

FRONTIERS



SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

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FALL 2021

*23 Students
Make History as*

**FIRST
BACHELOR'S
DEGREE
GRADUATES
AT SMC**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Each year I use this space to tell you about the wonderful stories you’re about to read and summarize the news – good and bad – of the past year from SMC. This year, more than most, I think it’s important that we take this time to look forward rather than back.



We certainly had an eventful year – good and bad – with our first bachelor’s degree graduating class and the loss of some dear friends and leaders. Now, we look to the new academic year with excitement and anticipation for what new milestones await.

We’re excited to have everyone back on campus. The atmosphere is electric as students get back to having a true college experience and professors can impart their knowledge to faces rather than cameras. We’re also mindful of the importance of keeping our campus safe and taking the appropriate precautions so that we can continue to keep everyone on campus.

As you’ll read in the following pages, we’re excited about new programs we’ve launched this fall, including expanding our SMC Online degree offerings. These new programs provide more students the opportunity to earn their SMC degree at their own pace. The debut class exceeded registration goals.

You’ll also read about a couple of the new professional development courses, the capstone and professional communications, that just graduated their first participants. These classes are part of our Camak Core professional development program that shows graduates the skills they’ll need to transition into their careers smoothly and quickly.

And, as always, we’ll share a number of stories with you about the amazing people associated with SMC. From faculty to staff to our amazing students and alumni, SMC has a tremendous family who we are proud to call Pioneers.

So, join us in celebrating a new year at SMC.

Sincerely,

Scott

W. Scott Cochran
President

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FRONTIERS

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YOUR GIFT BUILDS OUR STRENGTH

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE USED 2020 AND 2021 HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS TO KEEP STUDENTS STRONG AND ON TRACK TO GRADUATE.

Some examples of student benefits include:

- \$170,322 for additional student grants, including free summer school and housing for students in need
- \$403,736 for COVID safety precautions: masks, cleaning, and social distancing
- \$88,170 for accessible technology for virtual learning

HOW CAN YOU HELP KEEP SMC STUDENTS STRONG IN 2022?

Give today to the Spartanburg
Methodist College Annual Fund.

- \$700 provides one student access to The Summit – a week-long academic support program
- \$250 provides students in need access to 50 meals
- \$80 provides technology accessibility and use of a Chromebook to a student for one semester

Visit www.smcsc.edu/make-a-donation to donate.



NEW FACULTY

By Mary Hurston Zuelke



Kristen Dayle Welch, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Dr. Kristen Dayle Welch brings more than 21 years of teaching experience to SMC's English department. Most recently, Welch was a professor of English at Cochise College, during which time she was nominated for the Students' Choice Instructor of the Year. She was also a teaching associate

at the University of Arizona's College of Applied Science and Technology.

Welch earned her Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English from the University of Arizona and her Master of Arts in English and Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Central Oklahoma.

She has published four books, including "Women with the Good News," which was nominated for the 2011 Oklahoma Book Award for Best Book in Non-Fiction.

When not teaching or writing, Welch enjoys quilting, walking her dogs, and reading books.

SMC PROFESSOR MOONLIGHTS AS AWARD-WINNING NOVELIST

By Jeremy Handel

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior. What better training for someone who creates fictional people and interactions as an author? SMC Psychology Professor Heather Austin often gets into the minds of others as she develops characters for her award-winning novels.



Since taking her husband's advice, Austin has published nine books, and her tenth is nearly finished under the romance and romantic mystery genres. Her hard work and creative mind have been rewarded with several awards, including her book *Someone Like You*, which recently won gold in the 2021 Global eBook Awards for Romance/Contemporary and was also named a finalist for the Book Excellence Award in Romance.

"Being selected as a finalist really is a great boost to an author's self-esteem, especially in the self-publishing world. We have to do everything (write, edit, market, etc.)," Austin said. "Getting awards lends more credibility to a self-published author. It really made me feel like I am doing something worthwhile and am writing stories that people enjoy reading."

The Book Excellence Awards is an international awards competition that recognizes books for high quality design,

writing, and overall market appeal. The awards intend to help authors get not only recognition but help improve their marketing and sales for their books.

This is the second time she's had a book recognized for the award as her book *Stay With Me* was also a Book Excellence Award for Romance finalist in 2019. Some of her other titles were recognized in the American Fiction Awards for Romance and the Global eBook Awards.

Austin, who lives in Greer, has been teaching as adjunct psychology professor at SMC since 2014 and recently joined the faculty full time. She also continues to write books, saying she has ideas for another 10+ books jotted down. ●

Books by

H. Elizabeth Austin GIBSON FAMILY SERIES:

Falling for Ann
Temptation
Third Time's the Charm
Supposed to Be
Stay With Me
Until You
A Gibson Family Holiday

BECAUSE OF YOU SERIES:

Someone Like You
Led Me to You

FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS

RECOGNIZED FOR 2020-2021

Spartanburg Methodist College recognized three faculty members for their commitment to teaching during the 2020-21 school year with their annual faculty awards, named the outstanding staff member award recipient, and awarded four former faculty members professor emeritus status.



DR. JUDY MIRICK

Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Award

Dr. Mirick has been with SMC's science department, teaching physics and physical science, for two years. She earned her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction, as well as her master's and bachelor's in physics, from Clemson University. Dr. Mirick brings more than 20 years of teaching experience to the College. She was recognized as the 2021 Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Award winner, which honors an SMC faculty member who exemplifies outstanding professional qualifications and teaching ability and comes with an \$800 stipend for further study. It was founded in 1970 as an endowed fund by Dr. A.V. Huff, Jr., a former member of the SMC Board of Trustees, and his wife, Kate, in memory of his parents, Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff.



DR. KIRK HANSEN

SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award

The SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes leading faculty members at each of the organization's member schools. This year's recipient, Dr. Kirk Hansen, joined the history department in 2016 after receiving his Ph.D. in history from the University of Dundee. He has made an impact on his students and colleagues and is a past winner of the Huff Award and the GBHEM Exemplary Teacher award. The SCICU award comes with a \$3,000 grant for further study and research. SCICU is a charitable organization that represents 21 liberal arts institutions in South Carolina, providing fundraising, scholarship funds, and research.



DR. LANNY LANFORD

GBHEM Exemplary Teacher Award

Dr. Lanford has been with SMC for 10 years, mentoring countless music students to achieve their best and share their gifts with the world. And this year, he was honored as the 2021 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Exemplary Teacher Award winner. He has previously served as the Minister of Music at a number of churches, choral director, and music professor, and has 33 published compositions. Dr. Lanford earned his bachelor's in music education from the University of South Carolina, his Master of Church Music from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Doctor of Music Arts from the University of South Carolina. The award is accompanied by a \$500 grant for further study. GBHEM is the leadership development agency of the United Methodist Church.



LEAH CALDWELL

J.L. Geddis Staff Excellence Award

Leah Caldwell was the recipient of the annual J.L. Geddis Staff Excellence award for 2020-21 – an honor given to her by her peers. Caldwell is the Director of Alumni Relations at SMC, leading efforts to maintain relationships with the college's graduates and fundraising for the annual fund that assists SMC students during their education. Caldwell is a 1998 graduate of SMC and was a member of the Pioneers softball team. She has been working at the college since 2001, when she started as an admissions counselor before transitioning to her current role in 2002. She lives on her family farm in Newberry with her husband Marshall and daughter Suzana.

The Geddis award, voted on by staff, recognizes a staff member who has been at SMC for three years and displays excellence in creativity, leadership, teamwork, initiative and who makes special contributions to the institution. Geddis served as vice president of business affairs, accounting and economics professor, and men's golf coach over his 41-year career at SMC.

EMERITUS/EMERITA FACULTY DESIGNATIONS

The College also named four former faculty members as the newest emeritus/emmerita faculty for their years of commitment to SMC. L.H. Buff, Paul S. Lofton, Jr., Eunice R. Knouse, and the late David L. Gibson were recognized at the 2021 commencement ceremony. As professors emeritus/emmerita, each will be recognized with a permanent affiliation with SMC. Buff was a long-time biology professor who retired in 1996; Lofton a history professor who retired in 2007; Knouse a biology professor who retired in 2019; and Gibson a math professor who passed away in 2019. Gibson was selected for the honor last year but was posthumously recognized this year due to the cancellation of 2020's commencement.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

*By Rodney Setzer '22,
Marketing Office Intern*

The 2020-2021 school year was difficult for students across America. They had to switch from learning in-person to an online system with limited human interaction. Not only did the classroom change for students, but so did the way they explored their interests and passions.

That's why adjunct Spartanburg Methodist College Art Professors Mills Brown and Sarah Baldwin did the best they could to offer students a bit of normality during these unprecedented times. They wanted to ensure that SMC would have a gallery showing to celebrate everything the art students

accomplished. The digital art gallery they developed allowed students to see how their pieces worked in combination and allowed students to express what they were grappling with over the past year.

They used a program called Kunstmatrix to set up a virtual room and uploaded all of the student-submitted artwork. Brown and Baldwin then placed the art around a three-dimensional gallery that allows viewers to virtually walk through as if they were there.

This innovative step taken by SMC gave students an incredibly unique experience that should be the start of even more innovation by SMC's art department, with both Brown and Baldwin stating their interest in venturing into the realm of augmented and virtual reality for future shows.

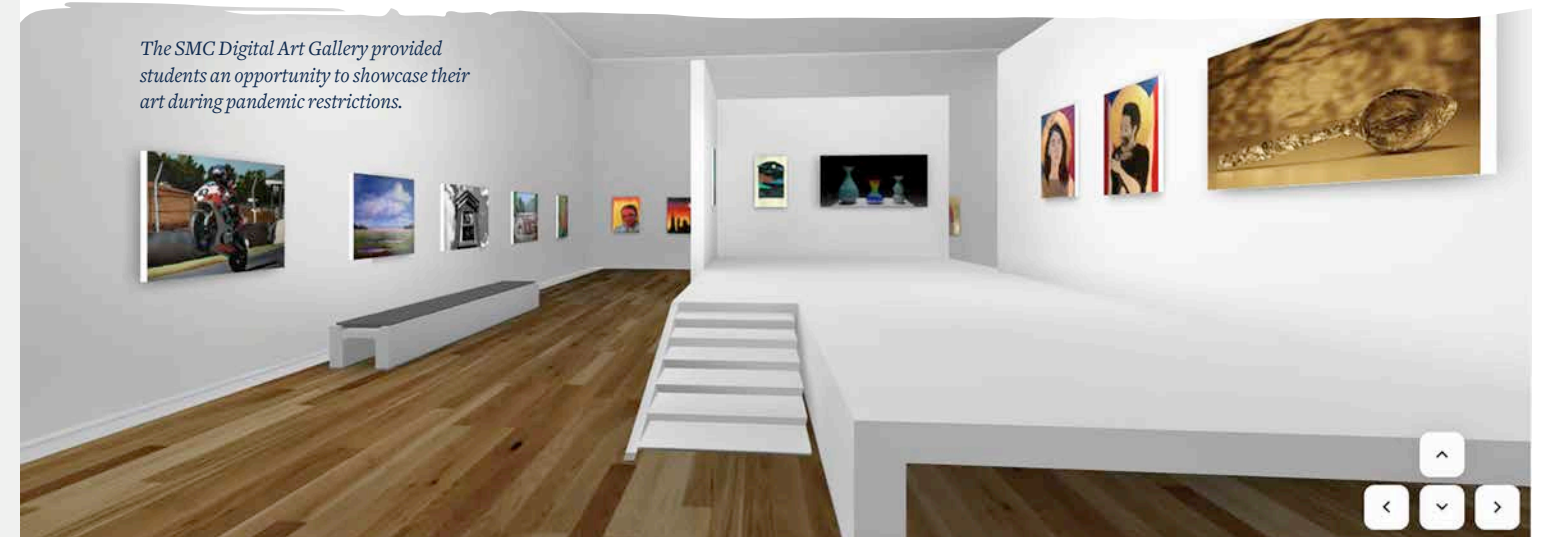
Director of Art Enrichment Josh Holt promoted the show across campus while Brown and Baldwin set up the digital gallery. The gallery also made the art show available for everyone to see over the internet. This availability was important to Baldwin and Brown to make sure that the art was visible for the extended families of their students.

This experience was impactful for SMC student Briana Rice who said, "It was the first time that my extended family could see my art in a gallery. Being able to walk through it while on the phone with them made it more personal, and it was cool. I loved it!"

The gallery was a representation of SMC taking extra steps to make the semester as normal as possible for students.

"The Digital Gallery was important to hold this year. It showed that even in the pandemic, we were still passionate and striving to learn, create, and express ourselves," said SMC freshman Ashley Pereira.

The Digital Art Gallery increased the reach of the students' art as well. Having their work visible online allowed the art to be seen by more eyes than ever, resulting in many students selling their artwork and experiencing the jubilation of making money doing what they love. ●





By Kelly Ferguson

From the coal mines of Virginia to Spartanburg Methodist College, Ricky Hess, the College's maintenance supervisor, has always been a hard worker. Hess has more than 20 years of experience in maintenance, but his true skill is in learning how things work.

From air conditioning to guitars to flooring to amps and banjos, Hess can figure out just about anything given some time. Since he was eight, he liked to work with his hands. Over the years, Hess harnessed that passion to become an expert in building custom guitars.

Originally from Homemaker, Virginia, Hess came to South Carolina as a young man looking for work. Growing up, he played football, baseball, and the guitar. He planned to stay with his uncle until he could get on his feet, but it only took Hess two days to do that. He left Virginia on a Thursday and started working the next Tuesday.

After some time in construction, he made his way into college facilities work. Thanks to his skill, he was soon promoted to the head of maintenance of Presbyterian College. Hess worked there for 21 years before making his way to Spartanburg Methodist College.

For the past two years, Hess has been working to make sure the SMC campus

RICKY HESS: PASSION FOR MAKING MUSIC *and the Guitars He Plays*

is kept in great shape. As he said, "If it's broken, we don't let it stay that way for long." That seems to be a good way of summing up how Hess goes about life.

As his passion for playing guitar grew, he dug in to learning how they work and started fixing his own guitars, which led to Hess building guitars by hand.

"I started playing guitar at eight years old. I played bluegrass, country, then rock and roll as a teen, of course. I liked fixing my guitars then and enjoy building them now," Hess said.

As his skill for building grew, he began to develop a list of clients, who are impressed by his self-taught talent.

"Ricky is one of the smartest guys; he's amazingly talented, and if he doesn't know something give him a minute, and he'll figure it out. His guitars are completely different than anything you've ever seen," said Jamie Seymore, one of Hess' clients.

The first electric guitar he made, in 1993, was built from the walnut of an old local church. Another of his creations was crafted from the wood of Doyle Hall, the oldest building on the SMC campus at the time, standing since 1880. Hess managed to salvage some old heart pine when it was torn down in 2018.

Each guitar takes about 30 - 50 hours to make. So far, he has made eight, but the number of guitars and amps he has repaired over the years far exceeds that. In 2021 alone, Hess has already worked on around 80 guitars for a number of clients. He said that one of his best customers is SMC president, Scott Cochran, who often brings his guitars to Hess for adjustments.

"Guitars are like cars; you gotta take them in to the shop for a tune up," Hess said. "Just how your tires can get out of alignment, same with a guitar. You have to take care of it."

Hess owns about 25 guitars himself, but his favorite is one he custom-made to fit his hands. Every guitar he crafts is completely unique and suited to the customer's preferences. His wife, Tammy, does much of the detail work on the guitars, like inlaying mother-of-pearl designs and creating a logo for their Elise Belle brand, which is named after their daughter and Tammy's grandmother.

The guitars are more than unique for each customer; they also have a collection of antique parts, a specific radius fret design, laser sensor pickups, and stainless steel that make them high-quality instruments.

Hess is one for names. He lists them off quickly, easily recalling people he has worked with to build or repair guitars or amplifiers.

Hess has built guitars for a number of local artists, including Jamie Seymore, Larry Newman, Charles Shealy, Jesse Pearson, and more. He's also worked with national musicians like Jack Mollete, a guitarist for Loretta Lynn and Earnest Tubbs.

Hess loves to play music as well, performing with a couple of local groups for more than 30 years.

Even when not playing with a band, Hess still plays every day. He jokes that the guitar is one of the worst addictions there is, and that he just can't stop. ●

SMC STUDENT CREATES NEW GROUP TO SUPPORT BLACK WOMEN ON CAMPUS

By Jeremy Handel

A varied education, character building experiences, diversity, and critical thinking are fundamental elements of a liberal arts education, paving the way for young students to become future leaders. Some students don't wait until their education is complete to make a difference. Kamilah Cook is taking her shot at changing Spartanburg Methodist College, and the world, for the better for young Black women.

Focused on lifting up, supporting, and highlighting young Black women, Cook has established Soul Sistas as an extracurricular club at SMC.

"Soul Sistas is a group of African American women that demonstrate integrity, perseverance, intelligence, and Black excellence, who are dedicated to giving back to both SMC and the city of Spartanburg," she said. "I want to show the world what can happen when Black women come together. I want to show the world what magic can take place."

As a rising senior at the College, Cook took note of the fact that there wasn't a club on campus focused on bringing Black students, particularly women, together for growth, fellowship, and community service. She decided to work with some friends and a couple of mentors at SMC to see if she could build the club she was looking for.

When she proposed the club to Assistant Director of Entrepreneurial Leadership Clara Jane Hallar and Online Program Advisor Dalynn Hare, Cook said both were very supportive and encouraged her to continue. Their support and the addition of the first two members beyond herself, Caryn Hudson and MiKayla Williams, have instilled confidence in building the club with the return of the fall semester.

Cook said they will be focusing on establishing and growing the new group this fall. They plan to meet weekly and host educational events to introduce the group and discuss diversity issues on campus and in the community.

She also intends to develop a strong community service element for the group. She envisions roadside clean-ups, volunteering at local non-profit agencies, and starting a mentoring program for local middle and high school students.

As with any dream, Cook has grand visions for Soul Sistas, growing beyond SMC to other campuses in the area and beyond. But she is grounded enough to know that success has to start at home.

"For now, Soul Sistas is strictly focused on SMC students, but I do intend on expanding beyond SMC," she said. "Hopefully, in the next five to ten years, we will be on at least three or four more campuses."

Ultimately, Cook hopes to see her vision expand across the nation, helping to develop Black female CEOs, doctors, lawyers, activists, and more. Through fellowship and a commitment to giving back to their community, Soul Sistas is focused on showing the world what intelligent, driven, and confident young Black women can accomplish. ●

5 STUDENTS HONORED FOR PERFECT GPAs

By Jeremy Handel

Spartanburg Methodist College recognized five graduates for their perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA) during the 2021 commencement ceremony.

Three students received the Trustee Medal given to the associate degree graduate(s) with the highest GPA.

- Khyree Annan Miller, Associate in Science, of Columbia, SC,
- Henzel Silva, Associate in Business, of Greenville, SC,
- Madison Stewart, Associate in Science, of Florence, SC.

Two students were awarded the inaugural Dr. David English Camak Award given to the bachelor's degree graduate(s) with the highest GPA.

- Piper Adan-Bedley, Bachelor of Arts, of Greer, SC,
- Landon Wakefield, Bachelor of Arts, of Moore, SC.



TOP: President Scott Cochran presents the Dr. David English Camak Award to Landon Wakefield and Piper Adan-Bedley.

ABOVE: President Scott Cochran presents the Trustee Medal to Madison Stewart and Henzel Silva.

LEFT: Khyree Miller was awarded the Trustee Medal.

Capstone Project Tops Off SMC BACHELOR'S DEGREE

By Jeremy Handel

Any great stone structure starts with the laying of a cornerstone and a solid foundation. The crowning achievement of that structure is when it is topped off with a capstone.

At Spartanburg Methodist College, bachelor's degree students start with a foundation of courses leading to their associate degree. And with the Camak Core professional development program, they top off their bachelor's degree with a Capstone Project that puts their years of learning into action.

"We want to show our students that just getting their degree doesn't guarantee success," said Courtney Shelton, SMC Vice President for Student and Professional Development. "Workplace expectations are incredibly different these days, and we want them to learn the difference between college skills and workplace skills before they graduate and start their first job."

College is designed to prepare students for future careers. Spartanburg Methodist College focuses on preparing students beyond the facts and theory of their chosen profession, providing its graduates with an understanding of how to function in the working world.

With the Camak Core professional development program, they top off their bachelor's degree with a Capstone Project that puts their years of learning into action.

The Camak Core teaches the soft skills needed to easily transition into their careers and feel comfortable functioning in that environment. Students learn professional communication, problem identification and solving, professional development and leadership skills, and the common technology and tools used in the workplace. They are also required to complete an internship to get a first-hand, real-world experience of the skills they have learned.

The culmination of their professional development learning is the Capstone Project. Each student must take the skills and knowledge they have learned and develop a small business, non-profit, or other project or product that demonstrates their mastery of the Camak Core skills.

Students complete their projects by presenting them to a group of professionals, business owners, and faculty who provide feedback on their work. Due to COVID protocols, the presentations this year were conducted via pre-recorded videos.

The 2020-2021 school year hosted the first group of students to complete their Capstone Projects.

"Students seemed both nervous and excited to engage in the process of

creating and implementing a project," said Dr. Temeka Brantley, Director of Project-based Learning and Involvement. "They also recognized the hard work required to create and manage a project and persevered throughout the course."

Among the biggest challenges students faced was simply deciding what their project was going to be. There were also a lot of nerves about creating and launching a business or organization in a semester's time.

"Students are more familiar with a model where they are assigned a project to complete as opposed to having the autonomy to create one," Dr. Brantley said. "Therefore, this process takes time to help shift their mindset and approach."

The students expressed their trepidation at first, but they appreciated the importance of the lessons they had learned by the end.

"When I first heard about the Capstone Project, I was overwhelmed that I had to come up with a project and implement it by graduation," said Landon Wakefield '21. "Because the Capstone is organized in a step-by-step process, it was easier to determine what needed to be done to complete the project."

Once the projects were chosen, the students really took to the assignment, according to Dr. Brantley. They also showed a desire to help others with their projects.

"The first cohort of Capstone Projects demonstrated students' compassion for having a positive impact on the surrounding community," she said. "Although it was not a requirement, many projects aimed to give back, which I believe is a direct reflection of the incredible values instilled at SMC."

Continued on Page 10

What I Learned FROM MY CAPSTONE PROJECT



KENNEDY HOWARD
CAPSTONE PROJECT: Kennedy's Corner: Pen Pal Konnections

SUMMARY: Digital pen pal connections between middle school students with special needs and college students to mentor and build confidence.

"By creating and managing a project from start to finish, I think it displays creative and organizational skills that employers will look for."



MATTISON CHURCH
CAPSTONE PROJECT: Eat, Learn, and Grow

SUMMARY: Project to provide healthy food options to SMC commuter students.

"I think this is a great program. Not only did we get to choose and implement a project we are passionate about, but we also got to use and apply the skills we learned through the Camak Core classes."



QUINN MANN
CAPSTONE PROJECT: Carolina Caffeine Cart

SUMMARY: A mobile coffee cart business operated in Upstate South Carolina.

"I learned a lot of new things about project management like drafting a proposal, forming and working in committees, evaluating goals, and executing the project."



WILLIAM FLINT
CAPSTONE PROJECT: The Elite Minds Project

SUMMARY: A college prep course with current college students teaching incoming freshmen how to navigate college from their own experiences.

"I was able to prove to myself that I could create something that could help other people and enjoy what I had created."



LANDON WAKEFIELD
CAPSTONE PROJECT: PuriTea

SUMMARY: A business to provide caffeine options to those who don't like coffee and introduce them to the benefits of tea.

"The Capstone helped me gain experience in project planning and time management. I can take this knowledge with me in my future career and know that I can manage tasks in a timely manner and plan major projects accordingly."



NINA STONE
CAPSTONE PROJECT: Beloved One: Young Daughters

SUMMARY: A Bible study program for young girls to teach them their true worth through four stories from the Bible.

"Beloved One: Young Daughters has developed me into a better person and has increased my confidence level as a leader, a communicator, a mentor, and a sister in Christ."



REBECCA EDMONDSON
CAPSTONE PROJECT: You Are Not Alone

SUMMARY: Website focused on mental health awareness for college students.

"Something I appreciate about the Capstone Project was that it encouraged us to apply what we already know to make a project better."

Continued from Page 8

One such project was called Eat, Learn, and Grow, developed by Mattison Church ‘21. The project provided weekly produce bags and easy recipe cards for SMC commuter students, giving them healthy options to prepare and eat on the go. Church said the program went better than expected, and she distributed nearly 50 bags to students during the spring semester. She also learned something about herself.

“I learned from the Capstone Project that I can complete a giant project in a matter of weeks, which gives me confidence in my skills going forward,” Church said. “I also learned about being willing to adapt in a constantly changing world.”

Quinn Mann ‘21 also said completing the Capstone Project has boosted his skill set for the future.

“It has given me insight into how to manage projects,” he said. “In the future, when an opportunity presents itself to lead a project, I will be well-prepared.”

While the Capstone Projects were developed for a grade in class, some students were inspired by their projects and plan to continue them beyond graduation or revisit them later in their careers.

While Kennedy Howard ‘22 had gotten started with her project prior to the Capstone class, she was able to build it out more and improve it during the class. Her Kennedy’s Corner: Pen Pal Connections created a correspondence program between students with special needs in middle school and college students to provide mentorship and instill confidence in the younger students. She plans to continue the program after graduation and hopes to expand it further.

Regardless of their plans, Dr. Brantley feels that each of the graduates gained valuable insight into themselves and how to navigate their careers.

“Throughout the course, students learned project management and other skills related to change management, giving them the confidence to apply those skills in their careers,” she said. “I am so proud of the students as they navigated a year interrupted by COVID-19 and were persistent in creating and implementing great projects.” ●

“It has given me insight into how to manage projects...In the future, when an opportunity presents itself to lead a project, I will be well-prepared.”

Quinn Mann ‘21

CLASS OF 2021
CAPSTONE PROJECTS

“HOPE IN A CAN”

JOSH SPROUSE
Food donation program
for local churches.

“ZA KNJIGA O
BOSNASKA-CROAT”

ANDREA JERKOVIC
Bosnian and Croatian cultural
awareness publication.

“KR CONSTRUCTION
PROGRAM”

KHALIL ROBINSON
Knowledge and skills training
in construction trade.

“WESTSIDE TIME
CAPSULE MAGAZINE”

PIPER ADAN-BEDLEY
Historical and cultural appreciation
of communities around SMC.

“RISING STARS”

ABIGAIL SIMPSON
Low-cost tutoring program
for middle school students.

“SWEET CASES”

ROWAN SIVERS
Retail program to fund donating
suitcases to foster children.

“SPIT CAKES”

BRADY WAKEFIELD
Retail project to introduce Czech
delicacy to Spartanburg.

“THE ARK COFFEE
CART”

ALEX MCNEELY
Mobile retail project providing
coffee drinks in the community.

“STEEZY SATURDAYS”

JAMES PAINTER
Provide clothing to the homeless
community of Spartanburg.

“OUR LIVES MATTER”

FASASHA SIMMONS
Bring community and law
enforcement together to
build relationships.

“LIFE SKILLS”

ALEX ALECXIH
Teaching everyday life skills to help
ease tasks and build knowledge.

“CAFE DU MOORE”

NOAH MOORE
A mobile beignet cart to promote
adult breakfast consumption.

“CROWNS & TIARAS”

KEAJHA SULLIVAN
Lending a helping hand to
young women in Spartanburg
creating a lifelong sisterhood.

“WASTE MANAGEMENT
INITIATIVE”

STEVEN TRENCH
Consultancy to aid companies
in moving to zero waste.

“HOMEPREP”

KABRI GARDNER
Help young adults find proper
housing, via renting or purchasing.

“PIONEER SOCIETY”

CLAYTON HERNANDEZ
Organization for students to engage
in social and service events.

“SPARTANBURG VOTES”

TYLER HUDSON
Help people with information
to exercise their right to vote.

“BILINGUAL AND
DIVERSITY STORY TIME”

AMANDA ROSA BANCHS
A story time for Pre-K and
Kindergarten students representing
diversity in literature.

STUDENTS
USE SUMMER
INTERNSHIPS

to Prepare for Their Future

By Rodney Setzer ‘22,
Marketing Office Intern

Internships are a valuable way to help students succeed in their chosen fields of work. Experience is a quality that both Spartanburg Methodist College and employers around the world see as a great tool for future success.

SMC considers internships such an important part of a student’s college education that it’s a required part of the professional development curriculum for bachelor’s degree students. The College is dedicated to helping find and offer students the best possible internships to supplement their growth and education.

Megan Georgion, the Dean of Career and Student Success at SMC, helped explain the importance of internships at the College.

Q Why is it so important for college students to experience working an internship?

A Internships are so important because they allow students to “try out” a career before committing to it. Internships often solidify to a student that the career is the right choice for them, but sometimes it helps a student decide to pivot to something different. Finding out that you aren’t interested in a career while in college saves a student a ton of time, effort, and energy instead of committing post graduation and then not enjoying that career.

Internships are so important because they allow students to “try out” a career before committing to it.

Q In what ways does the Camak Core prepare students to succeed in the internships they go into?

A The Camak Core helps students learn to communicate professionally (oral, written, non-verbal), how to navigate the application and interview process, how to handle workplace conflict, develop leadership skills, manage projects, master workplace technologies, and more. As a part of the curriculum, these courses ensure students are exposed to and can demonstrate necessary workplace readiness skills and traits that contribute to success in internships, as well as their future careers.

Q How many hours do students need to intern to get the 3 credit hours for their Camak Core?

A Students need a total of 120 contact hours to earn the three credits. These hours can be broken into 40-hour (1 credit) increments if the student wants to explore multiple internships.

Q How does SMC help students find internships?

A Advisors in the SMC Experience work with students to help them find an internship! We’ve also recently hired an Employee Relations Manager who will continue to build SMC’s employer pipeline and develop internship opportunities with local businesses. The College utilizes Handshake, where local and national businesses can post internship and job opportunities for our students.

SUMMER INTERNS ON WHAT THEY LEARNED

Over the summer of 2021, SMC had several students who took part in the internship program. We asked them what they learned, the biggest things they took away from their experience, and why their internship was so important to them. Here’s what the interns had to say:

ARIANA ARGUEDAS
WREN AND WYATT

“Throughout my internship experience, I had various roles. I was able to learn about the ins and outs of a business, including marketing, advertising, social media, SEO, and project management. My internship was important for me because it allowed me to explore different career paths and choose something that I was interested in. It also allowed me to find my passion within the workforce.”



HAILEY BREEDING
SPARTANBURG
METHODIST
COLLEGE

“I learned how to communicate better with a big group. I learned how to think on the spot and problem solve in a timely manner. I, now, know how to set up completely for an event. I wanted to expand my knowledge on setting up for events. I was able to do that with the help of the staff on the enrollment team. I was also wanting to work with prospective students and help them have a great experience on campus.”

ALEXIS COBB
CITY OF SHELBY

“I learned how to interview people. I learned how to do the different kinds of paperwork for each employee. My internship was so important to me because the internship was to let me know if this is what I want to do for my career.”



KAMILAH COOK
SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH CAROLINA

“During my time at SOSOC, I learned how to create an education-related curriculum for a summer program, how to use Microsoft Excel effectively, and more about different applications used to send out mass emails. This internship allowed me to explore both the education and communications/journalism fields. This helped me realize that I want to work in both fields, specifically through higher education.”



KENNEDY HOWARD
ELITE HOMECARE
AND DAY
CENTERS-
GREER OFFICE

“I learned some insight into running large businesses and furthered my passion to help other people. I loved doing this internship because while getting experience to help me in the future, I was able to do something that I really enjoyed related to my career field.”

LEAH CRAIN
SHERMAN COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC

“I learned better leadership skills. I also gained experience in marketing, specifically through social media. It was very important that I gained this experience and got to see marketing in a workplace rather than from a textbook or PowerPoint.”



CARYN HUDSON
HORIZON CHRISTIANS ACADEMY

“I got experience working with children. I also figured out a way to make sure that my co-workers and I work together as a team so one of us doesn’t feel alone. My co-workers and I worked together to help each other out no matter what. I also learned the path of different classrooms. My internship was important to me because it helped me figure out which subject and grade that I want to teach one day. It has been a good experience for me because I got to do the fun activities with children. My internship was also important to me because it helped and taught me how to become a successful teacher one day.”

SELENA SOTO
THE BORGES PROJECT

“I learned to do thorough research. I also learned to check my emails and meet deadlines on time. (The internship was important to me) because I like writing and got to do just that.”



**MATTIE MEIKLEJOHN
WREN & WYATT**

“I learned mostly how to source out events. I also learned how to communicate with influencers, customers, and other businesses from a public relations standpoint. My internship was important to me because I have always been interested in public relations, and this gave me the opportunity to have a sneak peek.”

RODNEY SETZER
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

“I learned the basics of content and social media marketing and the importance of having a backup plan and preparing for things to go wrong to minimize my mistakes. This internship was important to me because I hope to make a career of marketing, and getting a taste for it was great for reassuring myself. It also prepared me greatly for any future endeavors I have in the marketing workforce.”

PEYTON MILLER
FIRST CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

“While doing my internship, I learned a few things, one being I have learned how different students learn or take in materials. I also learned how to better understand the gospel, which helped me to better understand my religion and the gospel.”



NOA TOBIN
SHARON UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

“I learned about online outreach via social media, how to plan and prepare worship services and church activities, and how to manage a team. I want to be a pastor someday, so I’m taking all the ministry experience I can get at this point.”

KELSEA WILLIAMS
BEMC - BLACK ECONOMIC MOBILITY COALITION

“I learned that digging into my research leads you to a lot of information. Also that even in the final phase of your business, there is always something that can be done better. It was important because it helped me learn how many small minority businesses were present in Spartanburg County and taught me ways I could help them to grow and expand the brand of their business.” ●



A HEART FOR EDUCATION, A PASSION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CATHERINE GRAMLING

By Samantha Wagner

Education wasn't always the plan, but when Catherine Gramling found her calling, she jumped in with both feet. Today, those feet are planted firmly on the ground while her eyes are always on the future.

"Spartanburg Methodist College is a wonderful college," said Gramling. "It's a college where the president knows students by name and our faculty partners together to help each student grow. Even as a small school, we have all the things that truly make a college successful."

As a member of the SMC Board of Trustees, Gramling's words are a powerful endorsement of the college, but as a teacher, mom, and career development counselor they carry even more impact. From teaching to serving on community boards, she has dedicated her life to educational causes and enjoys serving at SMC, an institution which has roots in her family history.

Gramling's connection with SMC began many years ago before she was even born. Her grandfather, Olin D. Johnston, attended the College in the early 1900s when it was still known as the Textile Industrial Institute. He received his diploma from the Institute in 1915 and later completed a bachelor's degree at Wofford College. His education at both schools served him well and set his family up for future success. As one of the school's more notable alumni, Mr. Johnston served terms as South Carolina's Governor and as a United States Senator.

"Politics are in my blood," she laughs, and it seems to be true. Her mother, Liz Patterson, also went into politics, serving on the Spartanburg City Council, in the South Carolina State Senate, and in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her father, Dwight Patterson was an attorney. Gramling originally set out to follow in her family's footsteps. "As a freshman in college, I thought being a lawyer would be a great way to fight for the underdog," she said. "I intended to major in English and then continue on to law school."

Gramling had long been familiar with both Wofford and SMC as schools affiliated with the Methodist church, the denomination of her faith. She selected Wofford as her college. It was there she would discover her true passion lay not with politics but in working with students. While there, she took an intro-to-education course and fell in love with teaching.

"I knew I needed an elective, and the education course seemed like a good fit. To my surprise, I loved it, and I graduated from Wofford with my English degree, my teaching certificate, and a job at Dorman High School," Gramling said. She loved being in the classroom and feeling like she was making a direct impact on young students. She taught for several years before stepping away to focus on raising her own two children.

This emphasis on family life, however, did not stop her outreach; instead, she focused on supporting local children's nonprofits and volunteering with the Methodist church.

"I do my very best to stay unbiased with my work at the school district when I recommend colleges... but Spartanburg Methodist is such a great school, and now that it's a four-year college, it has even more going for it."

"I wanted to be there for my family and also be involved in the causes I cared about," Gramling explains. "I served for years with the Children's Advocacy Center and Julie Valentine Center - both organizations that help children recover from the effects of abuse."

The volunteer work was emotionally heavy, but also incredibly rewarding. She realized during that time that her work was critical to shaping the next generation of leaders.

While Gramling loved her volunteer work, her tenure in education was far from over. In 2017, she decided to re-enter the world of public education as a career development facilitator for Spartanburg County School District One, where she still works today.

"I enjoy helping the kids figure out what comes next whether that's college, the workforce, or the military," Gramling explained. "Not every student has the same path, and I enjoy being the liaison between businesses, colleges, and students."

Her position with the public school is an incredible asset to her work on the SMC Board of Trustees. In fact, her first few years serving on the Board revolved around the student affairs committee - the part of the board that considers all student-related concerns from dormitories to campus security to extracurricular activities. Her counseling and parenting experience provided her with valuable insight into the mindset of students, and she was able to speak to the issues concerning them most.

"I do my very best to stay unbiased with my work at the school district when I recommend colleges," she laughed, "but Spartanburg Methodist is such a great school, and now that it's a four-year college, it has even more going for it."

With this wealth of experience to draw on, Gramling's voice on the Board is invaluable. Her grandfather's attendance gives her a deep appreciation for the roots of the college, while her involvement in education gives her a modern perspective of students. Her personal faith and church involvement help her understand the Methodist foundation of SMC, and her time volunteering with child-advocacy groups has strengthened an already compassionate nature.

In short, she is thriving both professionally and personally as she continues to serve her community. When asked what she would tell SMC students, she answered with enthusiasm, "Get involved and embrace all the fantastic things SMC has to offer! It really is a jewel of a college, and it provides students with so many wonderful opportunities."

What lies next for a woman committed to education is hard to tell, but her life thus far has been extraordinary, and her future seems as full of potential as the students she serves. ●

23 Students Make History as FIRST BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATES AT SMC

By Jeremy Handel

While COVID-19 may have dominated the headlines during the 2020-21 school year, nothing would overshadow the historic journey one group of students at Spartanburg Methodist College completed as they crossed the commencement stage and were given a title no one had ever received in the 110-year history of the college – SMC bachelor's degree graduates.

With the calling of one name – Piper Ann Kanata Adan-Bedley – SMC officially began awarding four-year degrees. It was a proud moment for the students and a proud moment for the College.

“A hundred years from now, you will still be the first. A thousand years from now, you will still be the first,” President Scott Cochran proclaimed as he congratulated the graduates after conferring their diplomas.



Dr. Jonathan Keisler, Department of Business Chair and Professor of Business, takes a selfie with the first graduates of the program.

In the fall of 2019, SMC began enrolling the first class of bachelor's degree students. The College's four-year program offered a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree with students choosing two concentrations from business, English, history, or religion. In addition to their chosen concentrations, students were also required to complete the new Camak Core professional development program as part of their degree.

“When we designed the bachelor's degree, we wanted to provide a customizable degree that provided a well-rounded education, keeping with our traditional liberal arts roots,” said Dr. Jonathan Keisler, Department of Business Chair and Professor of Business. “We also wanted to provide a specific professional development section to better prepare our graduates for their transition into the professional world.”

Professional development was so important that the Camak Core was developed as a core part of the B.A. program rather than provided as elective courses. The decision proved prophetic as studies now show that businesses are clamoring for more career-ready graduates who can contribute right away.

Students also indicated they feel better prepared to enter the workforce after completing the Camak Core program.

“I think that the Camak Core did give me an advantage in career development in comparison to other colleges,” said Quinn Mann, who was chosen by his peers as the Yandle Senior Class Leader. “We were required to take professional development courses that other students just aren't introduced to.”

Landon Wakefield added, “The Camak Core professional development classes have definitely prepared me for my future career. These classes have allowed me to practice interviewing, prepare business proposals, and learn project management which can all be applicable in the workplace.”

As Landon Pinckney Wakefield became the final name of the inaugural B.A. graduating class called, the historical nature of their accomplishment set in. They turned their tassels, tossed their caps, and shared their joy with their family and friends. As President Cochran said, they will always be the first. ●

“When we designed the bachelor's degree, we wanted to provide a customizable degree that provided a well-rounded education, keeping with our traditional liberal arts roots.”

Dr. Jonathan Keisler

INAUGURAL BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Piper Ann Kanata Adan-Bedley
Mattison Anslee Church
Rebecca Anne Edmondson
William Quinn Crawford Flint
Kabri Annabelle Gardner
Clayton Robert Hernandez
Andrea Ena Jerkovic
Stephen Quinn Mann
Ali Brianne McCall
Alex Jennings McNeely
Noah Ellis Moore
James Scott Painter
McKenzie Rose Prater
Khalil Dante Robinson
Amanda Linnette Rosa Banchs
Fasasha Rosechetta Simmons
Abigail Louise Simpson
Rowan Nettie Silvers
Joshua Lee Sprouse
Nina Suzanne Stone
Steven Michael Trench
Brady Hager Wakefield
Landon Pinckney Wakefield



SMC President Scott Cochran poses with the first bachelor's degree graduates from the College.

2021 COMMENCEMENT CAPS OFF CHALLENGING, HISTORIC YEAR

By Jeremy Handel

On a beautiful, sunny day in early May, 238 Spartanburg Methodist College students gathered on the football field at Spartanburg High School to celebrate. Each one of them officially became college graduates that day. It was also a historic day for SMC, as 23 of those students became the very first bachelor's degree graduates from the College.

After a challenging year marked by masks, distancing, and remote learning, the smiles and cheers from family and classmates made their journey all worthwhile. In his address to the graduates, President Cochran summarized the magnitude of their achievement:

“The diploma that you’ll receive today is evidence and validation of your hard work, your dreams, your sacrifices, your diligence. It represents the grit and the won’t-quit attitude that you will carry with you for the rest of your lives.”

Joining the class of 2021 were approximately 50 students who graduated in 2020. Because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 commencement ceremony had to be canceled. SMC invited those graduates to walk with the class of 2021 so they could have the opportunity to experience the excitement and thrill of receiving their college degree in front of family and friends.

Keynote speaker and immediate past chair of the SMC Board of Trustees, James Fletcher Thompson, praised the students for their perseverance and hard work.

“When change was imposed upon you, when your college career took a different turn than you had imagined, you adapted. You overcame,” Thompson said. “Your graduation today is evidence of it, of your resilience, of your tenacity. For that reason alone, I predict great things from this graduating class.”

The classes of 2020 and 2021 will forever be tied to the challenges of the pandemic, but their drive and their will to overcome will write their legacy. ●





SMC Students Learn What It Means to be a PROFESSIONAL

By Jeremy Handel

Employers continue to stress the need for college graduates to learn skills and behaviors that will better prepare them for the workforce.

Spartanburg Methodist College recognized this need and introduced the Camak Core professional development program in conjunction with the addition of four-year bachelor's degrees, providing students with the soft skills they need to succeed after college, whether in the office or in the field.

Focusing on skills that will prepare students to contribute and succeed in their careers from the start, the Camak Core gives SMC students an advantage over other graduates in competing for jobs. Professional communications is the first of the professional development courses

most students will take, teaching them key skills for job interviews, professional networking, office interactions, and more.

"It's really an introduction to being a professional and how to conduct yourself in a professional setting," said Megan Georgion, M.Ed., Dean of Career and Student Success. "We want them leaving this course knowing how to carry themselves, to dress appropriately, to correspond professionally, and be confident in doing so."

At its core, the professional communications course prepares students to conduct a job search, prepare for and conduct interviews, and make themselves an attractive candidate. But the skills learned for these tasks carry with them into the professional world, helping them more quickly become a contributing member of their new organization.

Students have taken well to the Camak Core and the professional communication course.

"The class shaped me into a well-prepared person," said 2021 graduate Rebecca Edmondson about the course. "From developing a LinkedIn profile to a resume and cover letter to a professional portfolio, the (professional communications) course has you covered."

SMC President Scott Cochran brought the vision of including professional development with him when he became president in 2016. With a history in the corporate finance world, he saw the importance of preparing students in more than the book knowledge of their chosen degree. He wanted SMC students to leave school with a poise and professionalism that improved their career prospects.

"It's important that we prepare students to adapt to life in their chosen career, not just the theory and knowledge of their concentrations," he said. "How to communicate, how to interact, and the technology and tools used in a profession are critical to being able to contribute to a new employer right away."

Georgion said the professional communication course is purposely positioned as the first of the Camak Core

classes to prepare students for the other courses they will take. Students start off with establishing their professional profile by building a LinkedIn profile, writing a resume, and establishing a digital portfolio to feature their work and accomplishments.

Next, they learn the lifecycle of applying for a job, including researching the company, customizing their resume and cover

letter, conducting mock interviews, and appropriate follow up after an interview.

From there, students delve into the various types of professional communication and appropriate ways to communicate in each area.

"We want this course to prepare them for internships, job searches, and interviews. We also want to prepare them for how to conduct themselves once they do start a career," Georgion said. "There are a number of skills from this course that carry over into their careers, like professional correspondence, networking skills, and office etiquette."

She added that employers are noticing and have provided positive feedback on the readiness and professionalism of SMC graduates. Georgion believes the Camak Core – and particularly the professional communications course – are providing employers with applicants who are better prepared and have the

basic understanding of the processes and intricacies of an office environment.

"Employers have told us that our students are better prepared during the interview process and when joining their companies," she said.

Students also understand the advantage that the professional development curriculum provides them as they begin their careers.

"I think students who have taken the Camak Core classes have an advantage over other college students when searching for a job," said 2021 graduate Landon Wakefield. "Because of the classes, SMC students already have a complete resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, and the mindset of a professional."

Another key element of the professional communications course is a revisit of the elements of the course, particularly updating resumes and profiles, as the students are preparing to graduate. Georgion says this update provides students with a refresher of the skills they learned as they prepare to apply for jobs.

"Revisiting the professional communications with them as they approach graduation is not only a way to revisit the skills they learned, it's also an opportunity to reinforce their readiness and build their confidence," she said.

Transitioning from college to a career is challenging, but with the professional communications course at SMC, students can be confident in their ability to fit in with their colleagues. ●



"We want this course to prepare them for internships, job searches, and interviews. We also want to prepare them for how to conduct themselves once they do start a career... There are a number of skills from this course that carry over into their careers, like professional correspondence, networking skills, and office etiquette."

Megan Georgion, M.Ed.
Dean of Career and Student Success

NEW ONLINE PROGRAMS

Give More Students Access to SMC Degrees

By Jeremy Handel

Spartanburg Methodist College has always been committed to providing access to a college education to students from a variety of backgrounds. It is a key principle of the founding mission of Dr. David English Camak, who sought to give the working class a path to better their lives. More than 100 years later, innovating new ways to provide access to more groups of students continues to be a part of the College's mission.

With that in mind, SMC has expanded its digital presence, offering five new online degree programs starting in the fall of 2021.

"Spartanburg Methodist College has always been a trailblazer when it comes to innovative educational opportunities to serve our student population," said Dr. Toni Bennett, Associate Provost for Online Strategy. "Our goal is to serve our students in the manner they want to learn, whether that is on-ground, online, or a combination of the two."

Dr. Bennet joined SMC in January 2021 to advance the online degree program, which started with the launch of the online associate degree in criminal justice in March 2018. The expanded program adds associate degrees in arts or business as well as a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. The Bachelor of Arts provides concentrations in either criminal justice, psychology, or business. The B.A. in Business Administration includes concentrations in accounting and finance, economics and finance, marketing and sales, or management and entrepreneurship.

The online criminal justice program proved popular from the start, with 10 students enrolling in the first spring session and averaging more than 25 students each session since. The program has been praised by its students.

"A representative from SMC came and spoke to our department about the online criminal justice program and the ability to work at my own pace really attracted me," said Corporal Joseph Kellahan, who completed the online associate degree in criminal justice while working around his schedule as a police officer for the Sumter Police Department. "The online program was awesome."

With the new offerings, Corporal Kellahan intends to continue his education at SMC, pursuing an online bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Dr. Bennett said students like Corporal Kellahan are the key audience for online degree programs.

"SMC online degree programs are designed to meet the educational needs of working adults so they can realize their dream of earning a college degree anytime and anywhere," she said.

Online degree programs have grown in popularity in the past several years. More and more working adults and students with other obligations that don't afford them the time to take courses on campus are seeking out degrees online. SMC's program was based on its traditional stackable degree program to provide those students the same opportunities as on-campus students.

SMC's online program is an online degree pathway, which is a bridge program between the associate degree and a bachelor's degree. It is designed for students who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree but also provides students with an associate degree first. This opportunity can give them an advantage at work or even help them find a better job while they pursue their bachelor's degree.

Constructed to allow students to complete their degree at their own pace and on a schedule that fits around their daily obligations, the program is taught in

accelerated eight-week terms, allowing students to earn six credit hours per term. With a full course load, SMC online students are able to earn up to 30 credit hours per academic year, allowing them to earn their degree as quickly as a traditional student. Other online programs tend to operate on longer terms, which extends the time it takes to earn a degree.

With the launch of the new online degree programs, SMC looks to expand its reach and provide a college education to more audiences. The new programs were well received, with fall enrollment exceeding the College's initial goals. Dr. Bennett is focused on continuing the success of the launch and making sure the program quality meets guidelines developed by the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions; however, she also has her sights set on some longer-term goals to expand the program.

"Long-term goals for the program include the expansion of our educational options to include microcredentials that complement our degree programs," she said of the certifications students can receive when they master certain skills in class. "They provide more value and stackable professional options for our students, including continuing education credits, certificates, and corporate training."

For now, SMC is focused on making sure that its online degree programs provide the same quality education as the traditional, on-campus experience, which includes the Camak Core professional development courses. This core program provides students training in the soft skills that employers are looking for in new employees. From professional communication to applied technology to team leadership, the Camak Core prepares SMC graduates to be contributing members of their new organization right from the start.

The SMC online degree program provides another way for the College to fulfill its mission of providing a high-quality college education to the students who want to achieve their career and life goals. ●



"Spartanburg Methodist College has always been a trailblazer when it comes to innovative educational opportunities to serve our student population... Our goal is to serve our students in the manner they want to learn, whether that is on-ground, online, or a combination of the two."

Dr. Toni Bennett
Associate Provost for Online Strategy.

SMC is focused on making sure that its online degree programs provide the same quality education as the traditional, on-campus experience.

2021 Graduates Find JOB SUCCESS

By Jeremy Handel

The 2021 Spartanburg Methodist College commencement ceremony bestowed degrees on 238 students – including approximately 50 graduates from 2020 who returned to participate in the ceremony. Finishing college and receiving their degree was a major milestone for these students. The next steps for each of them differ, including careers, enrolling in bachelor's degree programs, or even moving on to graduate programs.

Frontiers reached out to several students to get an idea of what their futures hold. We caught up with some of them to ask how SMC helped them in their new positions and about their future goals.



CLAYTON HERNANDEZ
BUSINESS OPERATIONS ANALYST
American Credit Acceptance

How did SMC help prepare you for your new role?

The professional development courses transformed me from a regular college student into a professional who can navigate the work environment. SMC helped along the way to teach important skills such as how to prepare for interviews, launch projects, and even focus on our personal growth. I believe that by following SMC's guiding principles of achievement, integrity, and service, I will be able to achieve all my goals and make my professional aspirations a reality.

What are your future professional goals/plans?

I plan on pursuing my master's in business administration with my eyes set on becoming part of management.



NINA STONE
ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR
Limestone University

How did SMC help prepare you for your current role?

As a former student who has assisted with admissions for three years, I am proud to forever represent SMC no matter where I am. Reflecting on my current role as an admissions counselor, I was privileged to be taught and trained by the best of the best. From networking with prospective students, families, and co-workers, planning, communicating virtually and in-person, advocating, and representing, I would not be where I am today without my experience at SMC. As I walk the campus of Limestone University each day, I proudly carry the SMC spirit with me!



QUINN MANN
LEGAL INTERN
Holcombe Bomar PA
2021 LAW STUDENT
University of South Carolina School of Law

How did SMC help prepare you for your new role?

For starters, it was a connection at Spartanburg Methodist that helped me get my internship at Holcombe Bomar. Aside from that, my professional development courses have helped me tremendously in the workplace. An example of this is from professional communications class. During one of her lectures, we learned about salary negotiation. This was really important material to cover because money is a sensitive subject, and it can feel awkward and unappreciative to ask an employer for more. When I transitioned from part-time to full-time at Holcombe Bomar, I asked for a raise. Without Megan's advice, I would not have known how to ask for more money, nor would I have had the confidence to do so. Ultimately, I was successful in negotiating a raise.

What are your future professional goals/plans?

My future professional goals are to graduate from law school and to become a practicing attorney. I am drawn towards pursuing a Juris Doctorate because every aspect of our country is regulated by the law. There are so many facets to the legal field, and there are a lot of opportunities to challenge myself, learn new things, and make a difference in people's lives. I am unsure of what aspect of the law I want to focus on, but I am excited to find out during the journey ahead.



JOSH SPROUSE
MANAGEMENT TRAINING
(hired full time after internship)
Bragg Waste Services

How did SMC help prepare you for your current role?

SMC prepared me in a way that I didn't really comprehend until I was in the moment. As my internship was coming to a close earlier in the year, my boss approached me with a thought: he said, "Josh, I want to hear your elevator pitch." My mind raced in so many different directions as I tried to muscle up all the information Dr. Keisler drilled into us on this subject. But one thing rose above all: showing the desire and motivation to see my company grow. My boss had witnessed my manual labor abilities. He knew what I was capable of doing. But what many professors instilled in all of us is that when you obtain a job, your company's name comes above your name. When you interact with customers or complete a task, it's not your name that is on the line, it's your company's. I wanted to communicate to my boss that I am the person that is going to do whatever it takes to see this company grow. And it worked -- I was hired as a full-time staff member after my internship.

What are your future professional goals/plans?

One of my favorite things about working here is that I get to do multiple things. I am able to learn multiple sides of the company in order to expand my skills and witness how each part of our company functions; however, my main initiative to perfect within our company is septic tank work. One would quickly turn his/her nose up to such duties, yet on the flip side all we smell is money! A big goal for me right now is to obtain my CDL license. This will expand my abilities even more in allowing me to operate our commercial trucks and trailers. This will make me even more valuable and give me another opportunity to push for growth within our company. I hope to be completing septic jobs on my own by the end of the year!



KEAJHA SULLIVAN
STUDENT ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT
Sherman College of Chiropractic

How did SMC help prepare you for your current role?

While my bachelor's degree concentrations were business and history, I personally believe the professional development courses were invaluable to my success. Knowing how to apply and the do's and don'ts of resumes helped me land the position. I felt SMC set the basic standards for what professionalism looks like in the workforce. With the help of Megan Georgian and Courtney Shelton, I was able to learn further how to stand out and show companies I am the one they want. SMC being such a close-knit community allowed professors to really care about my future and push me to be able to stand on my own. The one professor that I can say contributed the most to my success is Dr. Keisler. Being a business major, I had my fair share of courses with him, but he was also a mentor and a father figure. He pushed me past my limit and dared me to become strong in my abilities. Not only that but he expected excellence from each student, and this fueled the passion and drive we had.

What are your future professional goals/plans?

I plan to start a business around this time next year with a cosmetics line. I hope to own several businesses so that one day I can open a recreational center to give back to my community. These goals are huge, and I may not be able to accomplish all of them; however, I will try.



LANDON WAKEFIELD
MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENT –
MASTER IN MANAGEMENT IN
PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP
Converse College

How did SMC prepare you to continue your education?

Because of the Professional Development courses SMC offers, I was not only introduced to the normal classes each college student is required to take, but I was also introduced to classes focusing on professional leadership, forming resumes and cover letters, and interview techniques. These classes and the professors who taught them helped me to realize that I have a passion for helping students in career development. Not only did SMC help to prepare me for my continued education by introducing me to my chosen career path, but the professors always encouraged me to strive to be the best that I can be, and when someone is encouraged and motivated, they tend to make big plans and create new goals. This is why I have chosen to further my education.

What are your future professional goals/plans?

I hope to eventually work with college students in career development. After I graduated from high school, I took a year off because I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I had no career in mind and I was afraid that I would never figure it out. Within that year, I decided that I wanted to attend college to pursue interior design, but it was not until I attended SMC that my goal shifted to higher education. I feel as though I can relate to students who are just starting their college career and trying to plan their future path. I have a passion to help guide them with these difficult, yet exciting, decisions.

SMC Athletics RECAP

SMC had another successful season of athletics in the 2020-21 school year, notching 24 All-Region players, two Players of the Year, and two Coaches of the Year.



BASEBALL

SMC’s 2020-21 Baseball team ended with 35 wins and 18 losses, ending the season winning 66% of their games. The Pioneers also finished as the runner-up in the Region 10 Tournament. Five Pioneers were selected for the All-Region honors including Dosi Jones (First Team), Khyree Miller (First Team), Kobe Miller (Second Team), Jordan Starkes (Second Team), and Sean Flannery (Second Team).

SOFTBALL

SMC Softball finished the 2021 Spring season 17-30, 5-7 in conference, and went into the Region 10 Tournament in third place. The Pioneers had three First Team All-Region players – Faith Bowen, Bailee New, and Elle Parent – and three Second Team All-Region players – Savannah Fields, Desiree Santos, and Brooke Scruggs. Faith Bowen was also named Pitcher of the Year.



COURT VOLLEYBALL

In court volleyball, the Lady Pioneers finished with an 11-12 record along with a runner-up spot in the Southeast District Tournament.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

SMC’s Beach Volleyball team had its inaugural season this past spring, kicking off what hopes to be another top performing program.



MEN’S BASKETBALL

The men’s basketball team finished with a 7-8 record for the season, with Avery Jones receiving Second Team All-Region honors.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The Lady Pioneers’ Basketball team finished with an outstanding 14 wins to only six losses. Not only did they finish first in Region 10 during the regular season, but they also won the Region 10 Tournament. The women also finished in the runner-up spot in the Southeast District. Their successful season was capped off with Brittany Mach and Jenna Wooten being named All-Region and Kelly Britsky being named Region 10 Coach of the Year.



MEN’S GOLF

With an eighth-place finish in the Southeast District Championship, the men’s golf team just missed an automatic bid into the NJCAA National Championship.

WOMEN’S GOLF

SMC’s women’s golf team finished 15th in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Division I National Championship.



MEN’S SOCCER

With a 4-5-1 regular season record, the men’s soccer team finished as runner-up in the Region 10 Tournament. The team also had six All-Region players this season. Those receiving All-Region honors were: Youkendji Pacius (First Team), Victor Capitillo (Second Team), Jason Hernandez (Second Team), Eh Ah (Second Team), Miguel Rivas (Second Team), and Bradley Jenkins (Third Team). Youkendji Pacius was also named Player of the Year in the Region.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

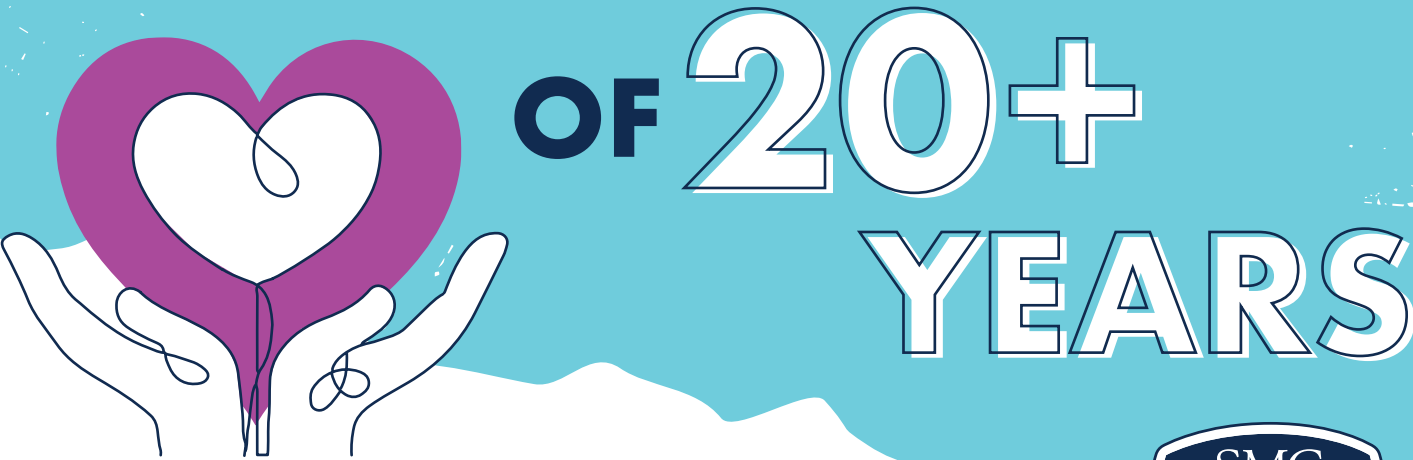
The women’s soccer team had a terrific 2020-21 season. Finishing first in the regular season was not enough, as they also went on to win the Region 10 and Southeast District Championships. These wins qualified them to take part in the NJCAA National Tournament. Along with those team accolades, seven Pioneer women were selected to All-Region teams including Beyonce Williams (First Team), Amiyah Robinson (First Team), Campbell Gibson (First Team), Abigail Gibson (First Team), Reagan Chafin (First Team), Kayla Tucker (First Team), and Madison Stewart (Second Team). Beyonce Williams also received Player of the Year honors with coach David Cox being named Coach of the Year.



MEN’S AND WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

In men’s cross country, SMC finished runner-up in the Region 10 Championship. The men also had three athletes named All-Region: Nigel Dos Santos, Cameron Gossett, and Aisan Ryan. In women’s cross country, the Pioneers won the Region 10 Championship and had five girls earn All-Region Honors: Whitney Craft, Virginia Walkup, Isabella Padilla, Hali Gardner, and Ashlynn Phipps. Both teams traveled to Fort Dodge, Iowa, in November to compete in the National Championships for both cross country and half marathon.

HONORING CONSISTENT DONORS



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT SINCE 2000.

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Since the year 2000, this group has donated a collective total of more than \$5.6 million - Thank you for your loyalty to SMC!

EVERY DONOR AND EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

A FAMILY'S SPECIAL LEGACY

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DWIGHT JOHNSON

By Samantha Wagner

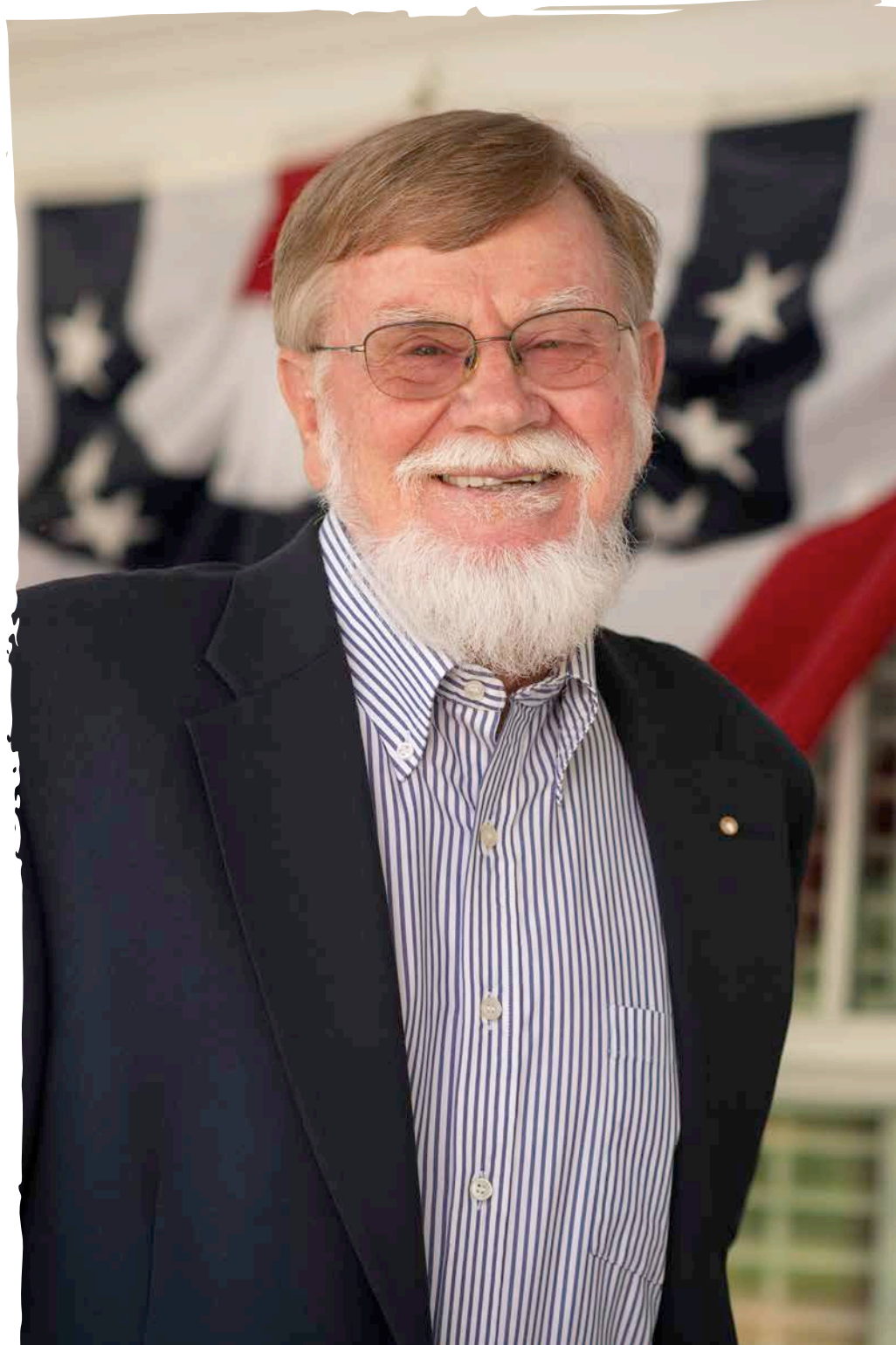
The youngest of five, from rural Chesterfield, S.C., Dwight Johnson grew up in a time when not everyone went to college.

“My father was a self-taught man with no diploma, college or otherwise, to his name” he explains. “He was well-read and well-educated, but he never graduated from anywhere.”

Dwight remembers that his father exhausted every resource their one-room schoolhouse had to offer, but educational opportunities in the late 1800s were limited. Still, the elder Mr. Johnson believed in the power of education and the importance of completing a college degree. He was determined that his children not only attend a college or university but also graduate with their degrees.

That singular focus would encourage all five children to obtain degrees and would establish a family tradition of education. The first step in that journey, however, took place at a school 120 miles due west from the family farm called Spartanburg Methodist College.

Dwight’s sister, Edith, the oldest of the five, was the first to attend SMC, then



Spartanburg Methodist Junior College. One of nine in her high school senior class, she and another young woman were invited to tour the residential campus with their school district’s superintendent C. R. Griffin - an alumnus of Spartanburg Methodist College when it was known as Textile Industrial Institute. Dwight’s father also accompanied the two ladies, and the group was greeted on campus by Dr. Burgess, the president of the College at the time. The tour went well, and the school’s emphasis on helping students thrive was evident. For a small, rural family, however, money was a concern.

“I remember that Dr. Burgess told my father in 1952 that if Daddy could find a way to get his kids to the college, then Dr. Burgess would not send them away for lack of money,” Johnson said.

Edith enrolled in the fall of 1952 and attended the college until her transfer to Lander University to complete her BA. The second daughter, Ila Sue, followed in her footsteps, attending the College before transferring to complete a degree in teaching. For the next 13 years, the other Johnson children would attend SMC, until Dwight’s enrollment and eventual transfer to USC in the early 1960s.

Through it all, Dr. Burgess was true to his word. From scholarships to work-study programs, each of the children was able to afford the tuition, room, and board needed for their studies provided they maintained their grades and continued to excel.

Dwight loved his time at the College, but his road from high school to college was difficult. “I was the youngest of the family and financially things were difficult,” he explained. “My sister, Ila Sue, was like a second mother to me. She was already a school teacher when I was finishing my high school classes, and she helped pay for my lunches so that I could focus on other things.”

He credits her support and kindness as foundational to his success at SMC.

“She and I also had eye conditions,” he said. “She understood me and encouraged me, during that time and throughout my life, and I will not be able to repay that.”

While his sister’s investment in his education was invaluable, his success at SMC might also be the product of familiarity. At the time of his enrollment, he had attended every one of his siblings’ graduations, with the exception of his older brother who attended the College for two semesters before taking a leave of absence and joining the Navy. He would later complete a seminary degree. The professors and administration at SMC knew the Johnson family, and Dwight, as the youngest, had first-hand knowledge of the College from his siblings.

While it would have been easy to simply attend his classes and not invest in the people around him, Dwight made it a point to know everyone at the small, residential College. “I knew the name of every student on campus, both male and female,” Dwight says with a smile in his voice. “I was a shy high schooler, and it was important to me that I get out of my shell and meet new people.”

He loved his time at SMC, making friends in clubs, sports, and other activities while advancing academically and preparing for his eventual transfer. His time at the school was wonderful, he says, and he holds a special fondness for the college to this day.

Dwight’s life after SMC has been extraordinary. He transferred from the College in 1964 and completed a bachelor’s in business at the University of South Carolina. His career took a variety of shapes throughout his working life - from office manager to financial controller to entrepreneur; and his personal life was filled with family, church, and civic duties. He and his wife of 38 years have raised a family, and he has volunteered in his community in a variety of capacities, helping start local nonprofits, and serving as a firefighter for his small town.

One of the greatest honors in his life, however, was his service as District Governor for the Lion’s Club’s the “Knights of the Blind.” As an international club officer, district governors are responsible for helping the Lion’s Club advance the international president’s vision for the current year while also supporting the organization’s charge of shedding light on the needs of eye conditions throughout the world. The cause is near to his heart both because of his own eye condition as well as his sister Ila Sue’s.

In 2014, Dwight endowed the Johnson family scholarship fund at SMC to honor his sister and his entire family.

“I wanted to help other students receive an education the same way that my father helped us and other kids,” Johnson said. His father had been a life-long advocate for the College. “He was always bragging about his kids to anyone who would listen, and he tried to get many of the local high school students to consider the College.”

The scholarship is a small way to honor his father’s commitment and his sister’s dedication to teaching. “It started as a small thing and has grown as we’ve continued to contribute to it,” Dwight says. “We actually still own the family farm in Chesterfield County, and the proceeds from its operation go back into the scholarship fund.”

SMC changed the course of his family’s life. Today, his children all have graduate degrees, and his grandchildren are preparing to continue the tradition. It gives him great joy knowing he is providing that same, life-changing opportunity to modern students. Much has grown from humble beginnings, and a father’s determination continues to impact the next generation for the better. ●

“I wanted to help other students receive an education the same way that my father helped us and other kids... He was always bragging about his kids to anyone who would listen, and he tried to get many of the local high school students to consider the College.”

Dwight Johnson

SEVEN DECADES OF HELPING OTHERS

Drives SMC Alum



**WINIFRED
"WINNIE"
SEIFERT
CORN**
Class of 1947

By Mary Hurston Zuelke

Winifred “Winnie” Seifert Corn ’47 is a caregiver for people when they need it the most.

She has been volunteering in the healthcare field for more than 72 years – 34 of which have been in hospice.

“I have a passion for helping sick and dying people. I was a born nurse, but I never got the chance to be one,” Corn said when asked what drew her to volunteering.

Corn attended what was then Spartanburg Junior College (SJC) from 1945 to 1947, earning a degree in liberal arts. SJC was the ideal fit for her for the same reasons that students choose the College today – its location and affordable price.

When she graduated, she wanted to go to nursing school but didn’t have a way to pay for it; instead, she found other ways to live out her calling as a nurse through volunteer work.

She’s volunteered with the Red Cross, Mary Black Hospital, and Spartanburg Regional Hospital. Particularly drawn to home patients and Alzheimer’s patients, Corn has earned Home Volunteer of the Year from Spartanburg Regional several times.

Reflecting back on her experience as a volunteer, Corn recalls an early conversation she had with a young hospice patient that had a deep impact on her. She remembers feeling connected to the young man as if he were her son and knowing that she was made to do this work. Over the last decades, Corn has continued to care for her patients as if they were her family.

It’s easy to see why Corn connected with the young man that day, along with so many others on her journey as a hospice volunteer – spend a few minutes with her and she will make you feel like you’re family too. Corn’s volunteer work was put on hold during the pandemic, but she plans to continue again, caring for people when they need it the most. ●

2021-2022

ALUMNI

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NOV 19
2021

**AN EVENING OF
DUELING PIANOS**

SMC Campus, Spartanburg, South Carolina
Live Music and Charity Auctions to support SMC Students
6:30 – 9:30 pm

THURSDAY
FEB 17
2022

**PIONEER
GIVE DAY**

Invest in Student Success during
this 24-hour virtual event

FRIDAY
FEB 25
2022

**OYSTER ROAST &
LOW COUNTRY BOIL**

Bowens Island in Charleston, South Carolina
6:00 – 9:00 pm

APR 1–30
2022

**PIONEER 19.11 MILE
BIKE & HIKE**

30-day virtual fundraising event



Living a Dream to DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION

By Matt Jacob

Growing up the son of two dedicated educators whose careers spanned a combined seven decades, Darrell James “D.J.” Brown III ‘11 had a front-row seat to the immense impact teachers can have on impressionable young students — and the immense joy and fulfillment that comes from playing a small but significant role in those students becoming successful and productive adults.

So, there wasn’t much doubt that Brown would follow in his parents’ footsteps, despite their best efforts to dissuade him from doing so.

“They did a good job trying to convince me not to go into education because they wanted to make sure I chose a career that I knew I wanted to do for the rest of my life. They also wanted to make sure I was aware that you certainly don’t go into it for the salary,” Brown said of his parents, both of whom retired last year. “But from a very young age, maybe fourth or fifth grade, I knew I wanted to be a physical education teacher like my father.”

With that goal very much still in mind as he neared the end of his time at Wren High School, Brown began formulating a game plan. Priority No. 1: Attend a four-year university, likely near his hometown of Anderson, South Carolina. That game plan changed, however, on a winter night in 2009, when Brown — a shooting guard on the Wren basketball team — lit up his gymnasium’s scoreboard, tallying 28 points against Greenwood High School.



**DARRELL
JAMES “D.J.”
BROWN III**
Class of 2011

Brown’s performance caught the attention of one spectator in particular: Rob Burke, then the head basketball coach at Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC). Burke attended the game to scout a Greenwood player — who happened to be Brown’s longtime friend and former travel-ball teammate — but after witnessing Brown’s shooting clinic, he sought out the senior outside Wren’s locker room.

“Coach Burke told me who he was and where he was from, and after watching me play another time or two, he invited me for a campus visit,” Brown recalls. “I had vaguely — *very* vaguely — heard of Spartanburg Methodist, but it was never a place I thought I would go after graduating high school.”

Still, having fallen in love with basketball at a young age, Brown was intrigued about the prospect of playing at the collegiate level. And since no other schools seriously recruited him, he took Burke up on his offer to check out SMC, which, at the time, was a two-year institution.

“It was a cold Saturday morning in March, and I was probably the last recruit to arrive, but there was Coach Burke in his trench coat, waiting to greet me outside Bridges Arena. It was a small gesture but one that showed the type of investment he had in his players and his program,” Brown said. “I immediately appreciated that.”

After touring the campus and learning about the unique academic and social environment SMC provides, Brown abandoned his four-year university plan and accepted Burke’s partial scholarship to become an SMC student-athlete.

On the court, Brown averaged about 10 points per game and helped the Pioneers reach the Region X tournament semifinals during both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. Away from the hardwood, he quickly came to appreciate SMC’s

tight-knit community, small class sizes, and direct access to professors and administrators. One such administrator was Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, who became SMC’s president the year Brown arrived.

“She was heavily involved in everything and genuinely interested in the entire student body,” Brown said. “She attended basketball games and other extracurricular activities, she knew what classes you were taking, and she even ate lunch with students in the cafeteria. I’m sure some presidents at other colleges do that, but it’s different when they have a real conversation with you and ask things that are pertinent to your life at that moment.”

Brown went on to earn his associate degree at SMC in 2011, then continued his education (and basketball career) at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, where he completed his bachelor’s degree in 2013. A few months later, Brown fulfilled his dream of being a physical education teacher when he landed a job at Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary School in Campobello, S.C. And by the time he arrived on campus, he had already hatched a second dream: to someday make the unique leap from the blacktop to the administrative office.

So, Brown went back to school twice, first to earn his master’s in education from Anderson University, followed by a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Sure enough, in July 2017 — after four years as a PE teacher — he became Holly Springs-Motlow’s assistant principal.

Brown held that position until taking one more step up the administrative ladder this summer, when he was named principal at Mabry Middle School in Inman, South Carolina.

“I’m very proud of that degree, and it’s something I want students to see because I want them to understand that SMC was a small but very important and essential piece of the journey that led me to where I am today.”

Darrell James “D.J.” Brown III ‘11

Throughout his rapid climb within Spartanburg County School District 1, the 30-year-old Brown has remained mindful of the path his parents paved, letting their experiences serve as a guiding light.

“I saw the investment and the relationships they had with their students. They were very real, very authentic,” Brown said of his mother (an English and special education teacher at Wren High School for more than 35 years) and father (a PE teacher and football and basketball coach at Wren Middle School for 32 years). “That’s something I’ve tried to emulate, first as a teacher and now an administrator. I want my students, faculty, and staff at Mabry Middle School to look at this not just as a place to go to school or work. I want them to know that I’m invested in them as individuals.”

Part of that investment, at least when it comes to students, means being willing to impart wisdom to those who seek it. That’s why Brown has his SMC diploma hanging on a wall in his office alongside his other degrees. He knows there will come a day when a student walks in and asks why their principal went to a junior college. He’ll then, tell the story about basketball and Coach Burke and Dr. Keith and why he’ll always cherish his time at SMC.

“I’m very proud of that degree, and it’s something I want students to see because I want them to understand that SMC was a small but very important and essential piece of the journey that led me to where I am today,” Brown said. “I readily admit SMC was not my first choice. But it definitely ended up being the best choice.” ●

After touring the campus and learning about the unique academic and social environment SMC provides, Brown abandoned his four-year university plan and accepted Burke’s partial scholarship to become an SMC student-athlete.

For the Cathcarts, SMC IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Spartanburg Methodist College is often recognized for its close-knit, friendly atmosphere. Some would even call it a family-like atmosphere, which fits just right for recent graduate Adrian Cathcart '20.

The family atmosphere for Adrian is more than a feeling; it is reality as his wife, Candace '12, is also an SMC graduate, and their son, Cameron, is now a student at SMC. It's also one of the main reasons he chose to pursue his education there.

"I, initially, chose SMC because it was close to home, but I also really liked the atmosphere and personal attention," Adrian said. "What sets it apart is the small class sizes because you get the one-on-one attention, and the professors go the extra mile to help you succeed."

That connection to the College also inspired him to return this spring to attend the commencement ceremony, even though he officially graduated in 2020. With the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's commencement was canceled, but the college invited all 2020 graduates to return this year to share in the commencement experience.

"I was excited that they invited us to walk at graduation this year and wasn't going to miss it," Adrian said.

His wife, Candace, also chose SMC initially because it was close to home and many of her friends were attending. After starting at SMC out of high school, she had to postpone her studies. When she decided to return to college later in life, she went right back to SMC and graduated with her psychology degree in 2011.

"SMC was great and an all-around wonderful experience," she said. "It was at SMC that I decided on psychology as a major. My advisors and Jill Johnson were major influences in my decision to further my education at Converse College and pursue a B.A. in psychology."

Today, that inspiration and influence have led Candace to her calling as a counselor specializing in grief support, anxiety, depression, and negative self-image issues at her own practice, C&C Counseling Associates. She is also a therapist at Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition, working with victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Like his wife, Adrian plans to continue his education, attending SMC's online program to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and history to become a history teacher. He's excited that SMC has added the bachelor's degree programs, something Candace wishes they had when she attended.

It's also something that both parents are thrilled is available for their son, Cameron, who started at SMC in the fall 2021 semester. He is excited to carry on the family legacy and get the SMC experience for himself.

"My parents often talk about how it laid the foundation in helping them achieve their goals, and I'm looking forward to meeting new people and being on my own," he said. The Dorman High School grad will be pursuing his associate degree before deciding on his future education plans.

Adrian and Candace are proud to have Cameron follow them to SMC and think he is making an excellent choice for his future.

"I think he recognizes the impact SMC has had on us and where we are today," Candace said. "Education is very important to us, and it's great to see your son making good decisions and modeling behaviors that you consider meaningful."

Choosing SMC is something Adrian and Candace also encourage other students to consider.

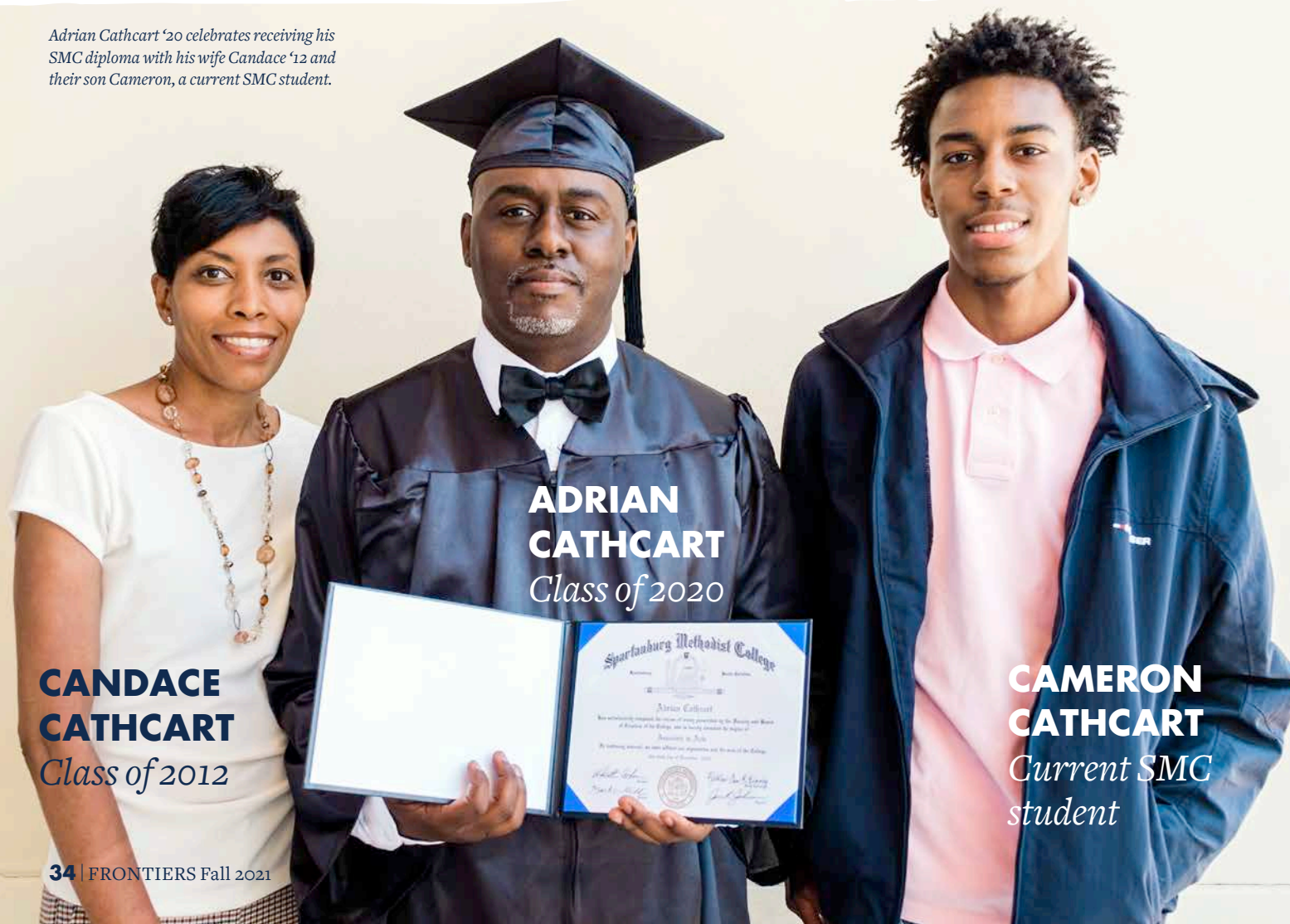
"I want the students who are thinking about choosing SMC to understand what the college is about, which is you, the student," Adrian said. "They have your best interest at heart, and you won't be just a number in somebody's grade book."

Candace echoed those thoughts, saying, "SMC is a great school, with great people and great support systems and opportunities to enhance your future."

The Cathcarts have a special bond with SMC, which they look forward to continuing through Adrian's and Cameron's continued studies this fall. ●

Adrian and Candace are proud to have Cameron follow them to SMC and think he is making an excellent choice for his future.

Adrian Cathcart '20 celebrates receiving his SMC diploma with his wife Candace '12 and their son Cameron, a current SMC student.



**ADRIAN
CATHCART**
Class of 2020

**CANDACE
CATHCART**
Class of 2012

**CAMERON
CATHCART**
Current SMC
student

Adrian plans to continue his education, attending SMC's online program to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and history to become a history teacher.

SMC Grad Measures Success in Lack of ATTENTION

By Kelly Ferguson

For many, they know they have succeeded when their work is praised and recognized. For Colonel Dean Dill '93, it's the opposite. When his work is done right, no one notices he and his team are there.

"The mission is clear. The goal is simple: zero large truck and bus collisions for South Carolina," said Dill of his mission as the Commander of the South Carolina State Transport Police (STP).

After graduating from Spartanburg Methodist College in 1993 with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, Dill has worked his way to the top of one of the agencies responsible for keeping South Carolina's roads safe, specifically by preventing accidents, maintaining safe conditions, regulating commercial drivers, and protecting the environment from hazardous materials.

Dill was among the first hires for this new public safety agency, which was established in 1993. He is now one of the original three left in the program, developed by the Department of Public Safety and Public Services, focused on safety and enforcement for commercial vehicles on South Carolina's roads.

Dill realized early on that he wanted to work in law enforcement. He wanted to make a difference and have a career that he believed in. An Inman native, Dill was familiar with SMC and knew that it had a good criminal justice program.

"I grew up in Inman but spent a great deal of my childhood at my grandmother's



Dill realized early on that he wanted to work in law enforcement. He wanted to make a difference and have a career that he believed in. An Inman native, Dill was familiar with SMC and knew that it had a good criminal justice program.

house very near the College. It was a beautiful campus that we would sometimes ride bicycles through," Dill said. "As I became interested in going into a career in law enforcement, I was pleased to learn that SMC had a great criminal justice program."

Dill explained that in high school he didn't do much studying, but once he arrived at Spartanburg Methodist College, he learned how to apply himself. He praised the faculty and staff for helping point him in the right direction.

"The instructors at the College were great and accessible. One of my instructors and my advisor, Mr. Everhart, helped me navigate college and was a wealth of knowledge regarding criminal justice and law enforcement careers," Dill said.

He made the Dean's List every semester. These skills learned in college translated well into his time at the police academy.

The coursework to become an officer is not only tactical, but academic as well. A trainee must pass a wide range of courses and certifications in order to qualify.

It wasn't long after completing his police training and his associate degree that Dill was hired by the State Transport Police. Starting in November 1994, he learned the ways of managing the state roads. A day in the life of a transport officer involves patrolling the roads, traffic enforcement on commercial vehicles, stopping vehicles for traffic and equipment violations, safety inspections, running weigh stations, and proactive enforcement.

Since Dill has been part of the program since it started, he's seen a lot of advancements. They started out handwriting all of their reports but now put them straight into a computer system. This update allows officers to share documents online. A mobile dispatch has also

improved their work by being able to access and locate active officers on the system's map. They can see real time data of where crashes and problems are occurring, which improves the efficacy of the department. They put more people where the problems are to reduce them, to achieve the goal of driver safety on the roads.

Today, as the commander of the entire department, his main goal remains the same – maintaining the safety of South Carolina drivers by striving to prevent collisions and fatalities.

"The instructors at the College were great and accessible. One of my instructors and my advisor, Mr. Everhart, helped me navigate college and was a wealth of knowledge regarding criminal justice and law enforcement careers."

Colonel Dean Dill '93

Separate from the Highway Patrol, Dill said that out of around 11,000 regular police officers in the state, there are only 100 in his department who do what they do. Specifically, they deal with educating commercial and hazardous material drivers on the ever-changing federal safety regulations.

Dill especially likes this part of his job, that he is constantly having to learn. The required federal certification courses, which involve commercial driver requirements, vehicle equipment standards, and hazardous material regulations, are academically challenging and change often. "It's an important and rewarding job," Dill said.

To students interested in following Dill's path, he advises that they be open to new challenges and face them.

"You're never going to grow from staying in your comfort zone," he said. He also emphasizes that it is important for people going into law enforcement to really want to do it. "If you want to get involved for the right reasons, help people and treat them right, then follow your heart."

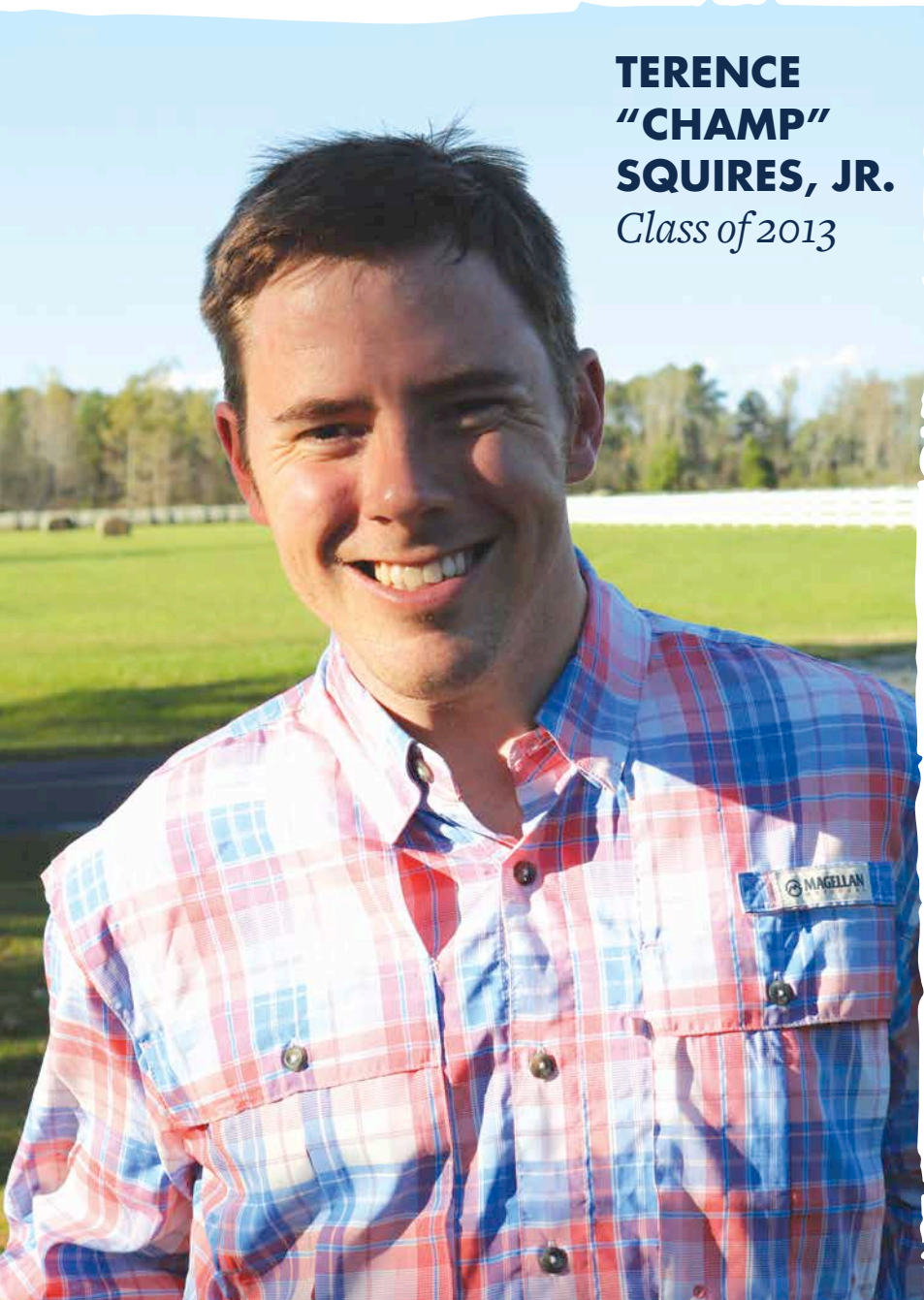
Dill cares deeply about his job and ensuring that he is making a difference. His long time coworker, Major Dwayne D. Wilson,

who has worked alongside Dill since 1994, spoke on Dill's recent promotion.

"He is always professional and always a pleasure to work with," Maj. Wilson said. "In his new position as the commander, Dill leads by example. He's very approachable, has an open door policy, is very knowledgeable, and an all-around great leader."

For someone whose success is noted by not being noticed, Col. Dean Dill has certainly made a career of being noticed by his colleagues. ●

LEARNING AND LEADING WITH AN OPEN HEART



**TERENCE
"CHAMP"
SQUIRES, JR.**
Class of 2013

By Mary Hurston Zuelke

Shortly after being born, Terence Irvin Squires, Jr. '13 earned his nickname of "Champ" for his persistence in overcoming obstacles. The name stuck and so did Champ's drive to face challenges head-on.

Champ was born with cerebral palsy, which does not allow him to walk independently. He utilizes mobility devices such as canes, wheelchairs, and scooters to get around. His attitude toward the physical challenges he faces is, "Tell me something I can't do, and that just makes me want to do it more."

But if you had told Champ in high school that he was going to be a pastor of three churches, he wouldn't have believed you. He was interested in pursuing a career in law. He was also interested in attending a big university. That was until he and his mom visited SMC.

"They rolled out the red carpet during my college visit," Champ said. He remembers a meeting with then-provost Dr. Ann Bowles, who encouraged Champ to apply because of SMC's supportive community.

And so, in the fall of 2011, Champ enrolled at the College.

One of his first experiences as a Pioneer was to sign the honor code during first-year orientation – an experience that he said laid the foundation for his journey into ministry. Champ recalls the ritual as "a moving and powerful act that set in stone what it means to be an honorable student and an honorable Christian."

From his first year on, Champ continued to learn what it meant to be an honorable student and Christian. Alongside him were mentors that encouraged, challenged, and showed him the value of relationships.

"SMC was the place where family really took on a whole new aspect for me – a large family that welcomed and accepted me and never worried about my physical limitation," Champ said.

Among his mentors was Dr. Lanny Lanford, professor of music, who, like Champ, was new to SMC. Dr. Lanford was charged with getting a music program off the ground, and Champ was one of his first students to go through the program, known as the Troubadours. As a part of the Troubadours, Champ performed in choral concerts on campus and throughout the Southeast with the team that Dr. Lanford closely fostered.

"Dr. Lanford was like a pastor to me. He really taught me a lot about ministry and how to build teams," Champ said.

In addition to Dr. Lanford, Champ found mentorship in then-chaplain Candice Sloan, who would often pray with Champ before the start of classes. He said Chaplin Sloan, along with Dr. Bowles, "were the two driving forces behind my success at SMC and made sure that I kept going."

Champ did keep going and, in the spring of 2013, he graduated with his Associate of Arts before heading onto Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Christian

Ministry. After SWU, Champ attended Asbury Theological Seminary where he earned his Master's of Divinity.

Heading into his final year at Asbury, his dad was diagnosed with large B-cell lymphoma. The same week Champ was scheduled to attend classes, his dad had major surgery.

"That was another defining moment for me that confirmed the ministry was where I needed to be," Champ said. "There were times during that season that we didn't know if my dad was going to make it. I would pray, 'Lord, whatever you want but I promise to trust you. No matter what.'"

All through Champ's last year in seminary, his dad was undergoing treatment for his cancer. Champ recalls the song "Even If," by MercyMe, and how it became his battle hymn during the trying time. "It is well, it is well with my soul," Champ said, recalling the lyrics.

When Champ graduated from Asbury in May of 2020, pastoral appointments were put on hold due to the pandemic. Champ was patient and knew that the right opportunity would come along.

His patience paid off. In March of 2021, Champ received a phone call about an offer for a pastoral appointment in Bishopville at not one but three churches. Not to be deterred by a challenge, Champ accepted the appointment, which began this past summer.

As the pastor of Ashland United Methodist Church, Concord United Methodist Church, and St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Champ stays busy, preaching at each church on Sunday morning and serving each congregation throughout the week. During one of his first sermons, Champ's faith, patience, and belief were rewarded as he faced one of his new congregations with his father sitting proudly next to his mother and brother.

The new pastor is eager to get to know his new church community. "I love meeting new people, building relationships, and learning new things," Champ said. "The Lord has taught me so much, and I have no doubt that he's going to teach me so much over the course of my life."

From the relationships Champ formed with mentors and friends at SMC to the new relationships he's building with his congregations, Champ has welcomed them all with an open heart.

"I'm not a guarded heart kind of guy. I'm incredibly inspired by people and their stories," Champ said. "We're all part of a greater story. SMC was a big part of my story because I allowed it to be. I could never repay SMC for what I got out of my time there."

When asked for his advice to current SMC students, Champ puts it simply, "Never turn an opportunity down. Give yourself fully and completely. Have an open heart." ●

"SMC was the place where family really took on a whole new aspect for me – a large family that welcomed and accepted me and never worried about my physical limitation."

Terence Irvin Squires, Jr. '13



**ADRIENNE
JEFFERIES**
Class of 2003

Adrienne Jefferies '03, right, with her mother, Presphonia, at Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

ANSWERING A CALLING, CONTINUING A LEGACY

By Jeremy Handel

It's often said – and something we've seen over the past two years – that for most people, working in the medical field is a calling. For 2003 Spartanburg Methodist College graduate Adrienne Jefferies, it was a calling and a family tradition.

"I decided to start working in the medical field because my mother and aunt have been in the field for almost 40 years," Jefferies said. "So, I thought to myself that if my entire family is in the medical field, maybe I need to do that as well."

Even though she graduated from SMC with an associate degree in criminal justice and went on to finish her bachelor's in criminal justice, with a minor in psychology, at USC Upstate, the Gaffney native felt a calling to follow her family into healthcare. Her mother, Presphonia, is an insurance billing specialist with Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, and in 2006, Jefferies began working in

patient transport there. Fifteen years later, Jefferies is still with the hospital in the role of perioperative assistant in the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU).

Jefferies' work in the PACU provides critical support to both the surgeons and nurses as well as patients in the hospital for surgery. She helps prepare the operating room for the surgery, prepares the recovery room for the patient, assists the patient following the surgery, and more.

While not directly in her field of study, Jefferies considers her time at SMC to have played an important role in her career today.

"SMC taught me the personal skills to allow me to better interact with my patients and employees," she said. "It also taught me to multitask and get things done in a timely manner."

Jefferies has such fond memories of her time at SMC that she decided to get involved with the College's Alumni

Council to help promote SMC to others. She said she wanted to help spread the word about what a wonderful experience she had at the College in hopes more students will choose to attend.

"SMC is a wonderful college to attend, and if I could, I would do it all over again to relive the experience I had," she said of what she would tell a prospective student asking her about attending SMC. Jefferies particularly points to the lifelong friends she made while attending SMC as important to her experience at the College. She also cited the mentorship she received from Lorna Hanson, a criminal justice professor, and Ms. Porter and Ms. Corn in student support services.

Jefferies' commitment to SMC and what it meant to her development as a professional is an example of the strong bond students develop at the College. She is a proud Pioneer who is dedicated to sharing her story and spreading the word about the benefits of SMC. ●

CLASS NOTES

1958

THE REVEREND ZACH FARMER

Lee Cantley Farmer, wife of The Reverend Zach Farmer (SJC Class of 1958), died on September 3, 2020. They were together for 58 years, 1 month and 6 days (21,222 hours). Zach resides in Orangeburg, SC. He is a retired member of the S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church.

1962

MR. DAVID LEE SEARCY

Mr. Searcy said he had the good fortune to work for Dr. Rembert Burgess at his Lake Lure home in 1961. Dr. Burgess invited Mr. Searcy to come play basketball for SMC and be his driver for trips to business in Spartanburg. Mr. Searcy said he would have had no other chance for college without this offer.

1972

THE REVEREND DR. FLOYD VERNON CHANDLER III

Dr. Chandler has recently published a book entitled "Ponderings: Reflections on the Stuff of Life." It is available on Amazon in the USA and Europe.

1972

DR. WILLIE GEORGE STEVENS

Dr. Stevens has recently opened an educational consulting firm in Winston Salem, NC.

1985

MR. TIMOTHY B. SEASE

Mr. Sease currently serves on the Winthrop University Board of Trustees and represents the 1st Congressional District in South Carolina.

“What a wonderful life we lived thanks to SMC’s home-like atmosphere, which apparently continues to this day. May the College continue to thrive as well as the students, faculty, and staff!”

Norman G. Raiford, PhD
Professor of History (retired)

A Note from a Former Faculty Member

DR. NORMAN G. RAIFORD

SMC is dear not just to former students but also to former faculty. I began my teaching career at SMC in June 1970 when long hair on guys was just becoming the rage (as was nighttime “streaking” across campus). The Pioneers’ fast-paced basketball games in the Smoak House were not to be missed, certainly never by highly esteemed Chaplain Talmage Skinner and his wife Beverly. The Skinners and other wonderful colleagues (among them Bunny Tennent, Shannon Wilkerson, Harriet Ballenger, Lois Congdon, Norma Jean Miller, Harry Foster, L. H. Buff, David Clyburn, Charles Middleton, Coach Smoak) quickly made me a part of the SMC family. So did students, like Harry Bousporelis, Ernie “Indian” Denny, Steve “Moses” Mosely, Wayne Federline, Larry Wampler, Lynne Mattson, and dozens more. Cafeteria director Mrs. Lowe loaded this skinny bachelor’s lunch plate with lumber-jack size portions. In December 1971, I married and brought my bride, Alice, home to our five-room cottage located on the campus (monthly rent was \$60!). Fellow faculty welcomed us with receptions and dinners. What a wonderful life we lived thanks to SMC’s home-like atmosphere, which apparently continues to this day. May the College continue to thrive as well as the students, faculty, and staff!

Norman G. Raiford, PhD Professor
of History (retired)



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SMC Mourns Loss of **FORMER PRESIDENT, TRUSTEE IN 2021**



President Dr.
Charles Teague



John Patrick
"Pat" Henry, Sr.

The Spartanburg Methodist College family lost two of its prominent leaders this year with the passing of former President Dr. Charles Teague and Board of Trustees member John Patrick "Pat" Henry, Sr.

Dr. Teague served as the president of SMC for 12 years. During his tenure, the College experienced a surge in enrollment, expanding the opportunity for students from all backgrounds and economic means to get a college education. He also oversaw the construction of two new residence halls and the Phyllis Buchheit Board Room building.

Dr. Teague grew up in Asheville, N.C., where he attended Lee Edward High School and served as president of his senior class. He went on to attend Brevard College, High Point College, and Emory University, earning his Doctorate of Divinity. Following graduation, he returned to college life, serving in chaplain, faculty, and administrative roles at High Point and Brevard before being named President of SMC in 1997. Following his retirement, Dr. Teague served as interim President of Brevard College for a brief time in 2011.

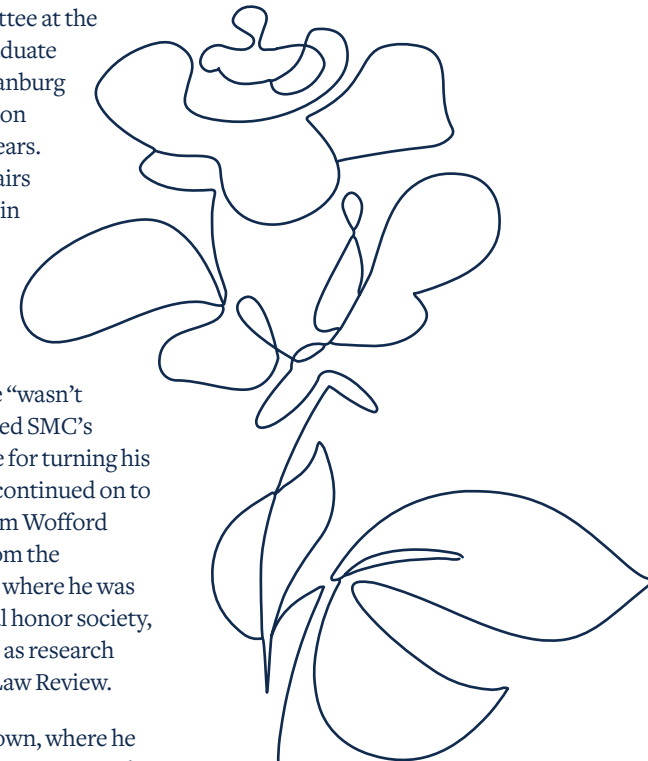
Dr. Teague was a passionate member of Central United Methodist Church and enjoyed golfing, fishing, woodworking, and painting.

Pat Henry was a long-time Trustee and was serving as vice chairman and chair of the academic affairs committee at the time of his passing. A 1964 graduate of SMC, then known as Spartanburg Junior College, Henry served on the Board of Trustees for 21 years. His work on the academic affairs committee was instrumental in the recent addition of the bachelor's degree programs.

Henry grew up in Conway, S.C., and attended Conway High School, where he said he "wasn't much of a student." He credited SMC's values and family atmosphere for turning his academic life around. Henry continued on to earn his bachelor's degree from Wofford College and his law degree from the University of South Carolina, where he was a member of the national legal honor society, the Wig and Robe, and served as research editor of the South Carolina Law Review.

Henry returned to his hometown, where he established a long and rewarding career in law. He was a leader in his field, serving as president of the Horry County Bar Association and the South Carolina Commission on Lawyer Conduct.

SMC will dearly miss the support and leadership of Dr. Charles Teague and Pat Henry.



In MEMORIAM

Mr. James L. Littlejohn ’40
of Jonesville, SC, died April 14, 2019.

Mrs. Hovis Robbins Ruppe ’41
of Rutherfordton, NC, died February 26, 2020.

Mrs. Evelyn Gore Gilfillan ’42
of Cary, NC, died October 19, 2019.

Mr. Wilbur Earl Snelgrove ’42
of Spartanburg, SC, died June 11, 2020.

Mrs. Charlotte Pool Jackson ’43
of Lugoff, SC, died June 10, 2021.

Mr. James Earl Brannon ’44
of Spartanburg, SC, died March 27, 2021.

Mrs. Marguerite Smith Compton ’44
of Spartanburg, SC, died July 21, 2021.

Mr. Lewis Willard Thompson ’44
of High Point, NC, died May 4, 2020.

Mr. Bruce Homer Morrison ’45
of Charlotte, NC, died September 17, 2020.

Mrs. Doris Cook Anderson ’46
of Spartanburg, SC, died December 4, 2020.

Ms. Frances Lawson Dickinson ’46
of Cowpens, SC, died May 30, 2019.

Mr. Allison Adger Bissell ’47
of Bethesda, MD, died August 5, 2019.

Mrs. Margie Morris Clary ’47
of Cowpens, SC, died September 21, 2020.

Mr. Herman I. Smith ’47
of Ewing, NJ, died October 24, 2020.

Mrs. Juanita Horton Stepp ’47
of Boiling Springs, SC, died May 27, 2019.

Mr. Robert Manley Bennett ’48
of Fayetteville, NC, died January 17, 2019.

Mrs. Betty Walden Brassell ’48
of Augusta, GA, died June 18, 2020.

The Reverend William Whitfield McNeill, Sr. ’48
of Maggie Valley, NC, died February 28, 2019.

Mr. Gerald W. Dorn ’49
of Greenwood, SC, died September 14, 2019.

Mrs. Alma Jolley Riley ’49
of Grove City, OH, died February 28, 2019.

Mr. Ray Howard Stovall ’50
of Greenville, SC, died December 28, 2020.

Lt. Col. Arthur T. Ballard, Jr. ’51
of Spartanburg, SC, died May 23, 2019.

Ms. Margaret Ann Stamper ’51
of Pickens, SC, died June 26, 2020.

Mr. George H. Taylor ’51
of Anderson, SC, died July 2, 2021.

Mrs. Iris Scott Taylor ’51
of Anderson, SC, died April 5, 2019.

Mrs. Betty Moody Murff ’52
of Rock Hill, SC, died November 27, 2019.

Mrs. Laura Jones Rogers ’52
of Anderson, SC, died October 8, 2020.

Mr. William F. Able ’53
of Columbia, SC, died December 29, 2019.

Mr. Robert Norris Head ’53
of Valdese, NC, died February 26, 2020.

Mr. Francis Marion Knight ’53
of Florence, SC, died July 30, 2019.

Mr. Roland Goff Elmore, Jr. ’54
of Moore, SC, died March 28, 2021.

Mr. Larry Byrnes Copeland ’56
of Greer, SC, died May 19, 2020.

Mr. Robert F. Gowan, Sr. ’56
of Spartanburg, SC, died August 24, 2019.

Mr. Leonard Reid Marsh ’56
of Spartanburg, SC, died January 14, 2019.

Mr. Charles Eugene Earley ’57
of Nashville, TN, died March 7, 2019.

Mr. Bobby Eugene White ’57
of Gaffney, SC, died March 21, 2019.

Mr. James Alton Bellamy ’58
of Myrtle Beach, SC, died June 27, 2020.

Major James Asbury Birney ’58
of Topeka, KS, died December 20, 2020.

Mr. Carl W. Crews, Jr. ’58
of Cape Coral, FL, died April 2, 2021.

The Reverend James Franklin Hood ’58
of Seymour, TN, died July 16, 2021.

Mr. Ned Wayne Tarlton ’58
of Lexington, SC, died March 7, 2020.

Mrs. Mary Davis Ballenger ’59
of Spartanburg, SC, died July 7, 2021.

Mr. Robert W. Peak ’59
of West Columbia, SC, died January 11, 2021.

Mr. Boyce E. Wilson ’59
of Inman, SC, died January 28, 2019.

Mr. Billy Tyree Bolding ’60
of Spartanburg, SC, died December 6, 2020.

Mr. Julian W. Griffith ’60
of Neeses, SC, died July 5, 2019.

Mr. Ralph Oswald Parris, Jr. ’60
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 1, 2019.

Mr. Victor Ronald DuBose, Jr. ’62
of Manning, SC, died December 25, 2019.

Mrs. Sally Proctor Evitt ’62
of Charleston, SC, died December 20, 2020.

Mr. Alfred Martin McGaha ’62
of Gaffney, SC, died June 21, 2021.

Mr. David K. Smith, Sr. ’62
of Boiling Springs, SC, died April 7, 2019.

Mr. Charles D. Broome ’63
of Spartanburg, SC, died April 10, 2019.

Mr. John H. Crocker, Sr. ’63
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 1, 2021.

Mr. Thomas C. Fleming, Jr. ’63
of Bennettsville, SC, died December 9, 2020.

Mr. Hugh C. Stephenson ’63
of Hickory Grove, SC, died December 18, 2019.

Ms. Linda Kay Willard ’63
of Spartanburg, SC, died October 3, 2020.

Mr. Charles Dean Alley ’64
of Johnson City, TN, died June 22, 2019.

Dr. Brenda Wilkie Bender-Sayyad, PhD ’64
of Wadmalaw Island, SC, died January 20, 2019.

Mr. Curtis Ivan Gaddy ’64
of Chester, SC, died June 22, 2019.

The Reverend Clifford R. Gilmer ’64
of Georgetown, SC, died September 14, 2019.

Mr. Glenn Carlton Harrelson ’64
of Charlotte, NC, died August 29, 2020.

Mr. Hugh Leland Harrelson, Sr. ’64
of North Myrtle Beach, SC, died February 21, 2019.

Mr. John Patrick Henry ’64
of Conway, SC, died April 22, 2021.

Mr. Charles Paul Wieland ’64
of Great Falls, SC, died February 20, 2021.

Mr. Isom Donnie Fletcher ’65
of Sumter, SC, died December 20, 2020.

Mr. Danny Wallace Keefe ’65
of Pamplico, SC, died August 2, 2019.

Mrs. Mary White Nelson ’65
of Hollywood, SC, died March 9, 2019.

Mr. Richard James Gardner ’66
of Mc Bee, SC, died December 18, 2019.

Mr. Ryan Eugene Christopher ’67
of Woodruff, SC, died January 16, 2021.

Mr. Edward L. Grimball III ’67
of Edisto Island, SC, died April 30, 2021.

Mr. Larry Howe ’67
of York, SC, died June 29, 2019.

The Reverend Fred W. Smith ’67
of Greenwood, SC, died August 4, 2019.

Mrs. Jewell McCraw Garland ’68
of Chesnee, SC, died February 10, 2019.

Mr. James Gordon Dunbar ’69
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 3, 2019.

Mr. Steven Clarence Boulware ’70
of Aiken, SC, died June 15, 2021.

Mr. Stephen P. Silver ’72
of Fernandina Beach, FL, died November 13, 2020.

Mr. Robert Mahlon Garrett ’73
of Marietta, SC, died February 12, 2020.

Mr. William Glenn Goodwin, Jr. ’73
of Greer, SC, died March 14, 2019.

The Reverend John W. Hipp, Jr. ’73
of Mount Pleasant, SC, died October 28, 2020.

Ms. Marian Moultrie Gilree ’74
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 6, 2020.

Mrs. Catherine Brown Rolen ’74
of Inman, SC, died October 8, 2019.

Mrs. Ernestine Fields Diangikes ’75
of Spartanburg, SC, died March 25, 2021.

Mr. Phillip D. Grant ’76
of Rock Hill, SC, died July 6, 2019.

The Reverend Joel David Kennedy, Jr. ’76
of Spartanburg, SC, died October 20, 2020.

Mrs. Denise Bickett Pitts ’76
of Florence, SC, died May 10, 2019.

Mrs. Wanda Hendrick Stout ’76
of Columbia, SC, died January 16, 2021.

Mr. Michael L. Walsh ’76
of Winnsboro, SC, died July 14, 2019.

Ms. Cynthia Marie Wheeler ’76
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 8, 2021.

Mrs. Nanda Hayes Bedenbaugh ’77
of Gaffney, SC, died February 17, 2021.

The Reverend Donald Eugene Alexander ’78
of Jonesville, SC, died January 28, 2021.

Mr. Keith M. Funderburk ’78
of Spartanburg, SC, died July 25, 2019.

Mrs. Susan Turner Wright ’78
of Cowpens, SC, died April 1, 2021.

Mr. Dutch Browning ’79
of Tryon, NC, died January 7, 2019.

Mr. Michael Wayne Few ’79
of Asheville, NC, died April 17, 2019.

Ms. Betty Ruth Kelly ’79
of Duncan, SC, died May 14, 2021.

Ms. Plennie Dixon Gresham ’81
of Lyman, SC, died April 7, 2020.

Mrs. Melissa Moore Blackwell ’82
of Jacksonville, NC, died April 18, 2019.

CPO Deborah Frances Ghanayem ’82
of Frederick, MD, died November 26, 2020.

Ms. Amanda Jane Snowball ’88
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 14, 2021.

Mr. Billy Wayne Stroud, Jr. ’89
of Matthews, NC, died February 19, 2020.

Mr. Marvin Campbell Fortner ’90
of Columbia, SC, died March 13, 2021.

Mr. Jason Bradley Leviner ’94
of Bennettsville, SC, died April 26, 2019.

Mr. Micah Shane Horton, Sr. ’96
of Boiling Springs, SC, died September 20, 2020.

Mrs. Jennifer Oates O’Shields ’97
of Prosperity, SC, died May 26, 2021.

Mr. William Curtis Pass ’97
of Reidsville, NC, died June 21, 2019.

Mr. Anvil Frankie Land ’98
of Abbeville, SC, died October 13, 2019.

Mr. Larrington Alphonso Richardson, Jr. ’16
of Spartanburg, SC, died February 20, 2019.

Mr. James Donald Harrelson II ’19
of Goose Creek, SC, died January 31, 2021.

Mrs. Lois Ruppe Robinson
of Gaffney, SC, died January 29, 2021.



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