

FRONTIERS

SPRING 2012

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DAVID GIBSON

IS spellbound

As the reigning national Scrabble champion, Professor David Gibson shares game-winning details and his favorite words to play.

PLUS+++

The 101st
Year In
Review

To
Russia
With
Ease

Recharge
Your
Career

Leading
The
Troops
*Oliver
Littlejohn,
war hero*

Here She
Comes
*Miss SMC
crowned*

Student
Spotlights

FRONTIERS

A PUBLICATION OF SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE,
SPRING 2012

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Greetings!

Talk about a tough job ... this magazine is supposed to help you understand the sense of excitement and energy that exists here at Spartanburg Methodist College in our 101st year! There is simply no way we can adequately do that in the number of pages we have allocated. You will have to visit and experience SMC once again for yourself!

This issue is a celebratory one: we are celebrating the success of our amazing athletic program (three teams have competed at the national level so far this year!); we celebrate the SMC community's commitment to service; we share the celebrating we have been doing for our centennial; and we celebrate some amazing people like Professor of Math David Gibson, Miss SMC 2012 Nacolle Williamson and SMC student Kacie Hines, who gives new meaning to John 15:13: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

As we move into our 102nd year this fall, two important events will occur: we will take possession of Edgar H. Ellis, Jr. Hall (our awesome new academic building!), and we will begin to take a renewed look at what the future holds for SMC through the work of a Futuring Task Force chaired by SMC Trustee Dr. Phinnize "Penny" Fisher, the recently retired and nationally recognized Superintendent of Greenville County Schools. The Task Force includes members from various campus constituencies, and we expect their work to take most of a year to complete.

As always, we covet your prayers and support as we continue to Pioneer the Future for SMC!

Blessings and Peace,
Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.
President

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Greetings Alumni,

For most people, at some point in their lives, something makes them slow down and reflect on their journey. For my husband, Brian, and me that was the recent birth of our daughter, Suzana Page Pruitt. Her birth made us revisit our path over the last sixteen years.



Brian Pruitt, Class of 1997,
Suzana Page Pruitt, Future
Class of 2032, Leah Pruitt,
Class of 1998

We began to reminisce about our chance meeting in Ms. Eunice Knouse's Biology class and the growing we've done from college students to professional adults, and most recently parents. For facilitating this, SMC will always hold a special place in my heart. I feel like my life has come full circle, from meeting my husband at SMC to being employed at SMC and now having a daughter that will hopefully attend SMC. SMC has been an integral part of my past, present and also my future as I look forward to watching my daughter follow in the footsteps of her dad and me by becoming an SMC alumna.

I am grateful for the chance to share with you, fellow alumni and friends of SMC, the proudest moment of my life; becoming a mommy. I will forever be indebted to SMC for not only providing the foundation for an excellent education but also for giving me the most precious people in my life: my family.

I know that many of you have similar stories of meeting your significant others at SMC and have several generations of SMC alumni in your family. I encourage you to share your story too. Please submit your most precious SMC memories to PruittL@smcsc.edu. We would like to feature them in future issues of Frontiers.

I look forward to the future and the continued blessings that SMC will provide my family, and I am excited to think that my legacy, Suzana Page Pruitt, will be a future Pioneer, SMC Class of 2032.

Best Wishes,
Leah L. Pruitt '98
Director of Alumni Relations



1 BEND IT LIKE SEBASTIAN
Sophomore soccer player Sebastian Velasquez drafted to MLS team, Real Salt Lake.

2 POWER UP
Pioneer Men's Basketball received national recognition with their bid to the NJCAA National Tournament.

3 SAFETY
SMC ranked 4th in South Carolina for Campus Safety.



4 CARING FOR CAROLINA
Sophomore student Cody Jackson won WSPA's Caring for the Carolinas Award for his anti-bullying campaign in the Upstate.

5 ALL IN
The Faculty / Staff Annual Fund reached 100% participation for the second year in a row.

6 WINNING TEACHER
Dr. Ongeru won the SCICU Teaching Excellence Award for SMC.



REVIEW



HONORING HISTORY

Spartanburg Methodist College Honors First-Ever African American Student

Spartanburg Methodist College awarded the "100 Pioneers" award to Lisco Dante Thomas, Jr., class of 1969.

Thomas was the first African-American student to attend the college (then Spartanburg Junior College). He enrolled in the fall of 1967 on a basketball scholarship, awarded to him by coach John Smoak.

An outstanding athlete, Thomas averaged 22 points and 14 rebounds per game. He was chosen for the All Conference and All Region Teams and was Honorable Mention All-American. Thomas was also an accomplished academic – he earned the General Excellence Award as the Outstanding Student for Academics and Sports for his 1969 graduating class. He earned a scholarship to Furman University, where he continued studying and playing basketball. He continued to shine on the court and was chosen on the 1971 SOCON All-Tournament Team. He was then drafted by the Chicago Bulls of the National Basketball Association but chose to serve in the United States Navy, and retired as a Facilities Maintenance Supervisor for the University of South Carolina.

SMC Named to Community Service Honor Roll

Spartanburg Methodist College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. SMC stands as one of only 14 colleges in South Carolina to be named on the Honor Roll. This is the second consecutive year SMC has been included on the list.

A *of* SERVICE

One hundred years ago, one man had a vision of how to improve the lives of those around him who were struggling. He took that vision and offered it to one young man. With time, more and more young people caught the vision. Now, one hundred years later, the impact of David English Camak's dream of serving first God and then his neighbor through affordable access to education has touched more lives than anyone can imagine.

SMC has a rich heritage of serving others, and as we begin our next century, the vision is still alive. Through the years, members of the faculty and staff have inspired young women and men to reach beyond themselves to make a difference in this broken world. And with each student who took that

spark of inspiration and turned it into an opportunity to improve the lives of those around them, Dr. Camak's vision flourished. As we conclude our first century and embark on our next 100 years, SMC students have captured the spirit and vision of Dr. Camak as they find opportunities to make a difference in their communities while they are still students (not even waiting to graduate!). As part of our centennial celebration, students, faculty and staff participated in a Centennial Service Challenge. More than 500 members of the SMC community participated in approximately 5,800 hours of community service in over 50 sites during the 2010-2011 academic year. Now in its second year, the Service Challenge from August 2011 through February 2012 already has over 500 participants with approximately 4,000 hours of service!

SMC, as an institution connected to the United Methodist Church, encourages and supports this high level of service, remembering John Wesley's admonition to:

monthly and sometimes bi-monthly projects. Already this year, they have assisted the Lions Club's fundraising efforts by cooking and serving food at the Piedmont State Fair,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

And so, every year on the first full day that the freshmen are on campus, SMC sends them with a few sophomores and members of the faculty and staff out into the greater Spartanburg area to assist non-profit agencies, churches, and schools for our Freshman Day of Service. Students may play with children at a children's shelter or bingo at an assisted living facility; serve food at a soup kitchen or put a coat of paint on the home of an elderly resident; scrape gum off of desks or plant a garden; sort items at a thrift store or spread mulch; the possibilities are endless. Freshman Day of Service is SMC's way of helping the Spartanburg community that has helped us and so many others using our greatest assets — our students.

As the numbers would suggest, however, the service does not end with the Freshman Day of Service. Under the careful planning and leadership of the Kappa Sigma Alpha Board (a group of 10-12 dedicated students), SMC students are provided with the opportunity to reach out into the community through

visited a local assisted living facility for bingo and Christmas caroling, cleaned the Ronald McDonald House yard, provided a "Cookie Monster" party for the children at the Spartanburg Children's Shelter, sorted goods at the thrift store of a local homeless shelter, provided oversight for the collection of almost 200 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, conducted two clothes drives for the homeless, and participated in the Martin Luther King Service Challenge (which provided over 700 cups of vegetable soup and 3,380 services of non-perishable food items for the local soup kitchen). KSA, begun in 1990 as the Commuting Student Association, has served this campus and our community faithfully while preparing servant leaders for the future. Pete Aylor, Advisor to KSA, remarks, "Our KSA members find that their many community service projects, accomplished throughout the academic year, are keys for them not only to become exposed to successful lifework but also to reap the rewards of living purposefully. Their volunteer service is one of the most valuable

character-building, career-enhancing investments they will ever make.”

Participants in this year’s Alternative Spring Break were given the opportunity to look into the deeper issues of poverty and homelessness through participation in the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society’s Seminar Program in Washington, D.C. They were encouraged to “think outside the box” about the causes of poverty and homelessness and the possible ways they could be a part of the solution. Their work at a transitional house for women, conversations with those who work with the homeless on a daily basis, and one-on-one encounters with people who had no homes provided students with a greater understanding of the need and inspired them, like Dr. Camak, to seek for ways to help people out of the circle of poverty and homelessness. Upon their return Dean Ron Laffitte, who accompanied the students on the trip, commented, “Our students’ knowledge, awareness and understanding of these issues grew exponentially through this experience of service to others.”

Opportunities for service provided through the Freshman Day of Service, KSA, and

Alternative Fall and Spring Break trips are just the beginnings of the many ways in which SMC students are engaged in servant leadership. Students actively participate in service through their clubs and organiza-

tions, in conjunction with local United Way agencies such as Christmas-in-Action (an organization that provides home repair for the poor and elderly in Spartanburg and that offers a “Young and Old” program that pairs home repair experts with college students to teach them needed home repair skills that are then used to help

community residents) and in individual efforts, driven by a passion to make a difference.

One man, one hundred years ago, wanted to make a difference. One hundred one years later, it is obvious how fruitful he was. Imagine what the next one hundred years will hold as this year’s SMC students, armed with an outstanding education and hands-on experience, continue to reach out and make a difference!





Get to Know Nancy Lynn

Years at SMC: 25

Favorite memory over the years: We laugh here so much. There's not a day that goes by that we don't laugh.

Favorite part of your role on campus: Just being with everybody – students, faculty, staff – so many different things happen

each day. It's exciting to meet all the different people that come in the doors – prospective students, parents, business people, visitors.

Tell me about when you interviewed for SMC: I had been working at a doctor's office for six years when the doctors decided to go their separate ways. I went

to church with James Geddis, who used to be the Vice President of Business Affairs. I'd been interviewing for jobs, but nothing really stood out; I wanted to be in a busy place with a lot of people. Well, he called me one morning and asked if I'd help out for about six weeks because the receptionist's son was having his tonsils taken out.

So I came over for six weeks, and on my last day, I cried the whole way home. I'd gotten so attached to everyone here; it's like a big family, and everyone just wraps their arms around you. The following week-end, James called me, and asked if I'd help out part time during the summer. I worked in the business office that summer, and later transitioned into the full-time main receptionist.

Favorite time of year campus? I have two! When the new freshman come in, you meet all these new students that are scared to death and parents that are buzzing around. And graduation is sad – but it's a good time, too. Because you've gotten so attached to the students – you watch them mature, accept responsibility. It's so rewarding.

What stood out the most in SMC's 100th year? What a celebration. It was fun. The grounds have changed so much. Over the years, I've seen Sparrow and Bridges come up, Judd Cellar renovated, and this year we've had the new academic building, the Ed Ellis Hall. It's just been so exciting, seeing it all come together.

Favorite place on campus: The Lobby! Makes you feel good at the end of the day. Also, the chapel is so special and sacred.

“Developing the mind is important, but developing a conscience is the most precious gift parents can give their children.”

Nancy Lynn



АФГАНСКОЕ КИНО УДАЛСЯ



Aureola. Felwort. Amphorae. Lavaboes.

David Gibson's game-winning words are enough to turn your brain in circles. They're enough to take the famed family game, Scrabble, from a rainy day pastime to the glittering strip of Las Vegas. Here, Scrabble isn't just a leisurely way to pass the afternoon. This is the arena where mustached math whizzes track tiles, where logophiles battle it out for the biggest Scrabble title in the world. This is the Scrabble Superstars Showdown, 1995, where David Gibson is about to take the title.

Gibson's celebrity is the stuff cult classic American movies are made of: small-town mathematics professor rockets to the top of world-wide competitive Scrabble. He's the sort of hero you find tucked in pages of favorite books; the smart, observant, quick-witted hero every child dreams of becoming.

spellbound₂



Gibson got hooked on Scrabble in early childhood. "Scrabble was our main family game. We – my parents, myself, and my two sisters – kept standings. It was a great way to learn math, words, spatial relations," he says. To this day, his parents still play each other in a game every night.

Despite playing regularly through his life, Gibson accidentally stumbled into competitive Scrabble. "In about 1983, I found myself getting up at 5 am every morning to read the paper cover to cover, just looking for new words. I would go and buy vocabulary books, and read through them to brush up on Latin roots. I didn't even know tournaments existed. It was just meant to be," he says, shrugging. "One Friday morning late in '84, I got up and started reading the paper. When I got to the local section, lo and behold – there was a picture of an older woman with a book in her hand. The book said, 'Official Scrabble Player's Dictionary.' The article talked about how she

Just over 20 years ago, SMC alum Stepan Khrouslov stood before the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO, to read a personal message from Russia's then-president, Boris Yeltsin, to the group.

Yeltsin's message discussed the economic situation in Russia at the time and expressed desire that we never return to the Cold War. It was faxed in just before the start of the convention; Khrouslov immediately volunteered to share it with the crowd. "I came up to the chief officer and asked him whether I could read the greeting from Boris Yeltsin. He asked me if I had a suit and tie, and after I said yes, he said he didn't mind."

At the time, Khrouslov, a Moscow native, had come to the United States through an exchange program with the FFA (Future Farmers of America) and planned to study agriculture. "It was a great chance for me to come to the United States, gain an experience, save some money and get my education," he remarked.

Khrouslov graduated from SMC with high honors in 1993 and went on to Wofford

College. "After returning back to Russia in 1997, I worked with companies like Coca Cola and Ford, thanks to the education I got at SMC," he said.

Shortly thereafter, he started "To Russia with Ease," a travel organization that stands as a major national resource for free information about Russia. "It's recommended by most international chambers of commerce, embassies, economic sections of the embassies, business associations and business clubs all over the world. We also work with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Ministry of Economic Development." To Russia With Ease (www.torussia.org) offers up-to-date coverage and traveler's information, particularly from Moscow and St. Petersburg. It also features a directory of cultural and educational exchange organizations, safety travel tips, business opportunities and even Russian recipes.

Khrouslov's organization is the go-to guide for prospective – and current – Russia-bound travelers from all over the world. Creating this outlet, he says, was inspired by his trip "from Russia with ease! Thanks to the FFA and the education I got in the United States, I was able to find great jobs in Russia."

Khrouslov currently lives in Moscow with his wife and young daughter. Visit www.torussia.org to find out more!

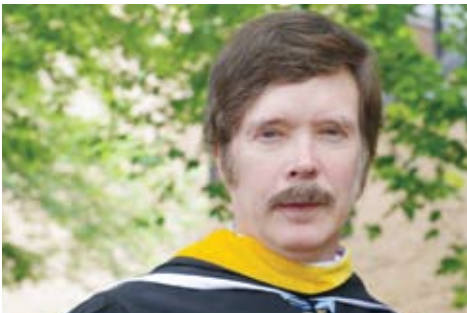


St. Basil's Cathedral



had won a Scrabble tournament in Atlanta. I thought, wow, that's why I've been doing this for two years!"

Gibson found his feet in the game under the tutelage of that 70-year-old woman from the local article. He learned how to track tiles, studied the Official Scrabble Player's Dictionaries (there are four), and memorized over 18,000 flash cards his wife, Nancy, made for him. By the time the '90s hit, Gibson was on a roll. "In '91, I won a big tournament in Gatlinburg, and I started to get into the top group. In '93, I played in the World Championships in New York and came in third. In '94, we had the National Tournament in Los Angeles. I was the highest-rated player in the country at that point, and I won that."



The next year, Gibson's winning display at the 1995 Scrabble Superstars Showdown proved to be so influential that Scrabble officials coined the term "Gibsonization" (also the Gibson Rule). Though he's built his reputation on securing a hefty lead early on, Gibson

loves a good game. "What you really feel better about are the games you really got in there and fought for. Turn by turn, the ones you tried to outmaneuver."

David Gibson's game face continues to air on ESPN Classic in world championship games. He's earned feature stories in Sports Illustrated and has been interviewed on CBS's This Morning by anchors Harry Smith and Paula Zahn. He is the top-earning professional Scrabble player in the history of the game. For Gibson, though, it's a puzzling game that continues to surprise him. "I try to look at it as, I've been so lucky and blessed in the past, and anything good that happens now is a bonus," he says.

As for his success? Gibson just shrugs. "If we all did the same thing at the same level, it'd be a boring world."



Gib•son•iz•a•tion

(*The Gibson Rule*): *n.*►

A situation where a player has won enough games to guarantee a 1st place finish, or (at minimum) a seat in the finals - no matter how many games he/she loses thereafter. By GIBSONIZING the player, officials acknowledge that the player will be a finalist. Thus, instead of being paired with another top contender, he/she will be paired with the player who is in the highest position of the division who has no chance to finish among the top prizewinners. This allows remaining contenders to keep competing for the other prizewinning positions.

The Official Way to Draw Scrabble Tiles

From the National Scrabble Association's Official Tournament Rulebook

1. Mix the tiles, if desired. (Note: Total mixing time for the entire draw must not exceed 10 seconds.)
2. Hold the bag so the opening is above eye level and look away from the bag.
3. Do not hold the bag directly between you and your opponent, as your eyes must be visible to your opponent while you are drawing.
4. Never hold tiles in one hand while drawing tiles with the other.
5. Always open the drawing hand before drawing.
6. Place tiles either onto your rack or, preferably, face down on the table and then onto your rack.



Newberry County Coroner Craig Newton of Newberry has announced his candidacy for re-election for Newberry County Coroner on the Democratic ticket.

Newton resides on Griffith Park in Newberry with his wife of 35 years, Robyn. Coroner Newton has two married adult sons, Brad (Ashley) and Brett (Jessica), and one grandson, Brayden.

Newton is a member of Central United Methodist Church where he has served on various committees and boards over the past 22 years.

After serving in law enforcement for over 25 years, Newton retired from the S.C. Highway Patrol as a sergeant. In 2001, Newton accepted a position of operations director for Strategic Security Services and served in that capacity for eight years.

He is a present member of the S.C. Coroners Association and the Newberry Law Enforcement Officers Association. Newton is a past member of the S.C. Troopers Association and the National Association of State Troopers, and previous commissioner of the Newberry Housing Authority. Newton is now serving in his fourth year as the Newberry County Coroner and is extremely proud to announce his candidacy for re-election to the Office of Coroner.

Newton earned a degree in police science and administration from Spartanburg Methodist College and is a graduate of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. Newton graduated from the New York City Medicolegal Investigation of Death in 2010 and will attend an advanced medicolegal

investigative school later this month. He was also selected to attend the National Public Safety Summit on Forensic Science in Clearwater, Fla. in 2011 and obtained national certification in this field. In 2009, Newton successfully completed the S.C. Coroners Certification School administered by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. In addition, Newton has attended and completed various other forensic investigation seminars during the past three years.

In his first year in office, Newton was selected as the Sue Townsend Coroner of the Year for the state of South Carolina. This is a high honor that is voted on by fellow coroners throughout the state. Newton was also honored as the 2010 alumnus of the year by Spartanburg Methodist College in recognition of his professional accomplishments.

During his service as coroner of Newberry County, Newton has put into place an online reporting system to track and document all deaths in Newberry County. He has also utilized an online death certificate program that enables his office to process and complete death certificates in a timely manner for persons who have suffered a loss. He has ensured that each family he works with is treated with compassion and respect.

Newton states that he would be "humbled and grateful to serve again as coroner of Newberry County. I will utilize my experience, knowledge and professionalism to continue to move this office forward." He further states that "if re-elected, I will always serve with integrity and compassion. I sincerely appreciate your continued support and ask for your vote in this extremely important position. Serving you for the past term has certainly been my pleasure and honor."

From the Office of Alumni Relations



ANOTHER SMC FRIEND AWARDED!

South Carolina's Bruce Yandle, dean emeritus of Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Science and Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of economics, has received the Adam Smith Award from the Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE).

It is the highest honor bestowed by APEE to individuals who have made lasting contributions to perpetuation of the free market. Yandle has served as vice president, president and board member of APEE. He also served several terms on the SMC board and remains a strong supporter.

SOUTH CAROLINA GED[®] ADMINISTRATOR AND SMC ALUM WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dr. David Stout of Chapin receives national award for 18 years of service and leadership

(Washington DC) August 5, 2011 – South Carolina's GED Administrator and adult education director, Dr. David Stout, was awarded the 2011 Distinguished Service Award from GED Testing Service[®] on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Stout was nominated by his peers from across the country and became the award's twenty-fifth honoree.

Under Stout's leadership, the number of GED test credentials earned by South Carolina test-takers skyrocketed 56 percent from 2004 to 2010 – a dramatic increase compared to other states during that time period. In 2010, South Carolina opened the state's first five standalone GED testing centers and added two more the next year.

An 18-year veteran as South Carolina's administrator, Stout acknowledged one of his best moments came in 2008 when the state scored above the national average pass rate for the first time in his tenure. Test-takers in South Carolina passed the exam with a 73.1 percent success rate that year.

"David is a true friend and advocate for adult learners in South Carolina. In spite of the many challenges of serving this population effectively, he is a shining example of what hard work, dedication and passion can accomplish," said Nicole Chestang, executive vice president of GED Testing Service. The Distinguished Service Award honors a GED Administrator who has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the advancement of his or her jurisdictional GED testing program through initiatives that identify, develop and encourage GED testing candidates. The award was established in 1992.

Stout received the award at a GED Testing Service luncheon in Washington, D.C. He continues to improve adult education and GED testing in the state of South Carolina and help adult learners become career- and college-ready. For additional information please visit www.GEDtestingservice.com.

From the Office of Alumni Relations

SPORTS



As this publication went to press, the Pioneer baseball team was on their way to the NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction Colorado for the 5th time in the last 12 years.

Men's Basketball

Men's Basketball Won Region, Went To Nationals! SMC men's basketball headed to Hutchinson, KS, this March to compete in the NJCAA National Tournament. Their season record stood at 29-7. After winning the Region 10 tournament, they qualified for the NJCAA Nationals, a 16-team national event. SMC won their opening game against 2010 runner-up Three Rivers Community College of Poplar Bluff, Mo. This was SMC's first tournament appearance in 13 years.

Baseball

Wallace Wins 900. Head Baseball Coach and Athletic Director Tim Wallace earned his 900th win this February! In his 21st season coaching the Pioneers, Wallace ranks 12th in NJCAA Division I coaches. His .766 winning percentage is chart-topping; he's won nine Region 10 titles and gone to the Junior College World Series four times. During his time at SMC, Wallace has seen five Region 10 Coach of the Year awards, 4 Louisville Slugger Coaches Awards, 5 Diamond ABCA Regional Coach of the Year awards and 4 Eastern District Coach of the Year awards, and was Carolina's Junior College Conference Coach of the Year in 1992. In 2000, he was inducted into Wofford's Hall of Fame. As Athletic Director, he is pivotal in the Athletic Department's growth and fundraising efforts, and earned the J.L. Geddis Staff Excellence Award which recognizes outstanding staff service, creativity, leadership and team work.

**Men's Soccer Velasquez Goes Pro.**

21-year-old Sebastian Velasquez was drafted to the Major League Soccer team, Real Salt Lake.

The Colombian native was a sophomore at SMC at the time of the draft. Earlier this year, he was named NJCAA All-American. "If I'd never gone through school, I don't think I would have had the opportunity to play professionally. When you play in school, you're going to be disciplined, you're going to be respectful – and that's when I got a little bit more serious about the game," Velasquez said in a January interview with Fox Carolina. Velasquez was in the starting lineup in Real Salt Lake's season opener against LA Galaxy.

Women's Basketball

Finished 17-13 overall, 12-3 in conference. Conference Tournament champions, they advanced to district finals, but lost to Georgia Perimeter.

Softball

As of April 10th, the SMC Softball team has finished the season with a 44-11 overall record, and a 24-2 Region X record. They were the regular season champions and took Coach of the Year (Thad Fox) and Pitcher of the Year (Bailey Smith) honors.

RECHARGE YOUR CAREER

How the Paralegal Program is Changing the Upstate

Across the country, paralegals are touted as having the most “recession-proof job” in the nation. Why? Legal demands tend to be heightened in a weak economy. And with so many different types of law, the possibilities for paralegals are plentiful.

Since 2004, the Paralegal Certificate Program has kept its residence on SMC's campus. As a continuing education program, it's open to public enrollment – and for anyone wishing to recharge their

career. First starting at Converse College in 1997, the program is a series of 14 courses. Six are required, and the remaining eight are legal specialties that students can pick and choose. Classes are taught at night twice a week in SMC classrooms.

Paralegals work directly under lawyers to assist in all areas of legal work. A program certification gives them an established background and the necessary preparation to handle case work, research



and legal writing. When working on cases, the paralegal is the one primarily interfacing with the client – offering assistance, explaining the process – and it becomes a very personal profession.

Program Director Yvonne Harper explains her program's approach to teaching. “The best aspect of our program is that all of our legal specialty courses are taught by a current professional in that field. For instance, when you take Probate, the Probate Judge for Spartanburg County teaches that course. It's very practical, very hands-on – we believe in giving practical applications, not just the overview of the profession or theory.”

Current student April Suppiger finds the program to be exceptionally mind-opening. “The paralegal program has given me the analytical and critical thinking skills that I need in order to see both sides of the situation, no matter the crime,” she remarked.

“Paralegals essentially act as a filter; they are the ones who take a very complex area of law and explain it to the client,” Harper comments. “The wonderful thing is, our students have had a very wide variety of experiences. So I try to stretch them to find something that allows them to use what they've learned in the past to build their future as a paralegal.”

Harper asserts that nearly every law office in the Spartanburg community has a Paralegal Program graduate on staff. “Students go on to give so much to the community,” she adds.



Littlejohn leads the troops

That battle was victorious; under Littlejohn's lead, his platoon took control of the town. 65 years later, Littlejohn was awarded France's highest honor – the National Order of the Legion of Honor.



At 20 years old, Oliver Littlejohn led U.S. troops in a WWII fight to liberate a

small French town from German occupation. Littlejohn stepped forward to take control after a lieutenant was shot in the foot. Narrowly missing bullets himself, Littlejohn says that, though he doesn't get angry often, the bullets ricocheting off his helmet set him off. "I threw off my combat pack. I had an M1 rifle. I said, 'Come on, guys.'"

Founded in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the National Order of the Legion of Honor has been awarded to about 1,000 American WWII veterans since 2004. Littlejohn was officially awarded on September 1, 2010, at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, GA.

Littlejohn comes from a long line of military men; his father earned a Silver Star in WWI, and his grandfather was a drummer in the Civil War, even marching with General William Tecumseh Sherman. His great grandfather was a Confederate soldier, and his great, great grandfather fought in the War of 1812.

Littlejohn, who hails from Cowpens, S.C., is a graduate of Spartanburg Junior College. At the time of the war, he was working with his brother as a shipbuilder in Charleston. Together, they volunteered to join the U.S. Army.

Dr. Littlejohn went on to earn an MS and a PhD from the University of Florida and retired as Dean and VP from Mercer University in Georgia.



Miss SMC Born to Lead

Try Nacolle Williamson's schedule for a day, and you'll see that being a pageant queen is no picnic.

The sophomore won the 2012 Miss SMC Pageant in February, and has been on the go ever since. "I've been speaking at high schools, Lions Club meetings and Relay for Life events, on radio shows and morning television talk shows," Williamson said.

Why all the hype? For the first time in pageant history, the Miss SMC Pageant was an official

qualifier for the larger Miss South Carolina Pageant – which leads to Miss America. For Williamson, that means she's headed to Columbia this July to compete for the Miss South Carolina crown. "This is the first year Spartanburg Methodist has done the pageant as a preliminary, so it's more of a community feel. I'm representing the school, the community," she said.

Williamson, originally from Ohio, fell in love with the opportunities offered by SMC. "I came here my senior year. Visiting campus, I knew this was the place. You have even more opportunities here than at a four-year school."

A born leader, Williamson says her leadership instincts took over once she got to SMC. "You can shape your future here. The leadership opportunities lead from one thing to another, and I'll be able to carry those on to a four-year school."

Out in the community, Williamson promotes her platform, which is promoting cultural diversity through exchange programs, diversity advocacy, and community awareness through appreciation events and festivals. "The Upstate is so multi-cultural, and there are lots of ways to get involved," she remarked. She volunteers through Education First, a non-profit which matches families with exchange students. Her talent is piano, and she's becoming increasingly passionate about playing. "You can show emotion behind it. You can really tap into what you're feeling and bring that out in your music."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Taking College By Storm

As a high school graduate, Corey Farnsworth already knew he wanted to study Mechanical Engineering. Ready for college, he started exploring schools in South Carolina. "I graduated high school as a homeschooler and was extremely eager to enter the college atmosphere and start something new," Corey says. After hearing about Spartanburg Methodist College's 3.0 GPA free tuition offer, he found his match.

Immediately, Corey poured himself into the campus. At SMC, he found he was able to quickly earn responsibilities – and have a lot of fun with leadership positions. "One of the most fun positions that I've really enjoyed was being a Pioneer Peer," Corey says. The Pioneer Peers are sophomore student leaders that act as mentors to the new freshman class for the duration of the school year. There are roughly 20 Pioneer Peers assigned to cover the new class (upwards of 500 students), so the Peers have to be exceptionally well-rounded and outgoing students.

Corey, also an academic tutor and student mentor, further assists fellow classmates with the tough adjustment to college life. He is Vice President of the Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society, a member of the Psi Beta National Psychology Honor Society, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. He won the campus-wide Math & Physics award his freshman year, and has been recognized every semester on the President's List and graduated in May with a perfect 4.0 GPA. He was elected to be the featured student speaker for his graduating class of 2012. Never resting on his laurels, Corey balances academics and campus commitments with athletics – he's a member of the Men's Soccer Team and cites playing soccer as being at the heart of some of his best memories on campus. "We've worked hard together and come to know each other as family. It's a great thing to be a part of, and I really appreciate the chance to share in the experience. My favorite memory may be after we won the home game that gave us the Region Title my freshman year," he remarks. They went on to defend that title his sophomore year, as well.

Corey leaves behind a mark on SMC's campus and carries quite a torch of accomplishments to Clemson University, where he will continue studying Mechanical Engineering. "My two years at SMC have been better than I could have imagined," Corey says. "The atmosphere helped me grow so much as a person... SMC has proved to me that hard work pays off, and it's an inspiration for me to keep striving forward as I move on to Clemson!"



Leaving It All On The Line.

For Kacie Hines, serving others is liberating. The 20-year-old recently shaved her head, a solidarity gesture made by millions each year in participation with St. Baldrick's.

St. Baldrick's is a children's cancer charity which funds cure research. The foundation hosts events across the country, in which participants shave their heads after making a donation – either as an individual, or as part of a team. “It was really liberating,” Hines said. “It wasn't intimidating – at first, you have to overcome the fact that it's your hair, and you're used to having hair. But I wanted to make a statement that beauty is more than skin deep. And it's a solidarity thing; once you know one cancer patient, you feel connected to them all.”

This isn't Hines' first brush with statement-making hair. Previously, she participated in Locks for Love (the famed non-profit organization, in which individuals are able to donate their healthy hair for the creation of wigs and hairpieces for those with illnesses or conditions).

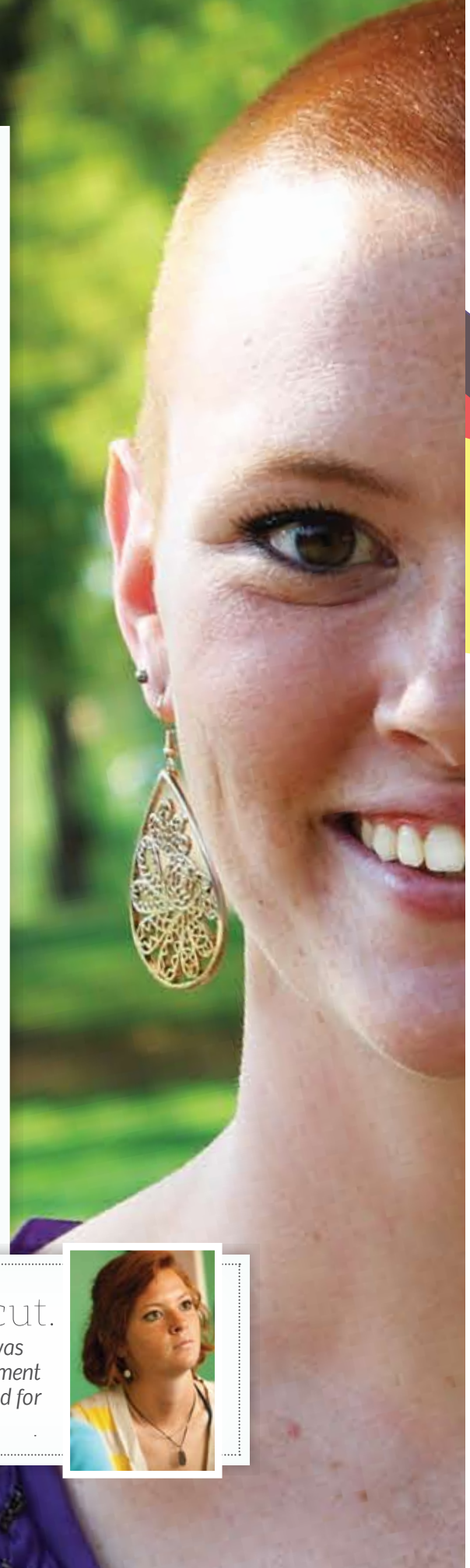
Across the board, college for Hines was a time for exploration, inspiration and spontaneity. “I went to art school right after high school but found that I wanted to have a more academic focus, while still doing a little bit of art,” she said of her decision to transfer to SMC. Hines, a Boiling Springs native, also missed soccer. “I didn't feel like myself when I wasn't playing,” she admits.

Hines took a step back from art school and found Spartanburg Methodist College. She quickly climbed the ranks on campus, becoming involved in a little bit of everything: soccer team, Hispanic Student Association, work study and Phi Theta Kappa, and was an active Presidential Ambassador. The Women's Head Soccer Coach, Dan Kenneally, said it best: “She's a leader, on and off the field. She does whatever she needs to help. She's one of my favorite people of all time.”

Hines' next move? “Next year I'll be going to UNC-Greensboro. I'm going to study communication disorders and speech-language pathology. It's what I keep coming back to; there's a big demand for speech-language pathologists, and I want to help.”

Before the cut.

Kacie Hines' red hair was already a campus statement before shaving her head for St. Baldrick's.



Mr. Pioneer

Cody Jackson



Cody Jackson has it all. He was on the Homecoming Court of 2011 and campus-wide winner of Mr. Pioneer. He was the yearbook editor, involved in the student newspaper, a work-study student, an active Resident Assistant, and a big volunteer on campus and in the community. Last year, he was president of his freshman class. He even founded the SMC Glee Club to give one of his big passions, singing, a bigger presence on campus.

Though he's now become a big presence on campus, Jackson was once a victim of bullying as a child – an experience he says was the driving force behind his current community initiative. Jackson launched an anti-bullying campaign in the Upstate, an effort for which he's been publicly recognized. He was the recipient of the Caring for the Carolinas award and has received media attention and speaking requests throughout the area.

"Bullying is a huge issue in society," Jackson said. "One day I wrote a speech on bullying for speech class, and the teacher suggested I go speak in schools about bullying. I was asked to speak at McCracken Junior High School;

that was my first engagement, and I spoke to an assembly. I've done three this year, and have another school lined up; it just fell into place." He works with a wide range of students, from first graders up to middle schoolers. "You really have to change it up for each audience. I really try to engage them so they get the most out of it; I take interactive supplies, do question-and-answer, whatever it takes. Once I was on a panel at an assembly and asked a lot of questions – that was fun."

Jackson found courage and direction at SMC. "This school really helped me open up," he said. "I'd like to be a public speaker, a broadcast journalist, maybe have a talk show. SMC also taught me to step outside the boundaries and take risks. I've learned a lot about being true to yourself."

Next year, Jackson will start at College of Charleston and will study Communications. He plans to work at a summer camp this summer and will definitely continue his anti-bullying advocacy in Charleston. He feels it's important for students to create what they want to see in their environment. "It's very rewarding and important to get involved. You not only make friends, you change lives."

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS



Ron & Polly Laffitte

Dean of Students Ron Laffitte and his wife Polly are the proud grandparents of Eliza Ruth Morris! Eliza, born last October 10, is their first grandchild. Eliza lives with mom and dad, Sarah and Jonathan Morris, in Lexington, SC.

Andrew Isenhower

Andrew Isenhower, a 2005 graduate of SMC, continued his education at Newberry College. After graduating from Newberry, he entered the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) in Columbia. He completed his work at the seminary in May 2011. He is serving as pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC.

Lisa Isenhower

Lisa Isenhower, former professor of English and chair of the English/Humanities division, is completing her second year at LTSS.

Dr. Mark & Janice Gibbs

This past November, Dr. Mark Gibbs (Professor of Religion and Philosophy) and his wife, Janice Thompson Gibbs, celebrated the 10th anniversary of Janice's optical shop (L'optique) located on Wall Street in downtown Asheville, NC. "Thanks to all of you who kept us in your thoughts and prayers, especially in those early years!"

B.J. & Kelly Tillinghast

B.J. and Kelly Tillinghast welcomed their first child, Lillian "Lilly" Catherine Tillinghast, on Friday, December 23rd, weighing 5lbs, 7oz.

Rick Jolley

Rick Jolley recently became Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Certified (ACEM). Earning the South Carolina ACEM accreditation distinguishes facility managers and other experts as energy management professionals. This certification, sponsored by the South Carolina Energy Office,

provides an overview of the many factors that impact commercial energy consumption and helps participants identify energy-saving investment opportunities in HVAC, building envelope, and lighting systems. Rick Jolley completed and passed the comprehensive certification exam on March 30, 2012.

SMC

SMC had eight presentors (1 faculty, 7 students) at the USC Upstate - Symposium this year. "That's indicative of success in undergraduate research," Dr. Cole Cheek remarks.

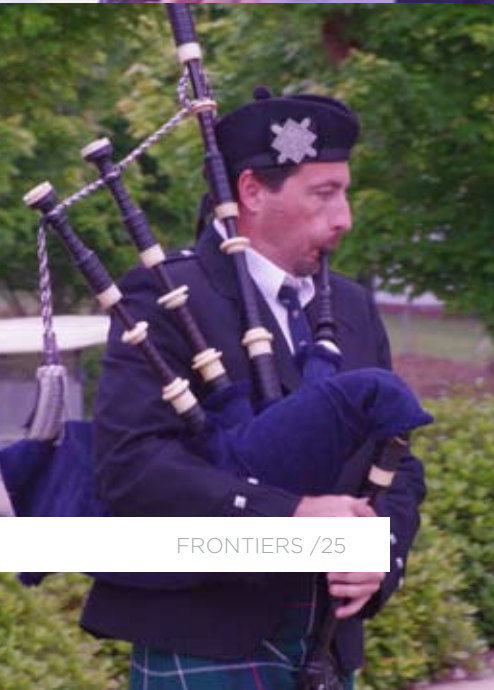
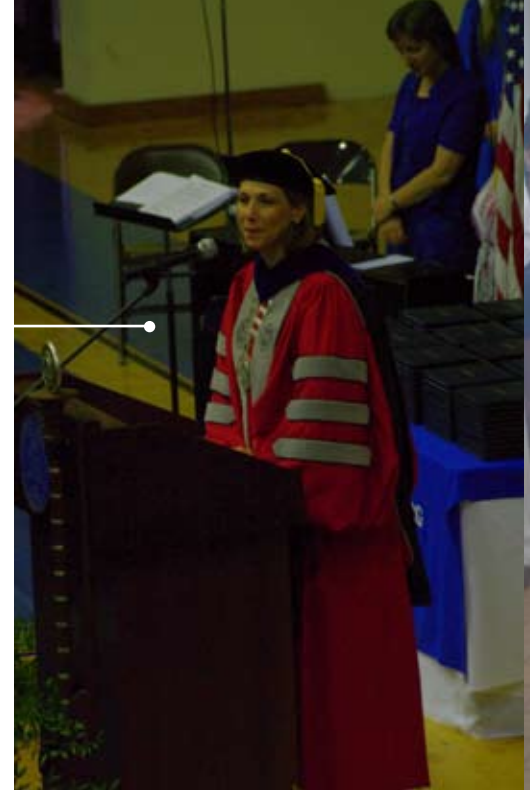
Dr. Katherine D. Cann

Dr. Katherine D. Cann, Professor of History, is now in her third decade on the SMC faculty. During the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Cann directed a student research project funded by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. The project that examined Elizabeth J. Patterson's first congressional campaign was presented at an SCICU forum and also at the USC Upstate Student Research Symposium. Dr. Cann completed her own research project on African-American education in Abbeville County, South Carolina, during Reconstruction. This project will be a chapter in a book on Upstate South Carolina history written by several historians in the Spartanburg area. In the fall, as she has for the past several years, Dr. Cann joined Wofford historian Dr. Doyle Boggs, in presenting a history of Spartanburg to Leadership Spartanburg and Junior Leadership Spartanburg. During this past March, Dr. Cann served as a judge for the Southeastern Model Arab League conference at Converse College. Dr. Cann is busy off-campus as well, serving as Secretary of the Spartanburg County Historical Association and as a member of the Hub City Writers Editorial Board. Teaching at SMC continues to be rewarding for Dr. Cann, and is usually more entertainment and fun than it is work!

GRADS



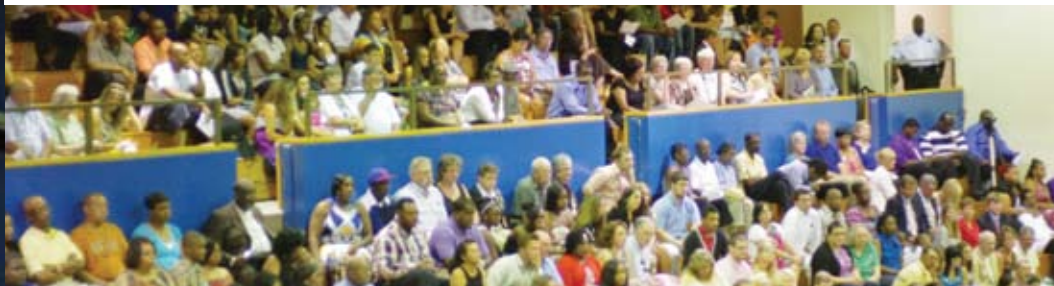
Spartanburg Methodist College celebrated 101 years of higher education with Commencement for the class of 2012. "This is a significant milestone in your academic career," President Colleen Keith said in her address to the class. "This commencement is just the start of more great things for you."



GRADS



The class-elected speaker was graduate Corey Farnsworth, who graduated summa cum laude with an associate degree in science. "Opportunity is the first word to come to mind when I think about SMC," Farnsworth remarked. "This school has given me so much; smaller schools open doors to rich opportunities."



Keynote speaker and Spartanburg Junior College alum Ron Faulkenberry also addressed the graduates. Faulkenberry, class of 1967, is the current Dean of the School of Education at Francis Marion University. "Education improves quality of life," Faulkenberry said in his remarks. "When you think of your Spartanburg Methodist College education, consider what it's meant to me, what it's meant to thousands of graduates, and what it will continue to mean to future generations."





ALUMNI EVENTS

For the first time in SMC history, we celebrated Homecoming and Alumni Weekend together. We were able to honor our rich history with visiting alumni, while also celebrating our forward momentum with current students. Weekend festivities included the Alumni Awards luncheon, class reunions, the revealing of the Athletic Hall of Honor, and a Low Country Boil with live music and dancing. Also, SMC alumni gathered in Newberry, South Carolina, to reconnect over wine. The Alumni Association hosts events through the year as an opportunity to check in with old friends. See page 30 for more information on our next event!



Faculty / Staff Annual Fund Drive Reaches 100%

Got school spirit? We do!

Spartanburg Methodist College announced the results of the campus annual fund drive, which closed on January 10, 2012. For the second year in a row, SMC's full-time faculty and staff achieved 100% participation in giving to the annual fund.

Don Tate, the Director of Development for SMC, announced the achievement to campus. "We have just reached 100% in participation campus-wide! You folks are the greatest. Back-to-back 100% in giving! Thank you all so much! I would like to issue special thanks to the outstanding group of volunteers, all of whom repeated as committee members this year, for the great work and enthusiasm to reach our goal."

In 2011, SMC achieved 100% participation for the first time. Generally, campuses average about 50 to 60% giving, annually. Dr. Colleen Keith, President of SMC, attributed the achievement to a number of reasons. "The momentum we are experiencing from enrollment, more and more outstanding faculty, a new academic building under construction, and our volunteer leadership have provided these results." Numerous leadership committees, including the Board of Trustees for SMC, have also reached 100% participation.

Campus was filled with excitement and energy in achieving this goal. "I am so proud of this campus community! Thank you, thank you, thank you!" Dr. Colleen Keith remarked.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

June 12, 2012 | 5 - 7pm

Pizza Party with the Prez for Florence/Darlington Area Alumni & Friends and Methodist Ministers at Mellow Mushroom in Florence. Free pizza buffet for all guests who RSVP.

June 28, 2012 | 6 - 9pm

SMC Upstate Alumni & Friends Hangar Party at Downtown Greenville Jetport (Runway Cafe' Hangar), 21 Airport Road Ext., Greenville, SC 29607

Come listen to live music by Spartanburg's own Double Ought while enjoying the company of your classmates and friends. Complimentary dinner buffet will be served to all guests who RSVP.

RSVP for both events to Becky Snow at SnowB@smcsc.edu.

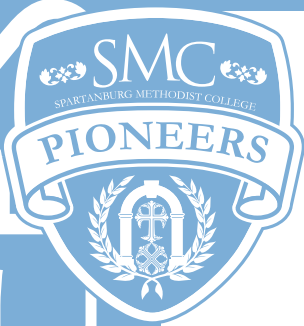
Announcing the 2012 Centennial Issue of the SMC Alumni Directory

SMC has partnered with Harris Connect to produce an updated Alumni Publication. Spartanburg Methodist College Alumni change emails, jobs and locations so often that it is hard to keep up with them. SMC has contracted with Harris Connect to update contact information for SMC alumni around the world so that they can keep up to date on news and activities from campus. Harris will also help produce a beautiful hardcover publication that will allow SMC alumni to find their college buddies and to use for personal and professional networking.

The easiest and fastest way to track down former classmates and friends is through the 2012 Alumni Directory as it will include up-to-date contact information. You will be able to reconnect with classmates in your major or from your field of study. The publication will feature an introduction with full color pictures, prominent SMC personas and a history of TII-SJC-SMC. The publication will also include a section for photos and memories from your days at your alma mater.

Harris Connect is a leading provider of multi-channel solutions for non-profit organizations. Harris specializes in alumni publications and the data needs involved with this type of project. Spartanburg Methodist College Alumni will be contacted – by phone, email and mail – over the next few months to verify and update their contact and career information.

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