

FRONTIERS

A publication of Spartanburg Methodist College



Fall 2007

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- **Campus Safety Plans Being Reviewed**
- **Baseball, Volleyball Go To Nationals**

From the President's Desk...



Dear friends,

As the Holiday Seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas give way to the New Year, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings that God has provided in my life. The blessings of family, friends, colleagues, and my educational training immediately come to mind.

As I reflect on these blessings, I discover that some were important “turning points” that made a significant impact on my life. Although some of these turning points were not obvious at the time, in retrospect they were significant moments that led to my personal and professional growth and development.

I attended a small two-year United Methodist college that was much like Spartanburg Methodist College is today. At that institution, two professors greatly influenced me after a difficult academic start in college. At that time, it seemed as if they were relentlessly pursuing me to ensure that I prepared myself for the rigorous academic expectations in college. I was not at all sure why they singled me out, and I was a bit resentful and embarrassed when the Professors asked me to see them after class. When I was mature enough to realize how very much they assisted me, one of my mentors had passed away. I took every opportunity to thank the other professor for the care and attention he gave me at that formative time in my life. When I told him I did not know how to adequately express my gratitude, he simply said “Pass it on to others.” Since that time, I have tried to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

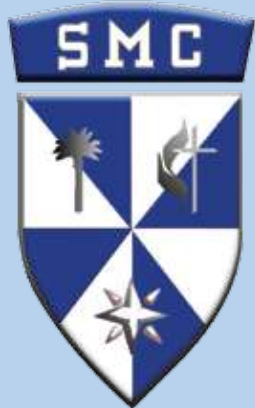
During my time at Spartanburg Methodist College, I have discovered that my alma mater was not unique in mentoring students. The SMC faculty and staff understand that some students need to be nurtured, but they also know that students need to be challenged and held responsible for their actions. By doing this, students become stronger persons who are prepared to address the inevitable challenges that life will surely bring their way. Countless numbers of students have shared with me the many ways that SMC faculty and staff helped to turn their life around. As I count my blessings, I include the faculty and staff at SMC who continue to make positive differences in the lives of our students.

The Holiday Season is an opportune time to remember those persons who led you to “turning points” in your life. My guess is that you will recall several persons at SMC who made a positive difference in your life. Give thanks for those blessings in your life, and “Pass it on to others!”

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles P. Teague".

Charles P. Teague
President of the College



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

Additional Photography: Pete Aylor, Gary Hefner, Randy Layman, Candice Sloan

SMC Mourns Part of the Family

Dr. James S. Barrett

Dr. James S. Barrett, Spartanburg Methodist College's fourth president, died at the age of 73 on June 20, 2007, after a heroic battle with cancer.

Dr. Barrett served as president of SMC from 1970-1976. He was instrumental in furthering the mission of SMC and leading the College through a very defining period of its history.



- During the early 1970s, increasingly more amounts of institutional money were made available to students as a source of financial aid.
- A \$3 million capital funds campaign began in 1971, which ultimately led to the construction of the Barrett Learning Center and Camak Auditorium, along with Davis Mission Chapel. Funds from the campaign were also used to renovate the Marie Blair Burgess Library and several other facilities on campus.
- In 1974, Spartanburg Junior College became Spartanburg Methodist College.
- Throughout the 1970s, the college developed "lay advisory committees" which helped develop career-track curriculum.
- Student Support Services was introduced in 1972 and quickly became a critical resource for students.
- Also in 1972, the college developed the Director of Development position, which was responsible for fund raising and was first held by George Fields, who would later become SMC's fifth president.
- By 1974-75, there were five academic programs available at SMC.
- In 1975, the Associates in Criminal Justice degree was developed.

A native of York County, SC, Dr. Barrett was the son of the late Woodman and Willa Nesbitt Barrett. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by the beloved great uncle and aunt who raised him, James and Etta Sherer; and a half-brother, Bill Barrett. He is survived by his best friend, golf partner and wife of 52 years, Mason Moore Barrett; children, Alex Barrett and his wife Pam of Greensboro, Rob Barrett of Spartanburg, SC, and Ginny Barrett Patten and her husband, Don, of Lake Junaluska; grandchildren, Philip Sherer Barrett and Paul Mason Barrett of Greensboro, Robert Mason Barrett Jr., Alexander McQuary Barrett, and William Hudson Barrett of Spartanburg, James Hunter Patten, Sara Grace Elizabeth Patten, and Emily Margaret Patten of Lake Junaluska; a sister, Jane Burrell, of Clover, SC; half-sisters, Kathy Greene, Elaine Cornwell, Mary Jo Hall, and Sandra Barrett; a half-brother, Douglas Barrett; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Dr. Barrett was a graduate of Wofford College and Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He held honorary doctorates from Wofford College, DePauw University, Claflin College, Westmar College, and Kentucky Wesleyan College.

His career in United Methodist parish ministry, higher education, and community foundation work spanned over 40 years. After serving as President of SMC, in 1977 he was named chief higher education officer of the United Methodist Church, with offices in Nashville, TN.

From 1981 to 1984, Dr. Barrett served as president of Greensboro College. In 1984, the Barretts returned to Spartanburg, where he accepted a senior staff position at Wofford College. For 12 years prior to his retirement in 1997, Barrett served as president of the Spartanburg County Foundation.

Blair Camak LaRocca

Mrs. Blair Camak LaRocca, daughter of SMC's founder Rev. Dr. David Camak, died at the age of 87 on July 19.

Mrs. LaRocca was born in Spartanburg. Throughout her life, she was a supporter of higher education, particularly at SMC, and the College of Pharmacy at the University of Georgia at which she established a scholarship in the name of her husband.



She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Dr. Joseph P. LaRocca.

Mrs. LaRocca was an active member of the Athens First United Methodist Church, in Athens, GA, of which she had been a member for almost 50 years.

After graduating from Winthrop College, Mrs. LaRocca worked for a time as a school teacher and later as a hospital lab technician. Along with her husband and other local Athens parents of handicapped children, she was instrumental in the founding of Hope Haven training school for the developmentally disabled. She was also a strong supporter of Gracewood School and Hospital at which she regularly visited her daughter up until only weeks before her death. She was an avid reader and bridge player who loved the arts, loved to travel, and enjoyed summers at her home at Lake Junaluska NC.

Jim York

Former SMC baseball and basketball coach James Pinkney York died on October 28, 2007 at the age of 86.

Coach York was a professor at Spartanburg Methodist College where he chaired the division of Health and Physical Education and coached basketball and baseball from 1957 until his retirement in 1984.

York was a graduate of Spartanburg Junior College and Wofford College, as well as having attained a Master's in Health/Physical Education at Columbia University, New York, NY.

He was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served for six years.

York began his teaching career as a Physical Education teacher at Cleveland Jr. High School and Fremont Elementary School in Spartanburg before assuming his position at Spartanburg Junior College.

In 1947, he married Betty Fair Campbell (deceased). He is survived by their two daughters, Elizabeth Fair York and Sally Anita Giles, and one grandchild, Joy Claire Holden, all of Spartanburg.

"He would really go to bat for people he knew. Coach York was just a tremendous individual who cared for everybody on his team. His unselfishness is what I remember most about him," says SMC Director of Development Don Tate, who played baseball under Coach York.





OPEN FOR BUSINESS

(l-r) Bill Roach, SMC Executive Director of Information Technology; Gwen Paul, neice of Herbert and Rebecca Vassey; Dr. Charles Teague, SMC President; SMC Trustee Phyllis Buchheit DeLapp; and Andrew Babb, son of Mrs. DeLapp, cut the ribbon to dedicate SMC's newest facility on April 25.

Spartanburg Methodist College held a grand opening and dedication of its newest facility, which includes the Phyllis Buchheit Board Room and the Vassey Information Technology Center, on April 25.

The 4,213-square foot, \$1.1 million facility is designed to accommodate additional meeting space, provides a new board room for the College's Board of Trustees, and includes new offices and workspace for the College's Information Technology Department.

The Phyllis Buchheit Board Room is named for Mrs. Phyllis Buchheit DeLapp, who serves as a trustee of the College and whose family has a

longstanding tradition of supporting the College.

The Vassey Information Technology Center is named for Herbert and Rebecca Vassey, of Spartanburg, who died in 2001 and 2004, respectively. A bequest was made by the Vasseys to SMC and also to Bethel United Methodist Church in Spartanburg.

The new facility will allow the College's Information Technology Department to double its floor space from 700 square feet to nearly 1,400 square feet. It includes two private offices, a reception area, an IT support area, and a climate-controlled server room with additional workspace.



Members of the Vassey family and DeLapp family were on hand for the dedication of SMC's newest facility.

A Fitting Honor



Mary Ellen Suitt has spent her life sharing her artistic talents with everyone around her, but never expected to have an art gallery named after her.

“I was surprised when I found out that Spartanburg Methodist College and its Board of Trustees wanted to name a gallery after me,” Miss Suitt says.

“I was so honored and so pleased. The fact that it is such an ongoing thing is really special. At the ribbon cutting, it hit me — this is a big deal. I hope that I can help encourage some of the students,” she adds.

The Mary Ellen Suitt Art Gallery was dedicated in September, with a crowd of more than 100 friends and special guests in attendance.

“It is a great privilege for Spartanburg Methodist College to honor Ms. Mary Ellen Suitt by naming the SMC art gallery in her honor. For many years, she has been a generous friend of our students, our fine arts program, and the College as a whole. Miss Suitt’s paintings are recognized by patrons of the arts and the public at large as a ‘must have’ when collecting the outstanding art in the Upstate of South Carolina. It is a pleasure to display some of her many paintings in our Mary Ellen Suitt Art Gallery,” says SMC President Dr. Charles Teague

Some of Miss Suitt’s works will be on display continually in the gallery, while it will also be used to showcase faculty, staff, and student works.

Miss Suitt has been a lifetime member of Central United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, through which she forged many friendships with Spartanburg Methodist College administrators, staff, and faculty.

“Over a period of time, I have known many of the faculty. They work together so well and are such a fine group. They have a way of reaching the students,” says Miss Suitt.

As a child, she heard stories of the beginnings of SMC — when it was the Textile Industrial Institute — from her father, who was in the wholesale grocery business and sold groceries to TII.

Her brother Howard is now a member of the College’s Board of Trustees.

“We’re all so proud of how far the College has come. I have enjoyed watching it grow and seeing the students have such a grand time there,” comments Miss Suitt.

She frequently comes to art shows and receptions at the College.

“I think the younger generation has a lot to say. I think we can all learn about each other and history itself through art. As an artist, you really don’t want to stay in the same place. You want to move on and change,” she states.

Miss Suitt is very humble about her talents — but at the same time, takes a lot of pride in seeing how support for local artists has grown in the Spartanburg community.

She took an interest in art at an early age.

“Reading and some of the academics were always hard for me, so I took to art right away. Art was a life-saver for me all through school,” she says.

She says one of her elementary school teachers suggested to her mother

that she try art. At the time, Miss Suitt was taking music lessons, but wanted to try something different.

So after that conversation, she turned from the keys of the piano to the bristles of a paintbrush. But that was at a time when Miss Suitt says art classes, especially for women, were hard to find.

"In those days the schools really had no art to speak of. I started going over to Wofford to paint with one of the teachers there. When I got into high school, I wanted to take mechanical drawing but they wouldn't let me because I would have been the only girl in the class. It turned out that's what I made my living with," she comments.

After graduating from Spartanburg High School, Suitt went to Stratford College in Danville, VA to prepare for a career as an art teacher. Then she went to Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, FL. Her post-graduate work was conducted at Converse College and the University of Arizona.

She ended up pursuing a career other than teaching.

With the United States' involvement in World War II intensifying, Miss Suitt went to the local Civil Service office and asked what she might be able to contribute. She was told the military was looking for draftsmen.

"They asked what experience I had. I told them I had taken commercial art, but hadn't had any drafting. So they gave me some ink, some pens, and a map — and told me to take that home and draw a map. I brought that back and they told me the job was mine," Miss Suitt recalls.

At first she was told she would have to take drafting courses at night at Converse College, which she gladly agreed to. But she ended up not having to take it because of how impressed her supervisor was with her work.

A short time later, Miss Suitt and several other cartographers were told they were about to start working seven days a week, 11 hours a day, on top secret work for the war effort.



SMC Professor of Art Ann Wenz; Mary Ellen Suitt; and SMC President Dr. Charles Teague at the dedication of the Mary Ellen Suitt Art Gallery on the SMC campus.

With guards at the door, Miss Suitt and other cartographers were being brought reconnaissance photographs from the frontlines, starting with Italy. They began drawing new maps based on those images and revising roads and buildings from the cities that were being bombed.

She assisted with mapping locations in the South Pacific. She also assisted with making the maps used for the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

"I enjoyed the work — it was really interesting. But I missed my art and there was no way I could do that when I was working 11 or 12 hours a day," states Miss Suitt.

After the war, she worked for 31 years as a cartographer with the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, updating maps of counties nationwide.

While working for the Soil and Conservation Service, she got back into her art gradually and taught at night for the Spartanburg Art Association.

"I realized that it's better to use a little bit of time, than to use none. Anything you don't use, you lose. So it's very important for anyone to work constantly at what they love," Miss Suitt says.

Miss Suitt became a key figure in the Spartanburg art community.

In 1957, she was one of the co-founders of the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg.

"By that time, we were beginning to realize the need for an artists' organization in Spartanburg. There was such a loose group of artists and no opportunity for them to exhibit or anything else," Miss Suitt recalls.

She is very excited about the group's 50th anniversary this year.

"We've come so far and accomplished a lot. I'm really happy of all the progress here in Spartanburg, like with the Hub City group which is giving younger artists more opportunity. When I came along, the only thing art was used for was to teach school. Now, there is a lot more support in the community," Miss Suitt says.

She is also a member of Excellence of the South Carolina Watercolor Society.

Miss Suitt doesn't teach art anymore, but enjoys traveling.

Her travels — to places like China, India, southeast Asia, Australia, and Iceland — have served as an inspiration for her works.

"Traveling opens your eyes to a whole new world," Miss Suitt comments.

She has seen Gustav Vigeland's sculptures in Vigeland Park in Oslo, Norway; Rembrandt's works on

display in Holland; and Michaelangelo's David in Florence, Italy.

"You see reproductions - but until you see the originals you just don't know what the thrill is. I hope more and more students are able to experience some of these works of the great artists at some point in their lives," says Miss Suitt.

Although she has had many inspirations for her works, her favorite pieces are those of people. But, she does a good bit of landscapes also.

She doesn't work on white canvas, preferring to under-paint the canvas. And if the piece has structure, she will draw it out first. She sketches her figures.

"But if it's a landscape, I'll take my brush and start. I have no pattern — I never really know where I'm going until it's finished," she says.

Miss Suitt often has multiple projects going on at once, which is why when you ask her how long it takes for a piece to be completed, she says, "It just depends."

"Sometimes I can do things really quickly. Sometimes I'll go back to something a lot later. Sometimes you almost have to rework something. But when someone asks me how long it takes to paint something I tell them 'a lifetime.' Because, really, that's what it is," she states.

SMC Installs New Board of Trustees Members

Two new members have been elected to the Spartanburg Methodist College Board of Trustees.

Outgoing trustee Rev. Jim Gilliam was replaced with Dr. Phinnize Fisher, of Spartanburg; trustee Anne Irwin was replaced with Marianna Habisreutinger, of Spartanburg.

Trustees John Gramling, Rev. Jean Osborne, Liz Patterson, and Andy Westbrook were each re-elected to a second three-year term.

Trustee Rev. Ken Timmerman was re-elected to a third three-year term; trustee Dr. Bruce Yandle was re-elected to a fourth three-year term.

Serving as Chairperson for 2007-2008 is trustee Jerry Calvert. Trustee Bill Painter is serving as Vice-Chairperson.

Dr. Phinnize Fisher has served as the Superintendent of Greenville County Schools since 2004. She is a native of Virginia and has a Master's and Doctoral degree from Rutgers University. She also serves on the boards of directors of several local organizations, including the Greater Greenville United Way, Success by Six, Alliance for Quality Education, Graduate Greenville, along with the Greenville Technical College Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Fisher is active in a number of other community groups, including the Pleasantburg Rotary, American Association of School Administrators, Greenville Professional Women's Forum, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and is a NAACP lifetime member. Awards and honors she has received include the Order of the Jessamine, Women Making History Award, Greenville Magazine Administrator of the Year, and an Honorary State FFA Award. Dr. Fisher and her husband Tony live in Spartanburg and have two children. Her interests include reading, golf, and flower and vegetable gardening.



Jerry Calvert



Dr. Phinnize Fisher



Marianna Habisreutinger

Marianna Habisreutinger is the founder of the Charles Lea Center Foundation and currently serves on its board. She serves on numerous other boards of directors within the community, including those of the Cancer Association of Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, Inc., the Urban League of the Upstate, Upstate Forever, Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home, and the Storm Eye Institute of the Medical University of South Carolina. She is also a member of the Converse College Board of Visitors, Wofford College President's Advisory Board, the Health Education Complex of the University of South Carolina - Upstate, and the \$300,000,000 fundraising committee of the Medical University of South Carolina.

Mrs. Habisreutinger is a member of Spartanburg First Presbyterian Church and is a past president of the Junior League of Spartanburg. She is the 1994 recipient of the David W. Reid Award for Achievement in the Arts and the 1997 Piedmont Area Girl Scouts "Women of Achievement Award." Mrs. Habisreutinger and her husband Roger live in Spartanburg and have three children. Her interests and hobbies include family activities and trips, home entertainment, volunteer service to non-profits, snow skiing, and bird hunting.

College Promotes Four Staff Members



Jean Capel



James Gregg



Kimberly Newton-Burgess



Carolyn Sparks

Jean Capel has been promoted to Academic Computer Lab and Helpdesk Manager. In this position, she will provide the first level of support for students, faculty and staff seeking information technology solutions and will route second level support issues to the IT staff in the Vassey IT Center.

James Gregg has been promoted to Senior Information Technology Specialist. He will be overseeing campus networking and other computer and system upgrades across the campus.

Kimberly Newton-Burgess has been promoted to Director of Admissions. In this position, she will be heading up the recruitment efforts of the Admissions Department, overseeing the Student Ambassadors, and working directly with Spartanburg County students and their parents.

Carolyn Broome Sparks has been promoted to Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid. She will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of both the Admissions and Financial Aid departments.

A Career Dedicated to SMC



Pam Parker Ponder has worked in the President's Office at SMC since August 1997.

This fall, she was promoted to Executive Administrative Assistant to the President and celebrated the beginning of her 24th year at SMC.

Her co-workers agree that she is an exceptional colleague and friend who puts a tremendous amount of hard work and dedica-

"The joy in watching our students succeed and working with a wonderful faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees who really care about the success of our students is what I enjoy most about my job"

- Pam Ponder

tion into her job and relationships with faculty, staff, and students – so much so that she was chosen this year as the first recipient of the J.L. Geddis Staff Excellence Award.

"I am honored that I was selected by my peers to receive this

award. The award means a lot to me. I worked for Mr. Geddis for 12 years and consider him a great friend," says Mrs. Ponder.

Mrs. Ponder was hired at SMC in November 1983 as a temporary employee in the Computer Services Department. In 1985, she accepted a position in the Business Office where she worked with Mr. Geddis, the Vice President for Business Affairs and Professor of Accounting and Economics.

"Mr. Geddis was a wonderful supervisor with a 'heart of gold.' He was always committed to helping the students at SMC succeed," recalls Ponder.

She maintains a close friendship with Mr. Geddis and his wife, Shelba, who frequently join the "lunch bunch," a group of Ponder's closest friends at SMC, to

stay in touch and to continue her friendship.

Mrs. Ponder is a graduate of Gettys D. Broome High School, Spartanburg Technical College, and Spartanburg Methodist College.

While working full-time at SMC, Mrs. Ponder enrolled as a full-time student in the evening program at SMC and earned an Associate's degree in Office Administration.

"I have 24 years of great memories here. The joy in watching our students succeed and working with a wonderful faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees who really care about the success of our students is what I enjoy most about my job," comments Mrs. Ponder.

"A strong sense of collaboration in fulfilling the College's mission is very evident at the College," she adds.

Mrs. Ponder and her husband, David, enjoy spending time at the beach and in the mountains as well as spending time with family and friends.



Former SMC Vice President for Business Affairs
J.L. Geddis and Pam Ponder

New Faces at SMC



Dawn Anthony



**Abbey
Bedenbaugh**



Allan Burden



Jeff Duncan



Ryan Grover



Wayne Hindman



Mark Holycross

Dawn Anthony is serving as an assistant athletic trainer at SMC through the college's partnership with Spartanburg Regional Hospital System's Sports Medicine program. Miss Anthony, 25, began her duties at the start of the 2007-2008 athletic season. She is a Pennsylvania native and a 2004 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a B.S. in Athletic Training. She earned her Master's in Sports Medicine in 2007 from the University of Pittsburgh. Miss Anthony was hired by SRHS in the summer of 2007. Her interest in sports medicine was sparked during her high school soccer career. She currently resides in Spartanburg. Her other interests and hobbies include dogs, running, and scrapbooking.

Abbey Bedenbaugh was hired in May as coach of the Lady Pi-oneers cheerleading squad and in August as a Financial Aid Counselor. Mrs. Bedenbaugh is an alumnus of Spartanburg Methodist College, where she was a recipient of a cheerleading and softball scholarship. She is a 2006 graduate of Wofford College with a B.A. in Sociology. She and her husband Jamey were married in September and reside in Chesnee.

Allan Burden was hired in August as a Campus Safety Officer. Burden, 24, is a 2001 graduate of Calhoun Falls High School and is also a student at SMC, working toward an Associate in Arts. He plans to pursue a career as a United Methodist minister. His law enforcement career includes one year with the Calhoun Falls Police Department and two years with the Woodruff Police Department. He is also a former member of the National Guard, having served for three years following 9/11. Burden and his wife have two sons and live in Woodruff. In his spare time, Burden enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and fishing.

Jeff Duncan was hired in August as a Campus Safety Officer. Duncan, 28, is a Spartanburg County native and a 1997 graduate of Chapman High School. His previous law enforcement experience was as a detention officer for Spartanburg County. He previously worked for six years as a Fire Department Captain at Mitsubishi Polymers in Greer and in the HVAC business for several years. He is a first responder and volunteer firefighter with the Holly Springs Fire Department. He and his wife have three children and live in Campobello. In his spare time, Duncan enjoys spending time with his family and fishing.

Ryan Grover was hired in August as a Professor of English. He is teaching English 100, 101 and 102 in the Fall semester. Grover is a 2003 graduate of Wofford College, with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and a 2005 graduate of the University of South Carolina, with a Master's of Arts in English. He is currently pursuing a PhD. in 20th Century American Literature from USC. He has three years of teaching experience at the college level while at USC, having taught Freshman level English courses, and served as a writing center instructor. Grover is a native of the Tampa Bay, FL area; he and his wife, Erin, live in Spartanburg, where she is a teacher at D.R. Hill Middle School. In his spare time, he enjoys fantasy sports, video games, photography, and going to the beach.

Wayne Hindman was hired in September as an Information Technology Specialist to assist in hardware and software installations across campus and the coordination of the campus IT department's Help Desk. Hindman, 52, says he has always been mechanically inclined. He has an Associate's Degree in Electronics Engineering from Greenville Technical College. Being in a military family, Hindman, a Greenville native, graduated high school from the Vincenza American High School in Vincenza, Italy. He previously worked at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville in the school's technology department. Hindman and his wife live in Travelers Rest. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, which includes three children and two grandchildren, camping, fishing, and going to the beach.

Mark Holycross was hired in August for the 2007-2008 academic year. He taught Physics and Physical Science in the Fall semester. Holycross has spent much of his career in engineering and product development for Mettler-Toledo. He has a B.S. in Physics from Findlay University in Ohio and a Master's in Physics from the University of Toledo. Holycross has always had an interest in understanding how things work, which is why he pursued a career in science. Holycross is married and has two grown sons. This family has lived in the Spartanburg area for 15 years. In his spare time, Holycross enjoys reading non-fiction works, taking walks, playing racquetball, and swimming.

New Faces at SMC



Ani Kish



John Nichols



Joseph Onger



Kyle Owings



James Paul



Kris Pratt



Denise Willard

Ani Kish was hired in August as a Professor of Computer Science. She taught Computer Concepts, Web Design, and Algorithmic Design in the Fall semester. Ms. Kish has a Master's of Science in Software Engineering from the University of South Carolina and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Computer Science from USC. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Kish gained college-level teaching experience as part of her graduate level studies. She most recently worked as an independent programmer and consultant; prior to that, she served as a corporate instructor for various industries in the New England area. Ms. Kish, a native of Connecticut, is single and has lived in the Spartanburg area for 18 years.

John Nichols was hired in September as an admissions counselor. Nichols, 23, is a 2006 graduate of Wofford College with a B.A. in English. As an admissions counselor, he will serve students from nine counties in the Upstate area of South Carolina by providing them assistance through their application process. He will also represent the college at various recruiting functions, including college fairs and school visits throughout that region. Nichols, who was raised in Rock Hill, SC and currently lives in Spartanburg, has a passion for filmmaking and sees that as a possibility in his future. In the meantime, he also enjoys kayaking, fishing, and hiking.

Joseph Onger was hired in August as a Professor of Economics. He taught Microeconomics and Macroeconomics in the Fall semester. Onger, a native of Kenya, received his Bachelor's and Master's of Arts degrees, both in Economics, from the University of Nairobi. He went on to earn a Master's of Science degree in Economics from Perdue University and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Pennsylvania State University which he expects to complete in 2008. He most recently worked as a financial business analyst for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. His teaching experience includes 10 years teaching graduate and undergraduate level courses at the University of Nairobi and teaching Economics courses at Harrisburg Community College in Pennsylvania. He is married and has four children; he divides his time between the Spartanburg area and the Harrisburg, PA area where his wife currently works.

Kyle Owings was hired in May as head coach of the Lady Pioneers'

golf team. Owings, 24, is a Spartanburg County native and a 2000 graduate of Dorman High School. He received a B.S. in Business Management from Anderson University in 2004. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Education degree from Converse College. Owings works full-time as a career counselor at Dorman High School. He also assists the Dorman High School golf teams as a swing instructor.

James Paul was hired in September as an admissions counselor. Paul, 23, is a 2006 graduate of Presbyterian College with a B.S. in Psychology. As an admissions counselor, he will serve students from 17 counties in the central and grandstrand areas of South Carolina, by providing them assistance through their application process. He will also represent the college at various recruiting functions, including college fairs and school visits throughout that region. He is also a talented guitarist, singer and songwriter with a flair for blues/classic rock/folk and alternative music. He is single and lives in Spartanburg. In his spare time, he also enjoys paintball and karate.

Kris Pratt was hired in August as a Professor of Religion. He taught Old Testament, New Testament, and Introduction to Religious Thought in the Fall semester. Pratt, a Cary, NC native, is a 1996 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a Bachelor's of Arts in Education. He received a Masters in Divinity from Gardner Webb University in 1999 and a PhD in Religion in 2005 from Baylor University. While working as a minister at Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Hickory, NC, he realized his ministry was in teaching. Prior to coming to SMC, Pratt taught at Palm Beach Atlantic College in Florida, where he taught religion at the adult continuing education level. He and his wife Tara have a 19-month old daughter, Lenore, and live in the Asheville, NC area. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, spending time with his family, and exploring the mountains of western North Carolina.

Denise Willard was hired in May as coach of the Pioneers dance squad. Miss Willard, 24, is a Union County native and resident of Spartanburg. She is a 2005 Wofford College graduate with a B.A. in English, and also has her teaching certification. Miss Willard is a full-time English teacher at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, where she also coaches the school's Blue Belles dance squad and serves as the JV basketball cheer coach. She previously taught English and Drama at Jonesville High School, and also served there as yearbook and cheerleading advisor.

An Issue of Safety . . .

Campus Safety Plans Being Restructured, New Communication Tool Implemented In Fall Semester



Chief of Campus Safety Teresa Ferguson reviews live security camera feeds. The College utilizes a network of more than a dozen security cameras across campus.

Spartanburg Methodist College is unique in many aspects – from its history to its mission, to its students and its campus.

It is a very special place.

But one thing that is not unique about it is its concern for the safety and well being of its students, faculty, and staff.

“I don’t think there is an hour that goes by that anyone who deals with campus safety, at any college or university, doesn’t think about the safety and welfare of their students and employees,” says SMC Dean of Students Dr. Art Hartzog.

On April 16, 2007, that issue took center stage on a global level when 32 people were killed at Virginia Technical College in Blacksburg, VA, by a student.

“Certainly, my first reaction when I heard of that tragedy was one of sympathy for the victims, and then empathy for the university’s administrators and police force. But you can’t jump on the

administrators for saying they should have done this or should have done that. They probably did all they could do given their knowledge of the situation at the time,” comments Hartzog.

SMC Chief of Campus Safety Teresa Ferguson says she stayed out on campus all day that day and made herself available to students to talk to if they had questions.

“You can prepare for incidents. But there are so many unknown variables. You just have to go in certain steps and follow procedures as best as you can,” comments Chief Ferguson.

Hartzog says one of the first actions taken at SMC was to send an email out to students assuring them that there are emergency plans in place at the College.

In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy, as college administrators and safety departments from institution to institution began to digest the events that had unfolded that day, crisis management and emergency response

went under review at virtually every educational institution in America.

Talk of new methods of communicating rapidly with students began to flood the national media, and colleges, SMC included, began to receive emails and calls from companies wishing to provide new services.

“Even before Virginia Tech, Hurricane Katrina and other instances on campuses nationwide helped turn the focus in the last three or four years toward more effective emergency planning. College communities are like any other community. We are vulnerable to virtually anything. In order to function and survive, you must have a plan to address things that may disrupt operations,” says Hartzog.

So SMC administrators have since been reevaluating and reworking the College’s emergency response plan.

“We’ve always reviewed our plan from time to time. But this

new assessment process we have will require a formal review at least once a year. We’ll also do some sort of exercise based on a scenario in the plan at least once a semester,” he says.

In doing so, the College looked at several other institutions for benchmarking purposes to determine where SMC is in relation to what other institutions are doing.

The end product is a plan that Hartzog says “addresses virtually every conceivable situation. It is unified – and it is flexible in that it doesn’t prescribe procedures so that you’re locked in to doing things only one way. The three most important things it addresses throughout are command and control, communication, and use of resources.”

Chief Ferguson will be responsible for reviewing that plan each year and recommending changes.

SMC also recently added a new communications tool which will allow the College to communicate quickly with several differ-

ent groups.

"We had been looking at some way of communicating more rapidly with students. But, obviously, the Virginia Tech tragedy gave a real impetus to doing something," says Hartzog.

In August, SMC signed a contract with Spartanburg-based EmergaTxt to provide messaging services that College administrators can utilize to rapidly communicate with students, faculty, and staff in the event of an emergency, natural disaster, campus closure, inclement weather, and a variety of other types of situations.

The service is free for recipients; however, they must voluntarily sign up for it, and provide a cell phone number and/or email address. The system will send out alerts via text messaging or email.

Other technological advances will be looked at as time goes on and the need arises, says Hartzog.

But that is just one aspect of SMC's multifaceted emergency response plans.

Communicating with students and parents the role of the Campus Safety Department is a very important part of maintaining confidence in the College's efforts.

"We always try to stress to the students that we are here to provide for their safety. When I talk with them, they tell me that they feel secure on our campus. We're fortunate to be able to talk to the students as they come on to campus at the start of the semester and allow them to ask questions, even if they think they might sound silly. We want them to know that we're here to help them and answer questions," states Chief Ferguson.

Led by Chief Ferguson, the Campus Safety Department is Class 1 certified by the State Law Enforcement Division and has the same type of authority and powers as any other law enforcement officer in South Carolina. The de-

partment currently has four full-time officers and two part-time officers.

SLED has also granted a security license to allow additional security officers on campus, who will have arrest powers also.

They are the front-lines.

Constant training and upgrading of tools is a necessity for campus safety.

In recent years, the department has installed a network of security cameras across the campus. Footage from those cameras is recorded and can be utilized as necessary for investigations.

Also key to the College's security and safety plans are call boxes located around campus; increased lighting around campus, and electronic, recordable card access to all resi-

dence halls. The annual campus crime report is made available online also.

"There will always be new resources available - and we will continue to look at what we feel could be beneficial to us here at SMC," says Hartzog.

Working with other agencies and departments within the region is also beneficial to the operations of the Campus Safety Department and to implementation of emergency plans.

"We may from time to time need to call in outside agencies to assist in an emergency situation, so having those relationships and those lines of communications established is critical," says Chief Ferguson.

The SMC Campus Safety Department has strong relationships

with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department and the Spartanburg County Emergency Preparedness Department, both of which can be called in to assist the SMC department with various needs.

Chief Ferguson regularly attends meetings with the Spartanburg County Chief's Association, which includes chiefs from all municipalities and colleges in the county and the South Carolina Chief's Association, which is a statewide organization for chiefs from colleges, municipalities, and counties.

In the end, solid planning, training, and communications are the most critical aspects of any emergency response plan, states Hartzog.

The SMC community extends its thoughts and prayers to the Virginia Tech community during this holiday season. We mourn your tragic loss this year and admire your strength and courage. From our family to yours, may you feel peace and comfort this season.



SMC Dean of Students Art Hartzog reviews the college's emergency response plan with Chief of Campus Safety Teresa Ferguson.

Paralegal Program Having Banner Year



(Above, left) The 2007 graduating class of the SMC Paralegal Certification Program; (Right, top) Yvonne Harper presents the Student of the Year Award to Sharon Easler; (Right, bottom) Harper presents the Instructor of the Year Award to Assistant Solicitor Tony Leibert.

Spartanburg Methodist College's Paralegal Certificate Program has had its biggest year yet in 2007 — its third in operation at SMC.

Since moving from Converse College to SMC in 2004, the program had its largest graduating class this fall with a total of 24 adults receiving their Paralegal Certification.

"We're very pleased with the number of students that have completed the program this year. It's a significant jump from previous years. Most of those are working or actively pursuing employment in which they will be able to take advantage of the skills they have learned in our program," program director Yvonne Harper states.

The program is averaging 24 to 30 students per session, she says.

"Our best advertisement for the program is the success of our students. Word of mouth is a great help in that regard," adds Mrs. Harper.

She says that in recent years a wide diversity of students have been able to take advantage of the program.

"Many are pursuing second careers. But there are so many different paths and so many opportunities. We can help them mesh those opportunities with their unique personalities," states Mrs. Harper.

Mrs. Harper says graduates and students in the Paralegal Program are working with a very diverse range of employers, from electrical companies to the court system.

"All paths don't necessarily lead to a lawyer's office. We want to help our students explore those different paths and prepare them," says Mrs. Harper.

The program has also introduced several new courses this year, including the Spanish Communication Tools for Legal Professionals elective and the Cyber Crime and Computer Forensics course.

"Both of these courses have been very well received. The courses themselves are helping address the changing needs within the Upstate legal system," comments Mrs. Harper.

One added benefit of the program is having industry professionals -- such as judges, attorneys,

or practicing paralegals -- who are able to teach the classes.

"The knowledge they bring is tremendous. Being able to relate what they see or experience first-hand, on a daily basis, brings a lot more credibility," says Mrs. Harper.

Several scholarship awards were made this year to students within the Paralegal Program.

Norma Galvez, of Inman, SC, was awarded a \$1,000 Norma F. George, PLS Scholarship by the Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina (LSPSC), an affiliate of the National Association of Legal Secretaries.

Angela Mayfield, of Gaffney, SC, was awarded a \$300 scholarship by the Spartanburg Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

"It says great things about those students and our program that they have received such significant honors," states Mrs. Harper.

To top that all off, a scholarship fund specifically reserved for the SMC Paralegal Program was renamed this summer in honor of the late C. Bruce Littlejohn.

The Honorable C. Bruce Little-

john Memorial Scholarship for Spartanburg Methodist College Paralegal Student is supported by funds given to and managed by the Spartanburg County Foundation. It is awarded to worthy students in the SMC Paralegal Certification Program to assist with their tuition.

Littlejohn was a member of the Paralegal Advisory Committee since its inception in 1997 at Converse College. He was a member of the S.C. House of Representatives and Speaker of the House prior to his 39-year judicial career. He also was a Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

This Fall, Fletcher Thompson, a 1941 alumnus of Spartanburg Junior College, and his wife Ruth, a 1942 alumnus, provided the program with a \$10,000 gift to be used for future scholarships.

Thompson is also a member of the Program's Advisory Board, and a former SMC Trustee.

"We are very thankful for the Thompson's generous gift, and appreciate Fletcher's participation and on-going support of our program," says Mrs. Harper.

2007 Spring Graduation



SMC President Dr. Charles Teague (left) and Wofford College President Dr. Benjamin Dunlap

Spartanburg Methodist College conferred degrees on 118 students during its 2007 graduation ceremonies May 5 in Bridges Arena. Twelve August and December 2006 graduates participated in the commencement activities. Twenty-seven graduates of the 2007 summer session also walked during commencement services.

Dr. Benjamin Dunlap, President of Wofford College, gave the keynote address. Spring 2007 graduate Julie King, of Wellford, SC, gave the student address. King was also recognized as having the highest academic GPA of the Class of 2007. Student marshals for the event were Justin Blauert, of Inman, SC; Juliana Gomez, of Piedmont, SC; and Abby Harper, of West Columbia, SC.



Julie King



2007 Awards Day



(l-r) Abby Harper was presented the Outstanding Freshman Award by Kim Day, SMC Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development



(l-r) Amanda Shelnutt was presented the Thomas R. Bailey Humanitarian Award by Rev. Tommy Bailey.



(l-r) Pete Aylor, SMC Director of Counseling and Career Services, presented the KSA President's Award to Chris Dover.



Julie King (left) and Chis Roberson (right) were presented the annual American Legion Awards by SMC Dean of Students Art Hartzog.



(l-r) Mrs. Samuel Poston presented Justin Blauert with the first annual Rev. Samuel H. Poston Award.



(l-r) SMC Chemistry instructor Jamie Norton presented Tiffany Vaughn with the Norma Jean Miller Scholarship.

For a full list of student, faculty, and staff awards, please visit our website at www.smcsc.edu

The Start of

Record Number of Students Enrolled For Fall

A record number of students are registered at Spartanburg Methodist College this fall.

SMC's total fall headcount is 797, which includes new, transfer, re-admitted, and continuing students. This reflects an approximately 1 percent increase over Fall 2006.

"We are extremely pleased with our Fall enrollment numbers. Our total enrollment is the largest enrollment in the last 11 years. This

year's freshman class also has the highest average entering grade point average ever recorded at 3.13."

"Our continued growth is a sign that there continues to be a strong interest in a two-year church related liberal arts institution and that we are fulfilling our mission as an institution related to the United Methodist Church," says Dan Philbeck, Vice President of Enrollment Management.

Freshmen Day of SERVICE

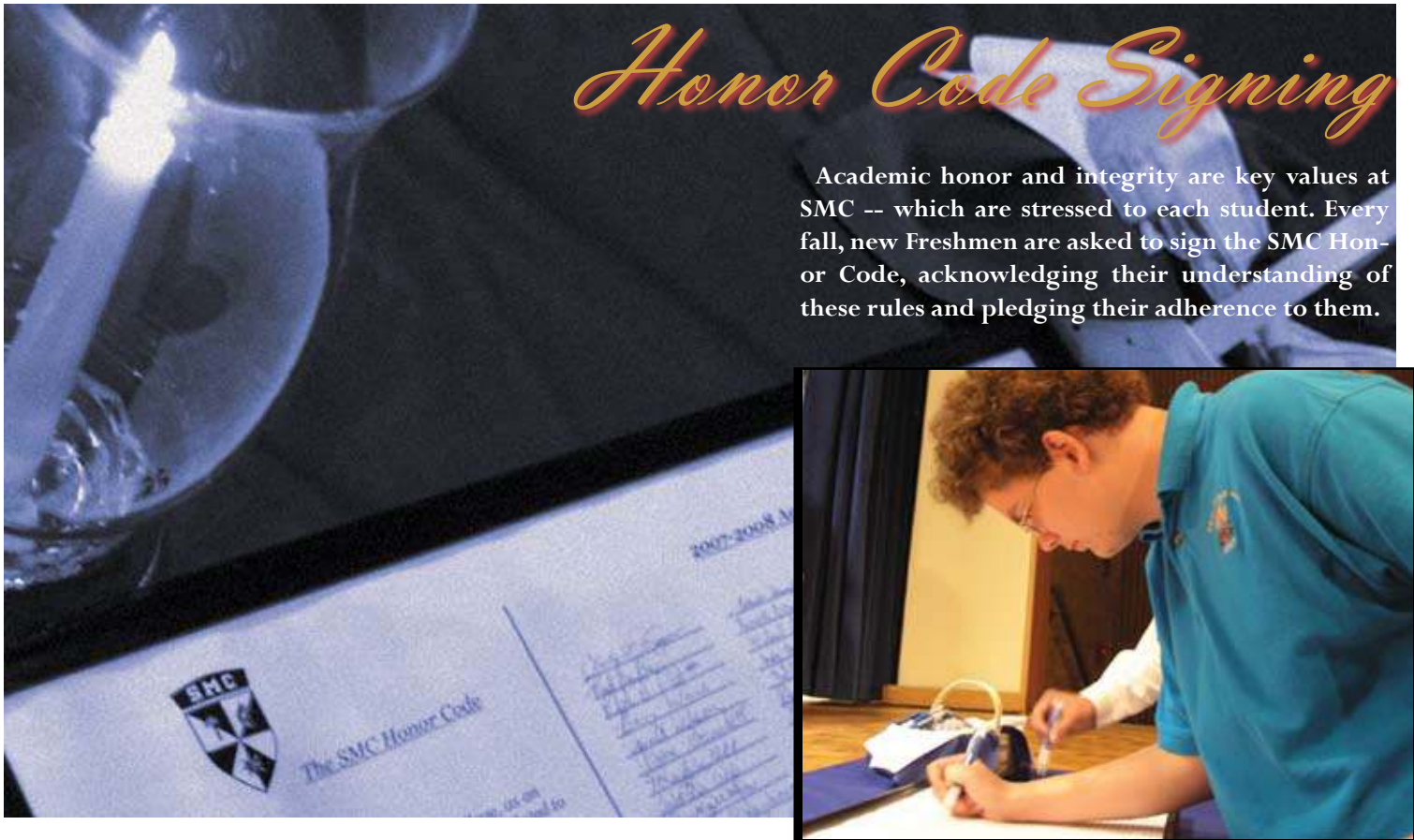
More than 400 Freshmen participated in SMC's 7th annual Freshman Day of Service on Aug. 18. The annual event is held the first Saturday that Freshmen are on campus and allows students to participate in service projects with many organizations in the Spartanburg County community.

Organizations the students worked with include: Alive and Well Animal Rescue, Jesse Boyd Elementary, Dawkins Middle School, Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity, Haven Homeless Shelter, Interim HealthCare Hospice, Miracle Hill Rescue Mission, Mobile Meals, Park Hills

Elementary School, Park Place Assisted Living, Safe Homes, Salvation Army, Second Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, Spartanburg Area Conservancy, Spartanburg Children's Shelter, Spartanburg Humane Society, and Woodland Heights Elementary.



a New Year



Academic honor and integrity are key values at SMC -- which are stressed to each student. Every fall, new Freshmen are asked to sign the SMC Honor Code, acknowledging their understanding of these rules and pledging their adherence to them.

Freshmen Told To "Live, Laugh, and Learn"

Spartanburg Methodist College held its annual convocation ceremonies on Sept. 5 to mark the official start of its academic year.

Rev. John Hipp, an SMC Board of Trustees member and graduate of the College, gave the keynote address, relating his experiences as an SMC student to those in attendance.

Hipp charged the students to "live, laugh, and learn" while at SMC and throughout their entire college career.

Installation of Student Government Association President Abby Harper was also held during convocation.

Harper, of West Columbia, SC, is the daughter of Michael and Valerie Harper.



(Above, left) Rev. John Hipp, an SMC Board of Trustees member, served as keynote speaker for the College's 2007 Convocation. (Above, l-r) SMC Dean of Students Art Hartzog; SMC President Dr. Charles Teague; Rev. Hipp; Abby Harper, SMC Student Government Association President.

Who Are Our Students?

They are...

A Diverse Group:

- 61% are new students; 39% are returning students
- 52% are male; 48% are female
- 60% are Caucasian; 35% are African American; 5% are other minorities

Representative of many regions:

- 94% are South Carolinians; 5% are from other states; 1% are international students

At different stages of their lives:

- 60% are Freshmen; 40% are Sophomores; 55% are first time Freshmen; 3% are joint enrollment; 3% are transfer students
- 38% are continuing students from 2006-2007
- 73% live on-campus; 27% are commuters

Dedicated to their education:

- 95% are full-time; 5% are part-time or other
- 78% of the 1,117 applicants for the 2007-2008 year were accepted; of those accepted, 51% enrolled in the Fall semester
- 53% are pursuing an Associates in Arts; 31% are pursuing an Associates in Science; 4% are pursuing an Associates in Criminal Justice
- Full-time students average 16.21 credit hours per semester at SMC

Source: SMC Office of Assessment Activities

Evaluating Student Learning At SMC

By Eunice Knouse

As a part of the reaffirmation of accreditation of the College by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges, the College has been given the opportunity to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to enhance student learning and/or improve the learning environment.

Our first step was to establish a small group of individuals, the QEP Team, which included faculty, staff, and students. Our first action was to brainstorm ideas and gather input from the various College constituencies: faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, students, trustees, and

local United Methodist ministers. At a series of luncheons we described the task and asked for input to develop a list of issues that they believed were important to student success. The response was overwhelming. We were able to garner a long list of topics that could help our students improve their knowledge, skills, behaviors, and/or values. The task for the Team became to decide on one topic among such a wealth of ideas.

In addition to acquiring ideas from the larger College community, the Team also examined available assessment data from a variety of areas on campus. When we put the information from these two sources together,

we decided to focus on the establishment of learning communities on our campus.

Learning Communities are a highly respected strategy for engaging students with each other and with their professors in ways that can help them develop their values, enhance their understanding of information, and increase their persistence in courses and in college. Once the focus was announced to the College community, an invitation was issued to faculty and staff to become a member of the QEP Development Team—the team that would spearhead the next phase in the development of the plan. Additional members from admissions, the faculty, student development,

and the administration joined the original Team.

Our most recent steps in this endeavor have been to determine the size and constituency of the learning communities, the goals/outcomes, and the model of learning communities that we believe will best suit SMC's students and accomplish the goals/outcomes we've set. At all phases in our progress we have been very grateful for the input from faculty, staff, and students and the support of the President and Vice Presidents.

We continue to work on developing and refining the plan and look forward to its positive impact in the lives of our students in the near future.



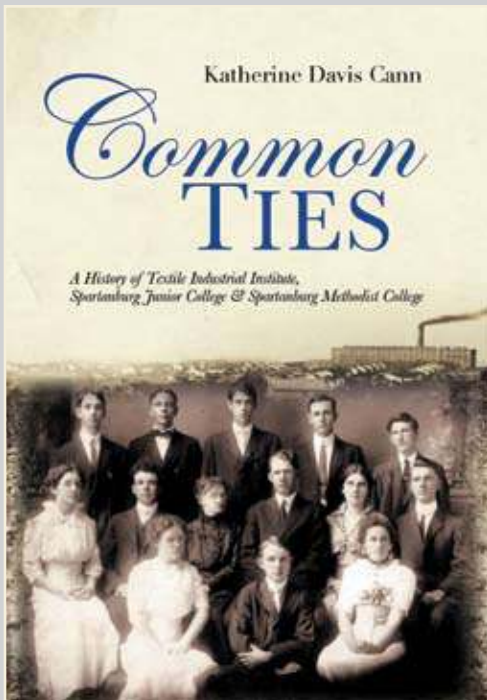
Psi Beta Active In 2007

(Left) The SMC Chapter of the Psi Beta National Psychology Honor Society held its induction for the 2007-2008 academic year recently. Pictured are (l-r) Mary Jane Farmer, faculty advisor; Amber Stoudemire; Lanis Young; Pete Aylor, SMC Director of Counseling and Career Services; Juliana Gomez, chapter president; Kathy Cann, Social Sciences Department Chairperson; Chelsi Edwards; Roger Perry; Heather Burdette; Sabrina Alexander; and Clay Perry. (Members Justin Blauert and Reggie Pryor are not pictured)

(Right) PsiBeta is working with Jesse Bobo Elementary to recognize students that take an active interest in reading. Those students in the school's Bear Reader program who read a certain amount of books will receive a pass to attend an SMC athletic event. (l-r) Pictured during the presentation of the passes are Juliana Gomez; Jesse Bobo media specialist Tina Harrell; school principal Patrick Suber; and faculty advisor Mary Jane Farmer.



Professor, Hub City Writer's Project Publishes Book On SMC



"... the real strength of the book is detailing in flesh and blood the early battles to create and sustain the institution. It is a gem of historical writing."

—A. V. HUFF, JR.
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, EMERITUS,
FURMAN UNIVERSITY



Spartanburg Methodist College and the Hub City Writers' Project announce publication of *Common Ties: A History of Textile Industrial Institute, Spartanburg Junior College, and Spartanburg Methodist College*, written by Dr. Katherine Davis Cann, Professor of History at SMC.

The book traces the history of this unique college from its founding in 1911 to the end of the presidency of Dr. George D. Fields, Jr. in 1997.

Common Ties may be purchased at the SMC bookstore on campus or ordered from: Hub City Writers' Project, PO Box 8421, Spartanburg, SC 29305 (www.hubcity.org)



The Kappa Sigma Alpha service fraternity had a record year in the 2006 – 2007 school year – but this school year is shaping up to be just as significant.

In 2006-2007, the KSA leadership board amassed a record of 1,403 individual total hours of community service through 15 different service projects, with a total of 63 members.

At the 2007 Awards Day, sophomore Chris Dover, KSA president for the 2006-2007 school year, received the KSA President's 100% Award; Secretary Amanda Shelnett received the Thomas R. Bailey – Humanitarian of the Year Award.

KSA started the fall semester off with 54 members. The group is being led this year by President Justin Blauert.

"Justin has a tremendous heart and is very civic minded. He is an excellent role model for his peers," states KSA faculty advisor Pete Aylor.

The group was started in 1990 as the Commuting Student Association, designed to give commuting students the opportunity to bond with one another.

But as the group began doing service projects, its name was changed to Kappa Sigma Alpha, along with its focus.

"Most college students like the idea of being affiliated with a Greek organization. So that's where the name Kappa Sigma Alpha originated," Aylor recalls.

He says what makes KSA unique is that it is only in operation at SMC,

it has no national affiliation, and it is strictly student funded. Members pay annual dues of \$20 each.

In recent years, some of KSA's projects have included working with local homeless shelters, nursing homes and local soup kitchens, just to name a few.

So far this year, KSA has volunteered at the Spartanburg Animal Shelter, assisted the Spartanburg Lions Club with the local fair, helped coordinate Operation Christmas Child efforts on campus, and has donated boxes of snacks and individual cameras to the local Spartanburg Children's Shelter, along with helping those children decorate bakery cookies for a Thanksgiving Cookie Monster party.

"We have an awesome opportunity in that instance to serve as role models for those children and for them to realize that their futures can be bright," Aylor comments.

Aylor says the group already has several projects lined up for the spring semester and expects more members on the roster.

He adds that service projects within the community are not only a learning and rewarding experience for members, but help get the word out that SMC is very dedicated to service.

"We have enough projects planned throughout the year so that each member gets to be active in service. They realize that by helping other people through service, they grow as individuals, feel good about themselves and have fun at the same time," Aylor says.

SMC Serving the Community



Several SMC students participated in the "Christmas In Action" program in October. One project included scraping shingles from the roofs of houses that are being refurbished for low-income families in the Spartanburg community. Pictured above are Melissa Easter, Joe Myers, Zach Dillard, and Brittany White.



SMC students under the direction of Chaplain Candice Sloan participated in the 2007 Fall Service Break, during which they assisted the Habitat for Humanity with the construction of several new houses in the downtown area of Spartanburg. Pictured above are Sarah Bridges, PSA Intern, and Joe Myers.



SMC hosted the 3rd annual Relay for Life for Spartanburg College on April 14, with Wofford College, Converse College, and USC Upstate all participating. \$28,000 was raised at the event; \$6,600 of that was raised by SMC. Money raised at Relay for Life events goes to support research, education, advocacy and treatment of cancer. Pictured above (l-r) are Peter Bailey, from USC Upstate; and SMC students Amanda Pierson and Megan Guiterrez

Homecoming and Family Day 2007

fun was had by all...



Sophomores Joe Johnson, of Hopkins, SC, and Abby Harper, of West Columbia, SC, were crowned King and Queen at SMC's Homecoming on Saturday, Sept. 29. They are pictured at left with SMC President Dr. Charles Teague. Above, Harper and Johnson take time with the Homecoming Court to goof around for the camera.



SMC Tennis vs. Brevard College



Hanging out with friends



Younger family members



Parents meeting the teachers



Going for a spin



Grown kids acting little again



Teka Dyson
SMC Idol 2007



Pioneer baseball on the mound



From the Alumni Office . . .

Dear SMC Alumni and Friends:

As a Spartanburg Methodist College alumnus, I know you hold a special place in your heart for SMC. I would like to encourage you take advantage of an exciting opportunity to reconnect with your classmates. Alumni Weekend 2008, to be held March 28th and 29th, is approaching quickly, so make plans now to attend.

We want to reach as many alumni as possible and get Alumni Weekend information out to all, but we need your help!

If you have any updated information on yourself and/or your classmates, please pass that valuable information along to our office via the College Web site at www.smcs.edu or by telephone at (864) 587-4225.

Also, if you are willing to review a list of "lost" alumni from your class or help plan a reunion gathering during Alumni Weekend, please contact the Alumni Office and we will provide you with a list. This year, the classes that end in 3 or 8 will be celebrating a special reunion. In addition to those reunions, each class is welcome to come and celebrate Alumni Weekend.

I look forward to seeing you at Alumni Weekend 2008.

Sincerely,

Leah L. Pruitt



Scenes from Alumni Weekend 2007

News and Updates

Class of 1929

Eugenia H. Bishop, of Spartanburg, recently wrote a note along with a contribution to the College: "95 yrs old and very ill." SMC wishes Eugenia good health and many more years.

Class of 1943

Elsie Collins Vaught and her husband John wrote, "God has blessed us to celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary in 2006."

Class of 1944

Jewel Prescott Duncan wrote, "I am 83 years old; widowed in 1999—now living next door to our youngest daughter and her family. I have continued with church activities; studying the Bible; enjoying 13 grandchildren of my four children and now eight great-grandchildren. I enjoy reading, painting, cooking, needle arts and entertaining family and friends."

Class of 1945

Guy F. Fain, Jr. and wife Naomi Scott Fain (SJC 1949) have a son, Dr. Guy F. Fain, III of Newport News, VA, and two grandchildren, Guy IV, who just finished Wheaton College, and Melissa, student

at Lee University in Cleveland, TN.

Class of 1948

Mollie Rae Wilson Floyd, retired in Gresham, SC, wrote and published a book MAN-NA'S House in 2006. She completed the B.A. degree and the M.A. degree at Francis Marion University.

Senator F. G. Scurry, Jr. of Sallada, SC wrote, "I met Margaret (Collins, Class of 1948), my wife, when we were students at SMC in 1947. We've been blessed with three wonderful children, Ralph (deceased), Janice and Grant. SMC is a great institution for more reasons than one. There I found the LOVE of my life."

Class of 1949

William Joe McCurry lives in Abbeville, SC.

Richard and Alma Jolley Riley, of Columbus, OH have been retired for 15 years and have two grandsons who both earned the Eagle Scout Award.

Class of 1950

Ruth King Eason of Matthews, NC, writes, "Enjoying retirement very much; active in my church and traveling with senior adults. I'm 'Grandmom' to three wonderful grandchildren."

Class of 1951

Elizabeth Baker Horton of Lancaster, SC, wrote, "I am doing well since my retirement from the Accounting Department of Customer Service, Springs Industries of Lancaster, SC. Staying active in music of my church, and Senior Groups of Lancaster, SC. I enjoyed my years at SJC and many friends I loved so much."

Class of 1952

Jeannette Blakeley Hatzenbuehler is enjoying life in Jupiter, FL.

Class of 1953

Van Bullock, is self-employed (USA Today) in Winston Salem, NC.

Class of 1954

Ralph D. Vaughn wrote, "I, along with members of the 1956 Baseball Team were inducted into the University of Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 15, 2006. Our team finished sixth in the 1956 College World Series."

Class of 1958

Phillip M. Graham and his wife Irma P. have a new grandson, Mason Anderson Graham, born October 26, 2006. He is corporate secretary with Clement Lumber Co., Inc.

Bill Adair and wife, Joan B. Adair (Class of 1975), of Spartanburg (both retired) wrote, "Bill attended when students worked and went to school alternately. Joan completed 24 hours Early Childhood around '75 or '76. Bill retired from Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Co. and U.S. Air Force. Joan taught piano and also was church pianist many years. Both have enjoyed many years with campus-on-mission as volunteers."

Class of 1962

Alfred McGaha is an agent with Buice Bowers Realty in Gaffney, SC. He is retired from the Cherokee County School System.

Class of 1963

Jane Reed Dyches of St. Matthews, SC is the Executive Director of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

Sibyl Katsos is now Sibyl Cooper residing in Lexington, SC.

Class of 1967

James "Ron" and Edwina Faulkenberry live in Florence where Ron is Dean, School of Education at Francis Marion University.

Richard B. Easley, of Spartanburg, SC is owner of Richard Easley Enterprises.

Mark your calendar!
March 28-29, 2008

Spartanburg Methodist College Alumni Weekend

Contact Leah Pruitt, Director of Alumni Relations,
at (864) 587-4225 or pruittl@smcsc.edu, for more information.

Class of 1969

William D. Boyd is owner of Boyd Tire & Appliance in Clover, SC.

Dr. James David Miller, of Brentwood, TN is employed with the Lincoln Financial Group.

Class of 1970

Richard W. Dunn, Jr. is owner of Rick Dunn's Painting and Remodeling in Tryon, NC.

Jan Bradley Trantham is self-employed in Asheville, NC.

Class of 1972

Dann Kirby wrote, "I wanted to write and say thank you for a great Alumni Weekend.... had a great and wonderful time while going back to the college I love.....time stood still....I just wish more of my classmates had been present. I am looking forward to the Alumni Directory."

Ernie Denny lives in Clemson. He was the 1971-1972 Editor of the Olympian.

Class of 1973

Rev. Charles C. Sams is minister at Starnes Cove Baptist Church in Alexander, NC.

Michael Anthony Gray has relocated from Lexington, SC to Pickens, SC.

Class of 1974

Wayne W. Federline is employed with the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, Greenville, SC.

Russell A. Priddy is a self-employed land manager.

Class of 1975

Debbie Ballenger Austin, of Columbia, SC, teaches kindergarten and preschool with the Union United Methodist Church.

Dr. Amy Poteat Thornton is a Chiropractor in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1977

Debbie Cothran Becknell and husband, Don, of Campobello, SC have two daughters, Rebecca and Emily. Debbie is

a buyer assistant with Milliken & Co.

Class of 1978

Steven D. Myer is a Lab Technician with Sonoco Products Co., in Hartsville, SC

Class of 1979

Debbie Martin Foster, of Union, is a Personal Attendant for autistic children at Foster Park Elementary School.

Brent J. Wade resides in Aiken, SC.

Class of 1980

Janet Y. Wooley Johnson, of Campobello, is employed with Grace Management in the Candle Dept.

Class of 1982

David E. Chadwick and wife Heather have two children, Richard Reynolds Chadwick (born April 5, 2006) and Lily.

Angela Clark, of Rock Hill, SC, is a Manager of Space Management Analysis with Kellogg Co.

Mary A. Sczechowicz is the financial secretary for St. James United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1983

Darryl McElhannon, of Burlington, NC, is Controller with Firstmark Aerospace Corporation. He and wife Leann have three children, Aury, Connor and Brooke.

Class of 1984

Kimberly Couch Gordner is a Special Education Teacher working with three, four, and five-year-old autistic children at Sherwood Park Elementary in Fayetteville, NC. She is married to LTC Gerald M. Gordner, II.

Class of 1985

Cynthia Parris Edge, of Lyman, SC, is a teacher of gifted children at Houston Elementary in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1986

Lewis M. Goldbourne of Altamonte Springs, FL is an electrical designer with Featherlite Coaches.

Exposed

Johann Hazel (SMC 1998), of Anderson, SC, recently wrote, "I graduated from SMC in 1998. It was so fun in college, to the point where I wanted to further my education even more. Pray for me." He wrote the following poem, "Exposed"

Who is the sequel to Sequel?
She has secrets that we tell.
Don't trust me to hold back the truth.
I tell it. Sell it. Quite uncouth.
Ruth is Jade Fox and my aunt
Greer damed ridicule me and they taunt.
I thought I'd be better off here so I came
When I first saw you I didn't know your name.
I found out and I feel that gave me clout.
I was a little unstable, they threw me out
On "Two Occasions" this is my third time here.
I flow like water that's why I'm clear.

I love writing, it's a gift from the risen Son.
We die only He is the risen One.
First, He rises again then the disciples awaken
Taken to paradise visibly shaken.
The only one not to be martyred was Judas.
Christ foresaw it all the reason was He knew us.
Judas hanged himself but he's reborn.
The audacity of Ice Cube leaves me torn.
Hip-hop won't stop but I will change
Once known as be-bop. I find it strange,
But why? Look up in the sky,
No bird, no plane. My, oh my.
I thought at one time Superman was real.
My soul went into a pit, it had to heal.

I don't want to hurt you. I wish I wasn't me.
An ear for the upright but it doesn't see.
That's for my eyes. I pay for my lies.
At one time in life I heard neither laughs nor cries.
Currently, I'm trying, not good enough.
I've got to do. Sometimes I admit it's tough.
When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
Billy drowning in an ocean, no motion is showing.
Now swimming in Hollywood. Not me.
When I'm wallowing in sin, then I cannot see.
So, Lord, open our eyes right now. They're closed.
I guarantee Babylon will soon be exposed.

-- Johann Hazel

Jason Pike was recently selected by the United States Army Promotion Board for the rank of Lt. Colonel. He is on active duty serving in South Korea as a Command Entomologist. Additionally, he received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his work in Medical Entomology. His parents, Dennis and Nancy Pike, reside in Boiling Springs, SC.

Class of 1990

James C. "Jamie" Bishop is self-employed in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1991

Melissa McCroskey, a 1991 SMC graduate, has been named Benefits Account Manager at Upstate-based Rosenfeld Einstein, in Greenville. Prior to assuming her position at Rosenfeld Einstein, she spent seven years in human resources and employee benefits support for Liberty Corporation and Bowater, both in Greenville. She is a licensed agent in life, accident, and health insurance. She is a resident of Anderson, is active in the Junior League of Anderson, and is a native of Greenville.

Class of 1992

Kenneth Drucker is a realtor in Conway, SC. He received a BS in Business Management from Limestone College in 1996.

Class of 1996

Woodie Eubanks was recently named head coach of the women's golf program at Samford University in Bir-

mingham, AL. He has been head coach of the men's program since fall 2003.

Johnny Marlowe resides in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Stacie Luedeke Williams is the Division Process Improvement Leader with Miliken & Co. in Spartanburg, SC. Stacie is the current Past President of the SMC Alumni Association.

Class of 1997

Rita K. Young is a field deputy with South Carolina State.

Class of 1998

Karen Crapse is now Karen Glassburn and lives in Plum Branch, SC.

William Brantley (Brant) Segrest is a Senior Regional Sales Manager with Logistics Management, Inc. in Greenville, SC. He married Jennifer Hill on August 16, 2003.

Class of 2002

Allison Jean Caulk, of Roebuck, SC, is a former Admissions Counselor with SMC and is now pursuing a M.A.T. in Special Education from Converse College.

Adam Newberry is a Development Engineer with Miliken and Company in Spartanburg, SC. He graduated from Clemson in May of 2006 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. Adam is the son of SMC Faculty Member, Kent Newberry.

In Memorium

Class of 1938

Dennis Rozzell Betts died October 16, 2007 in Orangeburg, SC. He was a graduate of Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY; and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; a Navy veteran of WWII; employed by Celanese Corp. of America as a mechanical engineer for 26 years; a life member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; and a member of First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg. Survivors include wife, Annie Josephine Berly Betts; daughters Mrs. Peter S. (Susan) Landstrom, of Chapel Hill, NC, and Miss Sara Ann Betts, of Greenville.

Theron Bradford, of Sumter, SC, died on November 18, 2006. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his daughter, Ann B. Russell, and family.

Charles Adolphus Myers, of Eutawville, SC, died July 2, 2007 in a Moncks Corner nursing home. He was the son of the late Shelly Prusha Myers and Annie Belle Eadon Myers, a member of Bethlehem Southern Methodist Church, a retired farmer, retired from Gold Kist Corporation and former manager for the Peter Grace Company. He is survived by two daughters, Ann Brown and Nancy Hamson, both of Eutawville, sons Keith of Pittsboro, NC and Phillip of Eutawville, sisters Carolyn Walker Davis of Norway and Patricia Felder

of Myrtle Beach, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Class of 1940

Louise Hart Starnes, of Spartanburg, died Saturday, June 23, 2007. After graduating from SMC, Louise received degrees from Converse College and Douglas College. She taught 3rd Grade and was a Librarian.

Class of 1941

William C. Boyd, Sr. died August 6, 2007 at his home in Whispering Pines, NC. He is survived by daughter Linda and son William, Jr.

Class of 1944

Leonard Duckett is deceased.

Class of 1945

Cathleen Bailey Carroll of Union, SC died on August 4, 2007.

Class of 1948

Ruby Quinn Craig, of Clover, SC, passed away on June 28, 2007. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, Max.

Herman W. Mizzell died September 10, 2007 in Spartanburg, SC. He was the widower of Mary Ann Guthrie Mizzell (Class of 1945). Herman was a Wofford College grad with a B.A. degree and a Master's degree from Western Carolina University. He taught high school for 17 years in Spartanburg School District 6 and was the Director of Transportation for nine years. He was also the Director of the WWII

Veteran's Training Program in District 6. He is survived by two daughters, Annette Mizzell and Bonnie Lee Mizzell of Spartanburg.

Class of 1949

Henry S. Moore, III died October 16, 2006. He was a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy, attended USC and Horry-Georgetown Technical College, was a night auditor for the Carolinian Motel for more than 35 years, a Catholic, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and an avid gardener, specializing in roses. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Lillian and family.

Class of 1950

Lawrence Colonna, of Lexington, TX, died April 24, 1999. His family recently wrote to tell SMC that, "He spoke fondly of his years at SMC and has many pictures to prove it."

Class of 1953

Evander B. "Van" Bullock's wife Peggy died Sept. 29, 2007.

Donald L. White, of Inman, SC, recently passed away and

is survived by his wife, Carol Q. White.

Class of 1954

Myrle Reed Bell, wife of Lennie Bell (Class of 1954), of Columbia, SC, died on August 1, 2007. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Lennie; their daughters Karen Walker, Lucia Floyd and Janet Harns; and their seven grandchildren.

Class of 1957

Buddy Pierce is deceased.

Class of 1959

Odell B. Stalvey, of Pawleys Island, SC died in October of 2006.

Class of 1962

Rev. David Wilton Holder (1962 SMC ALUM) of Spartanburg, SC, a member of Ben Avon UMC, died October 25, 2007. His wife, Madora Bonner Holder (1977 SMC ALUM), a son, David Len Holder, and a daughter, Denise Holder Jones survive.

Class of 1971

Richard Brian Criscione died in Spartanburg, SC on August 6, 2007. His wife, Lynn Lee Criscione, survives.

Class of 1974

Kenneth L. Flowe of Inman, SC died May 17, 2005. His wife Lib survives, along with two sons, Joshua D. and Kenneth Lee III, and one daughter, Katie.

Class of 1976

Steve Conley Brannon, Sr. of Inman, SC died September 13, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sara Davis Brannon; son, SCB, Jr.; and daughter, Dana Brannon Caudell.

Class of 1977

Linda T. Ussery is deceased.

Marjorie Darby Staton died Thursday, July 12, 2007 at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. The daughter of Fred Roy and Ethel Lou Hendrix Darby, her parents were charter members of Duncan Memorial UMC, the Mother Church of Spartanburg Methodist College. She was predeceased by husband Major Lee Staton. Surviving is her daughter Mary Lou Wallace, son Ron Lee Staton, and two sisters, Lib Loyless and Mary Anne Darby.

Class of 1979

Renita Ann Lynch Alley of Spartanburg died on Wednesday, June 20, 2007. Renita Ann was the daughter of 1959 alumnus Lewis Lynch.

Retirement

Class of 1939

Sarah H. Lineberry, of Spartanburg, is a retired school

teacher.

Class of 1940

Juanita Stephenson Patterson is enjoying living at home in Tifton, GA and long retirement from teaching. She has a large family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Class of 1941

Helen Bishop Kanipe is happily enjoying retirement in Spartanburg.

Class of 1943

Coda Wilson Horne of Honoe Path, SC is enjoying retirement.

Class of 1944

Mary "Elizabeth" O'Sullivan retired from Spartanburg County SC District 5 Schools. She taught at Converse College for 42 years.

Class of 1945

Virginia Rushing Boiter is retired from the Spartanburg County Public Library.

Class of 1946

Doris Cook Anderson is enjoying retirement in Spartanburg.

Class of 1947

J. Fred Lister is retired in Columbia, SC.

Doris and Charles Butler are retired in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1948

Mary Wilburn Waddell (Polly) is a retired case work su-

CLASS NOTES

Do you have news to share? Let us know what's going on in your life!

Send your news to:

SMC Alumni Office
Attn: Leah Pruitt
1000 Powell Mill Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301

or send email to pruittl@smcsc.edu

pervisor with the Aiken Dept. of Social Services.

George J. Poole is retired in Duncan, SC.

Gilbert and Willine Mauldin Littlejohn (Class of 1949) of Greenville, SC are both retired.

Harry H. Foster is retired in Gaffney, SC.

Vardell Cook and wife Rose Marie W. Cook live in Lake City, SC where Vardell is enjoying retirement.

Class of 1949

Albert Bernard Martin of Spartanburg is retired from Cartographer. He worked 29 years with the Department of Agriculture and 20 years distributing Christian materials for Successful Living, Inc.

Edna Grainger Guthrie is retired in Clinton, SC.

Class of 1950

Juanita Guthrie Rogers is enjoying retirement in Greer, SC.

Class of 1951

Frances Austin Day retired as an elementary teacher in Whitesburg, KY.

Class of 1952

Tom McElveen is enjoying his retirement in Garden City, SC.

Class of 1953

William R. Evans is enjoying retirement in Greenville, SC.

Class of 1954

Mary Arthur Sims Powers is retired in Union, SC.

Edith Johnson Roper is retired from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (1996) and is active with her church's Seniors Visitation Ministry, bowls in a league weekly, and enjoys her grandchildren.

Class of 1955

Judy Casey Bishop of Spartanburg recently wrote, "We are spending our retirement traveling. Our last trip was a 14-day cruise to Bermuda and the Southern Caribbean."

Class of 1956

Francis P. Faulling is retired in Orangeburg, SC.

Benita Davis Stavely is a retired teacher in Spartanburg, SC.

Class of 1957

Rev. Harry R. Stullenbarger, of Pawleys Island, SC, is retired from the ministry.

Class of 1960

Rev. Patricia S. Wood is a retired United Methodist Church minister in Greenville, SC.

Class of 1963

Wanda Johnson Hobgood is retired in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

Class of 1965

Ann Norris Grantham is a retired English teacher in Greenville, SC.

Michael D. (1964) and Barbara Johnson (1965) Clayton are retired in Seneca, SC.

Class of 1971

Margaret Benton Jones is enjoying retirement in Moore, SC.

Births

Class of 2001

David Chadwick and wife Heather are the proud parents of their second child, Richard Reynolds, born April 5, 2006. David received a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Gardner-Webb University in August of 2007.

Marriages

Class of 1985

Credit of Spartanburg.

Mary M. McLeod of Longs, SC is now Mrs. Mary Thomas.

Attended

William Grady Simmons and Susan Elizabeth Brown of Spartanburg were married at the Alpine Mountain Wedding Chapel in Pigeon Forge, TN on April 7, 2007.

Class of 1997

Gary Leander Nesmith married Harriet Elaine Gleaton at Spiegel Farms in Campobello, SC on May 19, 2007. They now reside in Pacolet, SC. Gary is co-owner of Austin Rehab of Union, SC. After SMC, he graduated from Wofford and MUSC with a Masters in Physical Therapy.

Current Students

Ashley L. Norfolk of Summerville, SC married Kelly M. Worthy of Spartanburg March 10, 2007. Ashley works with the Spartanburg Fire Department. Kelly is the daughter of SMC employee, Johnnie Ray Worthy.

Class of 2001

Former SMC Tennis player Sarah E. Hyder married Joseph (Joe) Collins (SMC 2001) at First Baptist Church of Gowensville, SC on June 24, 2006. The couple reside in Landrum, SC. Sarah is employed with AgSouth Farm

Crystal Dianne Pridgeon married Jonathan Brian Berry on May 19, 2007 at Lake Bowen Baptist Church. Crystal is the daughter of J. Barry and Marcia Lynn Pridgeon of Spartanburg. She is pursuing a paralegal degree at SMC.

Third in the Nation...

First in Our Hearts



Pioneers Make Memorable Run To Grand Junction

SMC head baseball coach Tim Wallace knew that going in to the 2006-2007 season, there was something special about this Pioneer baseball team.

"I knew we had good recruits – but I just didn't know how good," he says.

He would find out later as the team blew through school records and tore up the competition to make it through the Region X and Eastern District tournaments, and then place third at the National Junior College Athletic Association's World Series in Grand Junction, CO.

"I told them the goal was to win 40 games, win the region, and go to JUCO. But each year there are many variables and unknowns," says Wallace.

"We talk a lot on the field about what we need to do. You need a strict work ethic or you don't go anywhere. You know they all have potential, so you keep tweaking until you find the right places and the right lineup," he says.

That's something that players say is all part of it.

"Everyone knew we had a lot of talent. But the key was finding where it all fits in," says sophomore outfielder Jon Lewis.

The Pioneers started the Spring 2007 season off with a seven-game

winning streak.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges throughout the season was knowing teammate Jeremy Smith, a Freshman from Georgia, was out with an injury sustained when he was struck by a bat on March 23.

"When that happened, everyone was in shock. We wanted to be with him and he wanted to be out on the field with us. So not only were we playing for our team, we were playing for him," says sophomore Curtis Murphy.

But the Pioneers closed off the season 44-12 and ranked first in the league in runs scored, runs allowed, team hits, team ERA, and team strikeouts.

"We wanted to go all the way – we knew we could," comments sophomore Logan Bland.

During the season, the Pioneers had built up a reputation.

"Nobody wanted to play us. Our pitching had been shutting people down," states Wallace.

That feeling was evident throughout the Region X tournament.

"We all knew people were afraid of us, even with us being the underdog," recalls sophomore Allen Caldwell, of Sumter.

The Pioneers opened the Region X Tournament with wins against Florence-Darlington and Surry,

but the following game was a different story.

"A lot of things went wrong in the Pitt game," says Wallace – the Pioneers were out after five innings in an 11-1 loss against Pitt Community College.

The Pioneers climbed out of the elimination round the next day with a 5-4 win over first-seeded Louisville and made it into the championship game against the team that two days before had handed them a 10 run loss.

It was time for payback – which the Pioneers, with a doubleheader sweep of 6-3 and 13-3, gave to Pitt.

"We did exactly what we wanted to do. We just expected to win," says sophomore Jacob Wallace, coach Wallace's son.

At Eastern Districts the next weekend, in front of a record home attendance, the Pioneers sent Potomac State home in two games and claimed the district title.

"There were a ton of people here, but that didn't even compare to Grand Junction. It was still a great feeling though," says Murphy.

At that point the Pioneers knew they were going to JUCO. And they were doing it with a 51-13 record.

Then coach Wallace did something his players say he doesn't do a whole lot.

"He smiled," says sophomore outfielder Kedric Wadsworth. "He was really smiling. You could tell he was happy."

But with the happiness came nervousness as the day to leave for Grand Junction approached.

"It was a nervous excitement going into the series. The thing you have to keep in mind though is that we're all playing the same game. The ball is still round and the bat is still aluminum," says Wallace.

Previous Pioneer teams had quick experiences at JUCO. The 2001 team was out in two games. The 2003 team fared one better, with a 1-2 series record.

The Pioneers knew that this ghost was something that they had to overcome.

"I told them that winning the World Series and being first in the nation is the prize that is out there. You will never understand what it is like to fight for that until you step on that field. You can't explain JUCO until you've been there and experienced it," says Wallace.

The team knew it was in for its biggest challenge.

"As good as we were, everyone else's best were out there too," comments Wallace.

Wallace says over the course of the season the team had overcome

a lot of offensive mistakes, but was still unsure about its defensive skills.

So the Pioneers drove to Atlanta. After getting to the airport, they were still telling Wadsworth he was going to be fine.

"I had never flown. I didn't want to fly. I wanted to keep my feet on the ground," Wadsworth jokes.

They flew to Texas — and had a layover. They flew from there to Denver. Then they got on a bus for a four-hour ride through the Rockies to Grand Junction, CO.

Wallace jokes that when he first took the team out to Sam Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, "they were giggling like little girls."

"As a coach, it's gratifying to watch them walk into the stadium. It's fun watching their faces. They will always remember what it was like to walk onto that field in Grand Junction," states Wallace.

Traveling to JUCO is challenging, itself.

"That's the worst part about the whole thing - making sure everyone is where they're supposed to be, when they're supposed to be. Most of the challenges once you get out there are off the field, rather than on," comments Wallace.

In the three days before their first game — against Shelton State Community College — the Pioneers hit the practice fields. But they also took the opportunity to see some of the local sites and to go rafting.

During practice, the Pioneers got a feel for playing in the Rockies. A baseball travels farther through the thinner air at higher elevations.

"That can mess you up a little bit, so during our first practice, I just let them swing away," comments Wallace.

In their opening game, they sent Shelton State to the elimination round with a 15-7 win. Despite the win, there was concern.

"You start wondering the first night when you've down 6-1 in the fourth inning. Then you hit a nine-run rally and you're OK. But you have your doubts about every game," says Wallace.

The Pioneers weren't so lucky the next day. Chipola College sent the Pioneers into the elimination round.

That's where SMC and Shelton State met again — and SMC again handed them another defeat, this time 16-7.

"When there's three teams left, you start to think 'Wow, we just might do this'," Wallace recalls.

The Pioneers defeated Chipola 10-6 in

their next game. But their next meeting was the heartbreaker for SMC — Chipola defeated the Pioneers in a 27-12 game.

"That game was a nightmare from the start. Our best pitcher [Trey Delk] couldn't pitch. Chipola beat up our pitchers. We made a lot of pitches, but they were hitting it hard. Probably the most humbling experience I, or any of the players, have ever had was to be down 20-2, especially on national television. We just didn't play well in that game," Wallace says.

But the Pioneers left the field ranked third in the nation.

"Knowing that we were the only ones to beat Chipola was a good feeling," says sophomore Justin Brewer.

There wasn't a lot said after the Pioneers' last game of the series. Lewis says the bus ride back to Denver was worse than the one to Grand Junction.

"We didn't really talk until we got home," says Caldwell.

When the team arrived back at SMC, they gathered in the gym.

"I know it hurts right now, I told them. But you are the best team, record-wise, that has ever played for SMC," says Wallace.

It had been a whirlwind season for the Pioneers.

"You bond with these guys. Whether we've won or lost a game, we're all in this together. And we watch out for each other," says Wadsworth.

The 2006-2007 Pioneers were the first Eastern District team to make it to JUCO finals since 1992. They also set a single season school record (54-15) for wins.

Wallace says the 2007-2008 team is off to an excellent start.

"We only lost one game this fall. We have a great roster, with some really impressive and talented kids. We'll have some movement in the lineup after the first of the year and after the season gets started, but I think we have a chance to have another great team," Wallace predicts.

He states this season's team is pitching deeper and is offensively faster.

With more than a dozen players on the roster returning from last year, he predicts the motivation to go to JUCO will be even stronger.

"They'll be able to tell this year's freshmen what it's like. And hopefully they'll be able to light a fire under them. This team has JUCO caliber talent — the question is, do they have the JUCO-caliber work ethic," comments Wallace.



It's All About



The SMC Lady Pioneers volleyball team celebrate after winning the NJCAA Region X title, knowing they are on their way to nationals.

The last time the SMC Lady Pioneers volleyball team went to the NJCAA nationals was in 1984.

Ghostbusters was the top movie of the year. Ronald Reagan was re-elected to a second term. The Commodore 64 was the height of personal of computing.

And current head coach Brittany Harry was born.

Fast forward 23 years, and, with Miss Harry at the helm, a young Pioneer squad with only one returner finally took SMC back to nationals.

When Miss Harry was hired in January 2007, she was a senior in college at USC Upstate. A volleyball standout in high school and at USC Upstate, she had racked up an impressive list of accomplishments herself.

Her only previous coaching experience was as a camps coach in her home state of Illinois, and also at Clemson and Wofford; along with coaching at Spartanburg's Club South.

When Miss Harry came on board at SMC, the Lady Pioneers had just finished up a 12-10 season in 2006.

She quickly realized she had her hands full.

"My first priority was to fill a roster," she comments.

She lost several of the 2006 freshman players from the roster within her first few weeks on the job.

Miss Harry spent the spring and summer recruiting, looking to fill a virtually empty roster.

"Hard work and determination, along with the attitude to win, get you everywhere. I've always expected a lot out of myself and I expect a lot out of my players," she states.

It didn't take the 2007 team long to realize that.

"We knew right from the start that she meant business," says sole returner Monika Bryson, a sophomore from Boiling Springs, SC.

When the team came together, she had them discuss their own personal goals for the team and

put those down on a posterboard.

If you ask the players what the first couple practices under Miss Harry's leadership was like, they respond by saying, "hard," "crazy," or "exhausting."

Some say there were times when they weren't sure whether they wanted to stick with it.

"I had to set the tone early. We had individual meetings after one punishment day. That was a day where people could have potentially quit. As hard as it was on me and them, they stuck it out," Miss Harry recalls.

One thing the team had working against them was the lack of returners from the previous season.

"I always had upperclassmen or returners to look up to. When I was a freshman, I had juniors and seniors saying, 'That's normal.' It's awkward and it's a new experience. Until you get used to it, you're out of your comfort zone," Miss Harry comments.

The players say having a coach only four or five years older than

them was a unique situation also.

"She could relate to us. During preseason, she would tell us about her experiences as a player. She brought us closer together as a team," says Jen Kelly, a freshman from Camas, WA.

By the time the fall schedule started, Miss Bryson says she couldn't believe the change of attitude within the program in less than one year.

"It was way different. When we started, Brittany put her foot down. So we knew right a way that what she says is what she means. The sophomores last year basically ran the team. It was just a different experience," says Miss Bryson.

The team started the season on a tear, opening at home with SMC's first Pioneer Volleyball Classic, which they won handily, leaving their opponents in bewilderment.

The first of only three matches they lost the entire regular season came two weeks into the season against Pitt Community College.

"I thought we were working hard

enough. But we realized after that game that we needed to step it up more," says freshman Tori Criminger, from Rock Hill, SC.

As the season progressed, they had their share of stumbling blocks along the way — a near loss to Pitt on Sept. 23 and a loss to Cape Fear two weeks later.

Louisburg was another tough opponent.

"We were down 10 points at one point against Louisburg. But we stepped up — and I think that was the first time our team really saw what they were capable of doing," Miss Harry recalls.

As regionals approached and the team continued its meteoric rise, the team's confidence grew.

"We did get a little cocky after winning so many games, but it was a good kind of cocky. It's really all about attitude," comments Miss Bryson.

Those wins helped boost the team's confidence.

"Having that confidence in each other made us more driven," states Miss Kelly.

They mowed down the competition at the Region X tournament, which was hosted at SMC.

During the second game of the tournament, which ended in a victory over 4th ranked Blue Ridge Community College, the Pioneers felt what it was like to be booed on their home court.

"Every team in the gym was rooting against us," Miss Harry recalls.

But that just spurred the Pioneers on.

"That felt great that people were cheering against us. That just gave us an extra adrenaline boost," comments freshman Rachelle Rogers, of Easley, SC.

After sealing that win, the Pioneers went into the next match — the championship game — for some retribution against Pitt, with a 3-0 win.

"We literally played the best volleyball all season in the championship game at region. We did everything right in that game. There

was chemistry. They had fun. They did that right, but it's not like we didn't have to work hard," Miss Harry comments.

They had just locked their way to nationals.

"We did it. After everything we did, we made it. All of our professors and classmates were congratulating us," says Kayla Coleman, a freshman from Mebane, NC.

The team knew that nationals would be like nothing they had ever experienced. When they looked at the rosters of the teams going to nationals, they got

lemball. Everyone was checking out everybody, walking around with their game face. They weren't worried about making friends. They were there to kick our butts," Miss Harry states.

The Lady Pioneers were quickly welcomed to the big time with a 0-3 loss to Miami Dade, sending them to the elimination round.

Despite their best efforts the next day, Barton Community College shut down the Lady Pioneers' hope of 2007 national title.

It had been an exciting, yet in-

There was an added satisfaction knowing that both of the teams that beat them at nationals did not win the championship.

"That shows our girls that even though those teams are tall and big and can hit hard, they have weaknesses. They made mistakes just like every other team. They were beatable," says Miss Harry.

The entire season though was a learning experience for the Lady Pioneers. The team with only one returner and a new coach fresh out of college herself ended the season 25-4. It had been a wild ride.

Miss Harry says the plans for next season are the same — go to regionals and nationals.

"Obviously, we have plans to go back next year. It was definitely a learning experience for our freshman for next year. But the difference is that next year, they're going to know what it feels like and they're going to be ready," states Miss Harry.

They know that in order to make it further in nationals that a lot more effort will need to put forth.

Miss Kelly adds, "I feel like we can push more next season. But we have a lot to look forward to next year."

Miss Harry is already looking at recruits for the 2008 season — she already has four commitments.

"Our attitude next year will be totally different because now we'll know what to expect," states freshman Kayla Potter, of McDonough, GA.

Miss Harry says the team's quick bonding at the beginning of the year was a big factor in their success.

"I was surprised how quickly we bonded this year," adds Miss Criminger.

Though it all, they became sisters — inseparable, determined, and with a winning attitude. And they're stronger because of that.

Now they look to 2008 as leaders, planning to draw from their experiences of this season and to go back and fight again for a national championship.



Coach Brittany Harry

scared.

"I was looking at the Miami roster before we went and was freaked out. They are tall," states Miss Criminger.

Miss Harry took the team out to some larger, local courts to prepare them to play in a larger arena. Once in Iowa, It didn't take long for them to realize just how intense nationals would be.

"Everyone was there to play vol-

timidating experience.

"If we had played our best volleyball like we had at regionals, we could have been very competitive and given any one of those teams a run for their money. But the intimidation factor was so extreme, it affected how we played," comments Miss Harry.

The Lady Pioneers headed home disappointed, but proud of their 2007 season.

South Exposure



1,000 Miles From Home, The Game Is A Little Different

100+ degree temperatures definitely make for a warm introduction.

Jennifer Lamonica, Heather Robinson, and Jayme Sky – the SMC softball team’s Canadian trio – were welcomed to SMC by the Carolinas’ strongest heat wave in years during the first week this semester.

It was quite a change from home.

“I don’t do well with heat. The first day I got here it was 110. I had never felt like that. We had practice, were running, and it was so exhausting. Canada is nothing like this,” says Miss Robinson.

Miss Lamonica adds, “I had trouble adjusting to the temperature; I got sick.”

Miss Sky didn’t seem to mind the heat, however.

Despite the heat, they instantly felt at home. They hit the fields for practice the first week.

Head softball coach Rick Pauly says the three Canadians, all Freshmen, fell right into place with the rest of the team.

“I’m happy all these girls were smart enough to see what a good coach I am,” Pauly jokes.

“They’re fitting in well though. You can’t really tell they’re Canadians until they start talking,” he adds.

He has been pleasantly surprised with what they brought to the plate.

“They all played some very solid games this fall season, with Heather fielding first base, Jayme covering third base, and Jen pitching,” recalls Pauly.

Three weeks into their first semester at SMC, they were helping their fellow teammates tear through Division I and II opponents.

The Lady Pioneers racked up scrimmage wins against Newberry College, Anderson University, and Belmont-Abbey (who they tied in another game); tied Erskine College and Wingate University; and were barely defeated by teams like Furman University and Francis Marion University.

They realized quickly that the game is quite a bit different south of the border.

Miss Sky recalls that the teams the Lady Pioneers played this

Pictured (l-r) Jennifer Lamonica, Heather Robinson, and Jayme Sky

fall were more disciplined than she expected.

"You had to either be there or you weren't there. You make one mistake and it can cost you the game," she states.

The women say Canadian colleges are not aggressive when it comes to recruiting softball players – that there is not much opportunity for competitive softball amongst Canadian colleges.

"I love playing softball here. The intensity is so much different. In Canada, some universities have softball teams, but they are nothing like here. They don't go out and recruit. Here we play almost year round," Miss Robinson comments.

All three were standouts on their respective Canadian travel ball teams, looking to come state-side to play softball.

"In Canada, all we really have is travel ball during the summer - that's pretty much it," says Miss Sky.

Miss Lamonica adds, "If you want to be scouted, that's what you do. In Canada, softball is nowhere near as big as it is here."

That's where SMC Coach Rick Pauly came into the equation.

Two summers ago, Pauly was attending provincial tournaments in the Toronto area with friend Mark Cook, the head softball coach at Winthrop University, and had the opportunity to see all three women play first hand.

"I was very impressed," he recalls.

Pauly had met and worked with Miss Lamonica before, during a softball pitching clinic that he had conducted. But this was the first time to see them all in action at the same time.

He watched all of their performances intently.

"They were good. Jen has a very strong arm, plus I love her attitude. Heather pitched against one of the top two teams in the tournament. I said, 'This girl's got some talent'," adds Pauly.

He didn't realize at the time though that Miss Robinson's hitting would become what he calls



Head softball coach Rick Pauly gives the women some words of wisdom

"a gem in the rough."

Miss Sky was attending another college at the time though and Pauly decided not to approach her at that point. But he later changed his mind.

"She had made some of the most spectacular defensive plays I had ever seen. So I said, 'I'm going to take a chance.' I called her. And she said she was interested," says Pauly.

At different times, each of the three came down to visit SMC. The visits helped seal the deal for all of them.

"I walked around campus and said 'I could see myself doing this.' It just clicked. When I saw the softball field, I loved it," says Miss Robinson.

So Miss Lamonica, who had been playing since age 3, Miss Sky, who started playing at age 9, and Miss Robinson, with only 5 years of softball under her belt, all became Pioneers.

There have been some cultural differences they've encountered, this semester, but they say that's to be expected.

"I like meeting people and seeing how they react when you say you're from Canada. It's fun to talk about the differences," comments Miss Lamonica.

Miss Sky adds, "Being around a lot of people your age, having fun, meeting people from everywhere, and having the opportunity to make new friends is the whole key

to making your life easier."

There are some things that they want to set straight also.

"Not every Canadian can speak French. We do not live in Igloos. There is not snow year round - and I do not have a pet polar bear," jokes Miss Robinson

"Some people think that just because you come from Canada you see snow all the time, and, especially with me being Native American Indian, that you live in an igloo. It's stuff like that that shows that there are some misconceptions of each of our countries," adds Miss Sky.

They're also getting used to some of the food, shopping, and sayings here in Upstate South Carolina.

"Some of the language is different, but I'm going to pick that up. I love the shopping. Prices are cheaper here and you have different stores. I had never heard of grits or biscuits and gravy before now. I don't like grits - it's something about the texture. But the people are great and everyone is so nice," states Miss Robinson.

Miss Sky hasn't tried grits yet, but jokes "I don't think I want to."

Miss Lamonica says the word 'y'all' takes some getting used to.

"I haven't started using that yet. I don't want to. I like 'you guys.' Another thing is that when referring to grades in school, we don't say Freshman or Sophomore. We just say ninth or tenth grade. I get made fun of about that," she says.

They're doing some traveling around in their spare time.

During one of the first weekends she was here, Miss Sky went to Columbia, SC and visited Riverbanks Zoo, along with some other attractions like Frankie's Fun Park in Greenville. Miss Robinson has been up to Lake Lure and the North Carolina mountains many weekends with fellow teammate Brooke Lewis.

They're also surprised at the amount of community support for the SMC athletic programs.

"I like being able to wear an SMC softball shirt around, and when I go to the gas station someone asks me about SMC. Everyone gets so excited," comments Miss Robinson.

But in the meantime, they're getting ready for the regular spring season which opens January 26 against NAIA member Southern Wesleyan University.

Pauly says if the fall was any indication of how his team is going to play this year, there are big things in store for the spring season.

"We have an awesomely strong team. When it comes time in the spring when we're playing other junior colleges, we're going to clean up," states Miss Robinson.

The women feel very privileged to have Pauly as a coach.

"He's a great coach. He pushes the team hard, which is good. I like that. He doesn't take anything from the players either. He's really supportive," adds Miss Robinson.

Eventually, each woman wants to move on to a Division II or higher school here in the States, where they can continue playing softball and finish their education.

Miss Sky, who wants to go on to a college preferably in the northeast U.S. where she can play softball and hockey, and wants to pursue a degree in Physical Education. Miss Lamonica and Miss Robinson haven't yet decided on a definite career path, although Lamonica is interested in pursuing a business-related degree.

'61 Grad Grasso Strong Supporter of SMC

By Michael Reese
SMC Athletic Fundraising
Director

Edward Grasso will go down in history as one of the great student-athletes at SMC.

Whether it was on the baseball diamond or basketball court, he left a strong and lasting mark at the college.

The late Coach "Slim" Mooneyham offered Grasso a scholarship for both sports, which he says gave him the opportunity to play in college.

For two years, he was the starting catcher for the baseball team and starting point guard for the basketball team.

After getting married the summer following his freshman year, he came back for his sophomore year and had a stellar baseball and basketball season.

In 1961, the baseball team was one game away from going to the Junior College World Series losing to Wilmington Junior College in North Carolina. Grasso states that 1961 will always be remembered in his mind just like it hap-



Ed Grasso, left, and SMC Athletic Fundraising Director Michael Reese

"Athletics at SMC have had a winning tradition because of the strong support of its alumni and friends."

- Ed Grasso, Class of 1961

pened yesterday.

After playing baseball and basketball at SMC for two years (59' - 61'), Grasso went on to the University of South Carolina and played catcher for one year.

He left USC early and signed a professional baseball contract

with the Washington Senators (now the Texas Rangers).

After a few years of playing professional baseball, Grasso then moved to Anderson, SC where he became the general manager of one of their Class A teams, and in 1970 he was elected Minor

League Executive of the year for all the Class A leagues.

Grasso is a strong supporter of the SMC Pioneer Club Athletic Support Fund, and he encourages all former athletes to come back to the campus and support the college.

"Athletics at SMC have had a winning tradition because of the strong support of its alumni and friends. Good luck this year to our Pioneers as they strive to advance to the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado," he says.

"Coach Tim Wallace's reputation as a coach, teacher, and building young men is well thought of in the pro-scouting community. They all think a lot of Coach Wallace," he adds.

After baseball, Grasso went into business for himself and is now retired and living on Lyman Lake.

Grasso and his wife Susan have two children: Eddie (45), and Susan (46).

In his spare time he does a little scouting for friends who are still working in the majors. He still keeps in touch with SMC today.

SMC Spring Golf Classic April 21 2008 at River Falls Plantation in Duncan, SC

Each year, more than 200 players participate in the Spring Golf Classic, one of the largest fundraising tournaments in the Greenville-Spartanburg area. The tournament provides program support for more than 190 student athletes who annually attend SMC. More than 90 percent of SMC students require some form of financial support with a percentage coming from families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Through your generous support, these student athletes are afforded the opportunity to fulfill the dream of earning a college education. Join many SMC friends, sponsors, and alumni for a day of golf at River Falls Plantation Golf Club.

For more information contact
Michael Reese, director of athletic fundraising
at (864) 587-4310

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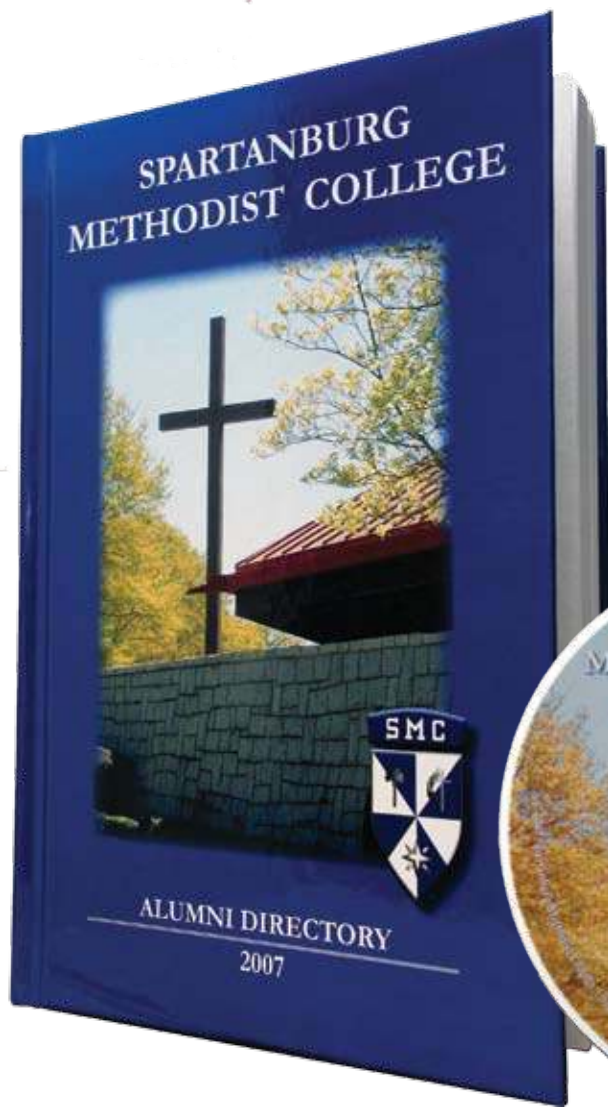


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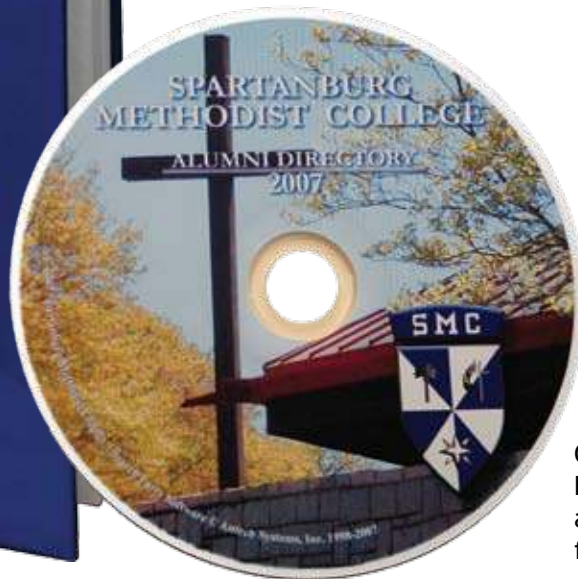


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2007 ALUMNI DIRECTORY



The 2007 Alumni Directory is now available. It contains up-to-date contact information on more than 12,000 SMC alumni, and is available for purchase through Harris Connect in a bound volume and/or on CD-ROM.



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