Kitchen. For more information on the program visit www.hubcityemptybowls.com



Freshmen Day of Service



Your Future Presentation

More than 400 Spartanburg Methodist College freshmen participated in the 9th annual Freshman Day of Service on their first Saturday as SMC students.

Freshmen Day of Service is a community outreach event held each fall during the first weekend freshmen are on campus, in which all freshmen are required to participate. The event is designed to give incoming students an opportunity to learn more about and give back to the Spartanburg community.

The event also assists students in developing leadership skills and generates a greater awareness of the needs within their own communities.

The SMC student ambassadors, the college's orientation leaders, chose "Your Future Presentation" as the theme of this year's event.

Sites that SMC students helped out at this year during Freshmen Day of Service included:

- * Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- * Children's Shelter of the Upstate
- * Faith Home of Spartanburg
- * Fuller Center for Housing
- * Girl Scouts' Camp Mary Elizabeth
- * Hatcher Garden
- * McCracken Junior High School
- * Middle Tyger Community Center
- * Park Place Assisted Living
- * SAFE Homes Rape Crisis Coalition Thrift Store
- * Second Presbyterian Soup Kitchen
- * South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind
- * Southeastern Children's Home
- * Spartanburg Area Conservancy
- * Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network
- * Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home
- * Upstate Family Resource Center
- * Whitlock Junior High School

Overflowing

**New Student Led
Worship Experience
Helping Strengthen
Spiritual Connections**

with Praise

A group of SMC students are hoping that Thursday nights at SMC will become known for something more than just the unofficial start of the weekend – that it will become an evening of worship and praise.

Fall 2009 saw the start of Overflow, a Thursday night worship experience led by SMC students. It's already become very popular and a mainstay of student life at the College.

"Overflow started out as an initiative of the campus ministers to bring the campus ministry groups together in a worship experience. We thought it would be good to be student led. The plan was to hand it off to the students and now students are leading it," says Steven Gaines, SMC's campus minister for the Church of Christ.

The students are enjoying being able to develop the programming for it, line up speakers, serve their fellow students, and most importantly, lead their fellow students in developing stronger connections with their faith.

It started off as an informal bible study on Thursday nights, during the 2008-2009 academic year, that was sparsely attended.

"That led us into doing something," comments sophomore Jay Rochester, one of the student leaders of the Overflow service and a member of the Overflow band.

"We got a hunger for wanting to see people get involved in something like that and see their lives change. We just decided, let's do it," he adds.

So now at the average Thursday night Overflow service, always at 9 pm, there are several dozen students all worshipping together, being led by one another.

They bring in special guests to speak – mostly local ministers and worship leaders. The SMC campus ministers have all remained involved though and are there for advice and logistical help.

The student reaction has been pleasantly surprising – both in attendance and sup-

port for the service. It even has its own Facebook page.

"To get it started in just one semester and keep it going has been awesome," adds Rochester.

Rochester and classmate Ben Webb say the benefits of the service are endless. They say major benefits for students can be to learn from one, support one another and lead each other through challenges in their lives.

"As students leading other students, we



Opposite page: SMC sophomore Travis Lane; (inset) sophomore Diana Lowry **Above:** The Overflow Band, whose members are (l-r) Ryan Andrews, Ben Webb, Jay Rochester, Jacob Durham, and Weston Taylor

see other people in the same situation as us. So it's easier to develop relationships with them and help each other. That's why this being student led is significant so we can develop on the same level," says Webb.

But being in a leadership role also brings a great deal of responsibility – which the Overflow team says they accept wholeheartedly.

"When you get involved in something like this, you hold yourself to a higher standard. You start thinking about who's around you and what you're doing at all times. That is something that can help you in your faith because you have to rely on God to help keep you out of those situations and to really be looked at as a leader," says Rochester.

It's also a chance for people who may be not have had the opportunity or desire to

before to connect with God.

"It's a challenge for us to keep the support and interest overflowing especially on a Thursday night since that is traditionally a night when people like to party. Hopefully, though, the people who are interested or feel they're at the point in their life when they want to connect with God will attend and learn something that will change their lives," says Webb.

And the students hope that the service becomes something even stronger at SMC, grows larger, and serves as a model for what other campuses can do.

"We have the opportunity to change lives here and keep it overflowing across campus and maybe even to different campuses," says Webb.

The team hopes that people who experience Overflow while at SMC will carry its mission on to their four-year school – maybe even start it elsewhere as a small group.

"We've started it here, let's pass it down next year. Let's make it something that when people come to SMC they

know this happens on Thursday night. It might take a while. When we went into it last year we didn't know how people would take it. We decided when we started it that it didn't matter what people thought at the time. But maybe 10 years down the road they look back on that experience and that may be what changed their lives. It's not all about seeing results at the time. It gives you hope that you're touching more people's lives than you think or see," Rochester says.

Webb adds, "God tells us to go to the ends of the Earth. I think that's what the goal really needs to be. Bringing in new people and new worship - that may be our main focus. But it's always good to be reaching out further."



2009 Homecoming and Family Day

Friends, family, and fun - that's what Homecoming and Family Day at SMC is all about. The 2009 event was held on Oct. 3 and featured several activities throughout the day for people to enjoy, including the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen Brandon Hunter and Miranda Anthony, who are pictured above with SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith; outdoor activities; a picnic; a student talent show; and Pioneer athletic events.



SMC Cross Country Teams End 2009 In JUCO Top 20

The SMC cross country teams finished off their fall 2009 season with high marks at the NJCAA National Cross Country championship and at the National Half Marathon.

The women's team finished 5th at the Half Marathon - the team's second highest finish ever in that event. The men's team finished in 9th place.

It was the fifth year in a row that both teams have had a Top 10 finish in that event.

Sophomore Rosa Young earned All-American honors at the Half Marathon; freshman Maria Rocha and sophomore Wesley Scott both won U.S. Citizen's All-American Honors.

Scott and Young were the leading runners for their teams, both having finished as their team's top runner in seven out of eight events this season.

Both SMC teams finished in the Top 20 at the Cross Country nationals -- the men at 20th and the women 16th. Young claimed All-American honors at that



Wes Scott



Rosa Young

event also.

"Overall, this was the best season ever for the women's team and one of the top three seasons ever for the men," says head cross country coach Mike Foley.

By finishing 16th in the nation, the women tallied the highest finish ever at the cross country national championships ever since NJCAA Division I and II merged. As for the men, they continued their excellence with an eighth straight Top 20 performance at the cross country nationals and a 5th straight Top 10 finish at the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championship.

SMC Soccer Teams Fight Hard Throughout Season

The SMC soccer teams both posted strong records and performances in the 2009 season, with several players being recognized with region honors.

Both teams went to the Region X Tournament, where the men finished in second place and the women in third.

The men lost the championship game 0-7 to Louisburg College; the women went out in the first round with an 0-3 loss to Cape Fear College.

For the men's team, nominated for 1st Team All Region X was Nathan Gray in the defensive position. Nominated for the 2nd Team All Region were Sebastian Restrepo in the defensive position, and Vinnie DeLaCueva, in the forward position.

Greg DeMare and Taylor Varney were nominated for All Region Honorable Mention.

On the women's side, nominated for 1st Team All



Nathan Gray



Jordan Hart



Julia Harris



Erin Raffaldt



Abbey Weick

Region Team X was Jordan Hart, for goalkeeping; Abbey Weick for defense; Julia Harris, for midfield; and Erin Raffaldt, for forward.

SMC's Second Team All Region X nominations were Kelsey Otero and Jenna Thompson, both for defense.

Freshman Gabriela Acosta

was nominated for All Region Honorable Mention.

The men finished the season 10-8 overall; the women went 5-8-1.

Volleyball Makes Third Consecutive Trip to Nationals

The SMC Pioneers' volleyball team made its third consecutive trip and its fourth in program history to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Fall 2009.

The Pioneers entered the tournament as the 16th seed.

Despite having a clear disadvantage in height, the Pioneers were able to put forth a solid performance with points on the board against both its opponents.

In the first round, the Pioneers went 0-3 against Salt Lake Community College, 8-25, 12-25, and 16-25; in the consolation round, SMC lost an 0-3 set against Hutchinson Community College, 15-25, 8-25, and 10-25.

At the Region X tournament, the Pioneers overcame a last place seeding to win the 2009 Region X title.

Several members of the SMC squad came away from the tournament with regional honors as well.

Sophomore Taryn Blackwell was named an All Region X player, while sophomore Blaise Ramsbotham



Taryn Blackwell



Haley Cannon



Britany Hagler



Blaise Ramsbotham

was named Region X Tournament MVP.

Sophomores Brittany Hagler and Haley Cannon, as well as Ramsbotham, were named to the Region X All Tournament Team.

SMC Athletics Ranked 45th In JUCO's Scholarship Division

Spartanburg Methodist College recently received recognition in the Top 50 of the National Junior College Athletic Association's scholarship division programs for its athletic teams' participation in national level events in 2008-2009.

SMC was ranked 45th among all NJCAA scholarship-awarding colleges that received points toward the 2008-2009 National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) Cup.

SMC was the only NJCAA Region X program ranked in the Top 50 and one of only four in the region to receive points toward the NATYCAA Cup.

NATYCAA Cup award points are based on the number of intercollegiate athletic teams from the college which advance to national competitions during that year and their performance at those events.

In 2008-2009, eight SMC teams advanced to national competitions.

"The fact that we are in the Top 50 of JUCO scholarship programs says great things - about our student athletes and our coaches. It shows we are a nationally competitive program. That's something to be very proud of," says SMC athletic director Mark Perdue.

Wallace Named ABCA All-Region Coach of the Year

The SMC Pioneers' head baseball coach, Tim Wallace, was named the 2009 Diamond Sports ABCA All-Region Coach of the Year for the National Junior College Athletic Association Division.

This is the fifth time Coach Wallace has been honored with the award

"We are extremely happy for this honor; the team had a great year last year. This is another reward for him and his staff on a successful year," says Mark Perdue, SMC athletic director.

SMC president Dr. Colleen Keith add, "There is no coach more deserving of this award than Coach Wallace. His success at the national level is only eclipsed by the personal and professional integrity we all see in him here at SMC on a daily basis. He is one of SMC's finest."

The 2008-2009 Pioneer baseball team placed 5th at the Division I NJCAA World Series and finished the year 55-9. Last years' squad also earned Wallace's 800th win at SMC.

Wallace is currently in his 19th season at the helm of the Pioneers. His previous teams have produced an 807-247 record with NJCAA Region X Championships in 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2009.



Bonds of

Some bonds can't be broken. Just ask David and Sebo Alexander.

The Alexander brothers – brothers by adoption who met each other in an African orphanage – are soccer players at SMC who consider themselves very grateful to be where they are.

The brothers both lost their biological parents during the Liberian Civil War in the 1990s.

Sebo lost his father when he was two in what his mother told him was a drowning accident. Then at age six, his mother died from a gunshot wound.

"My biological father drowned. Some people say it was accident. I don't know because I was so little. He worked for a cargo ship and apparently something happened to the ship so it sank. Half the crew made it ashore and half didn't. A lot of people said that people tried to kill him because he was successful, was a businessman and his family was doing very well. My mom told me before she passed away that it was an accident. That's the story I go with. That's how I remember," Sebo says.

His mother was also killed during the war.

"There was a lot of chaos going on," he comments.

He was taken care of by some family members, an aunt in particular, who was working with African Christian Fellowship International.

"She knew the founder of the ministry so she talked to him. That's how I went into the orphanage. Even though she dropped me off, she kept an eye on me. She would always come back and

check on me. But now I have no idea if she's alive," he says.

David was just an infant when his father was killed in the war and doesn't recall many memories of his mother. He lived with an aunt for a while until being taken in at the same orphanage as Sebo.

"I really don't remember my mother," says David.

The orphanage run by AFICI was filled with children who had similar stories – having faced the loss of mothers, fathers and families due to the civil war.

As they grew older, they discovered music and became involved with a children's choir that would tour the United States raising money for their orphanage.

David and Debbie Alexander heard the boys' choir sing at their church in Weddington, NC. They heard the children's stories and that their visas were about to expire. And ultimately adopted both Sebo and David – who, both at the age of 13, became part of the Alexanders' family that already included two college-age children.

"After the concert, about six parents came in and started talking to us. Our adopted mother, she talked to me for a while. We spent the night at their house a few weeks later; then, after that, we got the news that the Alexanders wanted to adopt us," Sebo recalls.

The process was not easy and took quite some time – but ultimately worked in the Alexanders' favor. And David and Sebo had



Brothers

Sebo Alexander, left, and David Alexander, right

a new family and a new place to call home.

The Alexander family went on to adopt four other children from Africa – David’s three biological siblings and Sebo’s best friend.

“We still have friends back in Africa. We pray for them and hope they are good, but we never know,” says David.

Both brothers are hopeful that the new Liberian president is able to bring the country back together.

“There were so many things destroyed and so many broken families. Trying to build homes and figure out what people are going to do is going to be hard, after so many years of civil war. I think it’s good she’s trying to pull things back together but it’s going to take time. It’s going to happen though,” comments Sebo.

He says that memories of the war and life in the orphanage are still clear in their minds.

“If you have a rebel group, it doesn’t matter what the age is. You can have a 6-year-old holding a gun and 40-year-old holding a gun fighting side by side. That’s one thing that really stuck with me. Kids were fighting a war and they had no idea what was going on. They just know they’ve been told to shoot somebody. That’s one of the most vivid images in my mind – children being told to go fight just because some guy told them to,” Sebo recalls.

David describes his memories of food shortages in the orphanage and older children not eating so the young children could

eat.

“That’s one of the things I think about every day. I just thank God for everything I’ve got now,” says David.

They are both tremendously thankful for their adoptive parents’ love and generosity.

“To take two children – and then to go back and adopt four more – I respect that so much. I think the only way you can do that is because God has told you to. I love them and respect them so much for everything they have done,” says Sebo.

As children, David and Sebo played soccer in Africa. Their love for the game has never died. As they went through high school, they continued playing the sport and hoped to also in college.

Both were recruited by SMC soccer coach Dan Keanneally.

“They’re quiet. They’ll talk and we have conversations, but everyone on the team loves them. They’re two individuals that have been through a lot. They work hard with their school work and they don’t miss class. They’re appreciative of everything they have,” says Keanneally.

“Being here and going to college – with your brother – is a good thing. Being part of this team is awesome,” says David.

Sebo agrees, saying “We never imagined we would be able to go to college. Now we’re going to college – together. And playing soccer. We are so blessed.”

Join us and compete to win . . .

The Golfing Opportunity of a Lifetime!!

The winning foursome receives a round of golf for four
played at the #1 golf course in South Carolina,
The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island.....

Other great prizes will be awarded also



Sign up now to compete in the
SMC Spring Golf Classic
presented by Coca Cola of Spartanburg

River Falls Plantation in Duncan, SC
April 26, 2010

Call Don Tate at (864) 587-4227 or
email tated@smcsc.edu

Visit www.smcsc.edu/golfclassic for more details

What's happening in your Life?

Spartanburg Methodist College would like to hear about your recent personal and professional accomplishments or anything new going on in your life. This information may be used in future issues of Frontiers. Please use this form to share your news.

** Fields marked with an asterisk are required for both general updates and for Alumni Weekend registration*

* Name: _____ * Class of _____
Spouse's Name: _____ Alumnus? () Yes Class of _____ () No
* Address: _____
* City / State / Zip: _____
* Phone (H / M): _____ Phone (W): _____ * E-mail: _____

Alumni weekend registration - please make sure your name, address, phone number, class year, and e-mail address are filled out above. Also, please fill out this additional information:

_____ I will attend the Friday reception with _____ guest(s)
(Reservations limited to first 100 people, reception is free)
_____ I will attend the Saturday luncheon with _____ guest(s)
(Cost is \$14 per person)
_____ I will attend the reception at BMW with _____ guest(s)
(Cost of reception is \$14 per person)

Check made payable to SMC Alumni Office enclosed for \$ _____

Bill my _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____ for \$ _____

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Call me at the following number _____ for my payment options

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Spouse's employer (if SMC grad): _____ Position: _____

Birth - Child's or childrens' name(s) _____ Birth date: _____

Marriage - date of marriage: _____ (do not send prior to marriage)

News/promotions/honors: _____

Policy: We welcome news that is **no more than 1-year old**. All announcements are subject to editing for brevity if they exceed 150 words, including "In Memorium" notices. If you would like to submit a photo along with your news, digital photos will be accepted in any file format as long as they are at least **300DPI** -- We reserve the right to determine the quality of your image.

You may use the enclosed envelope to return this form to: SMC Office of Alumni Relations, 1000 Powell Mill Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301 or email alumni@smcsc.edu



From promise to print, we do this for you.

Communicate. Collaborate. Deliver. Delight.

When companies need to communicate a message in print, Indexx is there to help support the effort – communicating, collaborating and delivering on every promise we make.

800.252.8227

INDEXX.COM



INDEXX
FROM PROMISE TO PRINT.



SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE
1000 Powell Mill Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301-5899

Change service requested

Non profit ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 161
Greenville, SC

If your contact information on the mailing label is listed incorrectly or you have received this magazine by mistake, please let us know. Correct the label and mail it back to us. Check all below that apply:

- ☐ Misspelled name
☐ Received more than one
☐ Wrong address
☐ Remove my name from mailing list



March 26 & 27 - Save the date!



The BMW Zentrum - Greer, SC

SMC Alumni Weekend 2010

Friday, March 26

6-8 pm - Welcome reception at SMC President Dr. Colleen Keith's house (199 River Falls Drive, Duncan, SC, 29334)

Saturday, March 27

10 - 10:30 am - Registration in Barrett Learning Center at SMC

10:30 - 11 am - Campus tours led by SMC ambassadors

10:30 - 11:30 am - Silent auction

11:30 - 12:30 pm - Awards luncheon

1 - 3 pm - Class reunions

Also on Saturday, March 27:

4 - 6 pm - Alumni reception and talent showcase in the Zentrum at BMW Manufacturing's North American production facility in Greer, SC. Heavy hors d'œuvres will be served.

To register for Alumni Weekend, please fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and return it in the envelope included with this issue of the Frontiers - or register online

Visit www.smcsc.edu/alumniweekend for more details