LEARNING
Drs. Ronald & Sandra Turner; SBTS professors of church music

LEADING
Those who were the first graduates were also known as pioneers

SERVING
Joe Tallon had to wait 36 years to receive the honor owed him

SCHOOL TIES
Graduates enter the world of fashion
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BCC FOUNDING CLASS REUNION

October 23-24, 2009

**All times and locations are subject to change**

Friday, October 23

22nd Annual President’s Cup Golf Tournament,
Noon shotgun start, location TBA

The format is captain’s choice, and golfers will be arranged in teams of four. Register a team or individually at a cost of $75 per player. There will be prizes for the top 3 teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin. There will also be a hole in one challenge with a grand prize of a new car! An awards banquet will be held at the conclusion of the tournament, and nongolfers can attend the banquet for $10 each. Contact David Weiss in the Alumni Office at 843-863-7516 or dweiss@csuniv.edu to register or for more information.

Saturday, October 24

Alumni Association Annual Meeting, 9 a.m.,
DPW Nursing Building Auditorium

All Alumni are invited. Alumni Board members and Alumni Association officers will be elected, and senior administration members will be available to answer your questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Homecoming Parade, 10 a.m., front campus

The whole family is encouraged to attend the 2009 Homecoming Parade. Enjoy the floats and displays from the various clubs and organizations on campus, the Air Force ROTC, and the Marching Bucs. Also, our Homecoming Court nominees will appear in the parade.

Alumni Tailgate Lunch, 11:15 a.m.,
Alumni Tent near football stadium

Join the Alumni Association at the big tent located near the football stadium for a great time of fellowship and tailgate food. Founding Class members eat for free, all others $7 each.

Football vs. Liberty, 1:30 p.m., CSU Stadium

Watch as the Buccaneers take on defending Big South Champions Liberty at CSU Stadium. Reserved tickets are $10 each, and general admission tickets are $5.

Founding Class 40th Reunion Dinner, 7 p.m.,
Strom Thurmond Center Dining Hall

This is the big event! The founding classes will celebrate their 40th reunion at this black tie optional event. Come out to fellowship with your classmates, their spouses, and professors and coaches from your BCC days. A reception, dinner, and entertainment will be a part of the program. Keep an eye on your mailbox for registration information.
Dear Friends

The year 1969 is memorable for many reasons. Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. The Boeing 747 and Concorde made their maiden flights, and construction began on Walt Disney World in Orlando. Another historic “first” was the first full graduating class of the then Baptist College at Charleston.

This magazine will highlight some members of the founding classes of 1967 through 1969. These founding classes will also celebrate their 40th Reunion during Homecoming Oct. 24, 2009.

There is a great deal of excitement on campus about our vision: to be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading and serving.

The Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing will begin offering an MS in Nursing this fall. You will have the opportunity to read more about this new major in the following pages.

On January 28, the University opened a new Graduate Center on the first floor of Jones Hall. The center provides dedicated service to students seeking a graduate degree in business, education, criminal justice and nursing.

Our campus ministries continue to expand and spread the gospel. The purpose of this organization is to reach college students with the gospel, raise college students in the scripture and release college students to change the world. Each year we rejoice with the hundreds of students who make decisions for Christ.

Presented on page 26 is an article that summarizes the State of the University address given to the Board of Trustees in January. We believe CSU is strategically positioned to continue growing and moving forward during these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued support of Charleston Southern.
Please keep the CSU family in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Jairy C. Hunter, Jr.

President
from the Editor:

In an effort to keep CSU Magazine fresh and relevant, we’ve completed a redesign and restructuring with this issue.

We’re excited to have Atlantic Publication Group bringing an updated look to our pages.

We’ve also restructured to incorporate the university’s vision: to be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading and serving.

To strengthen the message we’ve divided the magazine into four sections: learning, leading, serving and school ties. In the school ties section, you’ll find all your old favorites like Class Notes, Alumni Updates and profiles of fellow alums.

As always, we’d love to hear from you. E-mail me at jjoslin@csuniv.edu with comments, ideas and stories about interesting alumni.

about the COVER:

Current students recreate a photo from the 1968 Cutlass to illustrate how the campus has grown and changed since the founding days.

Current students are: Lee Davis, a freshman from St. Louis, Mo.; Lauren Young, a sophomore from Beaufort, Franis Tran, a sophomore from Greer, Franny Garrett, a senior from Manning and Briston Burns, a freshman from Pelzer.

Photo by Rhett Marley
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Proud family and friends gathered to witness 268 graduate and undergraduate students receive their degrees at the North Charleston Coliseum Dec. 13.

“It’s a big accomplishment,” said Requel Sosa, a business administration major from Miami, Fla. “It’s the end of one life and the beginning of another. I really enjoyed the Evening College program. It’s great for working adults,” she said.

The Commencement speaker was Shawn Jenkins, the founder, president, and CEO of Charleston based BenefitFocus. Jenkins received his M.B.A. from Charleston Southern in 1995. Jenkins’ BenefitFocus currently serves 289,787 employers, 410 carriers, and 52 million consumers. BenefitFocus is the largest healthcare benefits software provider.

Jenkins challenged the graduates to look out into the future, “and see what you want to be, to write your own headlines for tomorrow. Sometimes the headlines of the newspaper don’t line up with that of scripture. We have our hands full with this economic situation, but I want to encourage you not to trust in what you see, but trust your heart, trust your inner voice, trust God.”

Speaking of his success with BenefitFocus, Jenkins related the story of how in scripture, Nehemiah heard an inner voice, a leading from God to do a great work. He challenged the graduates to seek God’s plan. Jenkins correlated how in his Capstone Strategy course at Charleston Southern, he created a business plan for a new venture but let it sit dormant for several years. In 2000 BenefitFocus incorporated even though a few months earlier the NASDAQ crashed. He encouraged the graduates to stay focused on God’s plan for their lives despite what they see around them.

Courtney Rittenburg, a communication major from Charleston, said being at Charleston Southern was an eye-opening experience. “It was definitely a positive experience. The professionalism of the University and the professors and their involvement is outstanding.” The sentiment was shared by Dennis Delemar a business administration major from Charlotte, N.C. Delemar began studies at the New York Film Academy in January. “I had a great experience at Charleston Southern. The friendships and relationships I’ve made here will last a lifetime.”

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Shirley Whitfield of Charleston. Whitfield was recognized for outstanding Christian leadership and service to the community and to the University. Whitfield and her husband, Floyd, are devoted supporters of the University, and through their gracious generosity fund the Whitfield Endowed Scholarship. “This award means an awful lot to me. Charleston Southern has meant so much to me over the years. The whole school is just amazing.”

Commencement was a family affair for cousins Kristy Lapp and Megan Pinney from Maryland. The two came to Charleston Southern together and were roommates. Lapp graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in religion. Pinney earned her degree in biology with a minor in kinesiology. “I grew so much in my faith. I can move forward knowing that the Lord is taking care of me. The Lord has really changed me since coming here,” said Lapp. Pinney added, “The professors really cared for us. The people were amazing, it made it much more worthwhile being here.”

In his closing remarks, Jenkins told them of a goal card he keeps in his wallet at all times. “Thirteen years ago I sat in your seat with this card in my wallet. I carry my card to this day to remind myself of what God can do when you write your own headline with Him.”
Georgetown County Coroner Kenny Johnson has been a lawman all of his adult life. Back in November he was elected to his fourth term as coroner. During his illustrious career he has received numerous awards and recognitions. On Dec. 13, he attained another one: college graduate.

Johnson was one of 268 graduate and undergraduate students who received their degrees from CSU. Johnson received his degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

He began his career with the Georgetown Police Department in January of 1982 and graduated with honors from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy class II in 1983. Johnson’s duties within the department varied from criminal investigations, narcotics, traffic accident investigations to public speaking events.

In 1986 Johnson joined the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office as a uniformed deputy. He was promoted to shift sergeant and later promoted to patrol division lieutenant. By the time he left the Sheriff’s Office in 1986, after being elected coroner, Johnson was supervising the uniform patrol division of 30 deputies.

Going back to school to obtain his degree was not a requirement of the office, but Johnson felt compelled to get his degree to better serve the citizens he represents. “The citizens deserve the best that I can give them. I felt like I needed to be the best coroner I can be,” he said.

Johnson elected to enter the criminal justice program at CSU. The Myrtle Beach site was the ideal location for him to fulfill the duties of his office while making the short commute for classes. “I love Charleston Southern,” said Johnson, “I was real pleased to know that they were in Myrtle Beach. Besides that, my experience with Charleston Southern goes back to the days when they were Baptist College and youth from the school would come to our church. There had always been that connection.”

Johnson relates the integration of his faith in his line of work. “I pray a lot. It forces me to be humble when I have to go and knock on a door at 2 or 3 in the morning to explain the death of a loved one. In times like that I can give them a message of hope. I never force my Christian beliefs on anyone, but I let them know that you can get through this with God’s help.”

Johnson is a longtime member of Screven Baptist Church in Georgetown. His passion for his job is second only to his love for God, his family and his church. “I am married to the woman of my dreams. My wife, Rhonda, has always supported me in my career as well as my educational pursuits. My son, Stephen, thinks it’s cool to have a father graduating from college at 51 years of age. I think it’s cool too.” Johnson has served in a variety of leadership roles in his church as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and singing in the choir.

Johnson is the vice president of the South Carolina Coroner’s Association; he is also a member of the American College Forensic Examiners. He received his certification as a medical investigator level 3, and is a board registered medicolegal investigator with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He is also certified as a forensic consultant.

Even with his distinguished accomplishments, Johnson was compelled to pursue his degree with CSU. “The coroner’s role in the criminal justice system is too important not to be educated. I saw Charleston Southern as the choice vehicle to further my educational desires. A bachelor’s degree from Charleston Southern is a prestigious document to hold. My experience at the University has been rewarding, and I will cherish the critical thinking attitude it offers.”

Dr. Jackie Fish, chair of the criminal justice department and director of criminal justice graduate program, said, “We are very fortunate that Charleston Southern attracts quality students such as Kenny Johnson to our criminal justice program. His dedication to completing his bachelor of science degree while working full time as the coroner for Georgetown County speaks volumes of his commitment to our discipline.”

As for Johnson, “This is my ministry,” he says, “I’ve got to be able to offer people something. But as a public servant that is more than just the answer to why their loved one died; you’ve got to offer hope. It’s about being an example.”
Graduate Program Expanding

Master of Science in Nursing Education Added

By Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean, School of Nursing

By 2010, it is speculated there will be a shortage of 1,000,000 nurses in the U.S. Compounding this problem is the nursing faculty shortage. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of schools responding to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) survey stated they turned away qualified applicants for their undergraduate nursing programs due to the faculty shortage.

CSU’s School of Nursing has been unable to accept all qualified applicants to our BSN program consistently over the past three years due to faculty shortage.

In response to this problem, an MSN degree in nursing education has been developed to prepare nurses to teach at a faculty level in nursing programs as well as to accept staff and patient educator positions within hospital and clinic settings. This program will target BSN nurses as well as RN nurses who would receive content from the BSN curriculum and accelerate into the MSN nurse educator content. The curriculum is modeled after the National League for Nursing, NLN, criteria for certification as a nurse educator, CNE. Students of this program will complete a teaching practicum throughout our existing BSN program that would provide teaching assistance to our nursing faculty and expert mentoring to the students.

The MSN program at CSU uses a national cohort model. Courses are taught in a 5-week, online format so that students are not focusing on more than one course at a time. Another unique feature of the program is the integration of faith throughout the curriculum as well as the inclusion of two courses that will teach the students how to integrate faith into nursing curricula and to serve as Christian leaders in health care.

It is possible to complete the program in 16 months, and the online program offers 24/7 technical support.

For more information contact: Ashley Millwood, graduate enrollment counselor, at 843-863-5501 or amillwood@csuniv.edu or Alison Harrison, graduate enrollment counselor, at 843-863-7534 or aharrison@csuniv.edu.

CSU Partners with Trident Health System

By Doug Dickerson

Charleston Southern and Trident Health System have entered a partnership in providing resources to underwrite the cost needed for a new faculty position.

The School of Nursing is currently one of 15 pilot schools in the country implementing quality and safety education content into the BSN curriculum. As part of this initiative, the school is expanding the skills laboratory to include high fidelity simulation technology to be integrated throughout the curriculum. This technology will allow the nursing students to learn critical thinking and technical skills prior to entering the actual patient care settings, thus increasing the safety of the patients and quality of care provided by the nursing students.

To support this expansion, CSU needed a coordinator of nursing technology and has entered into an agreement with Trident Health System to underwrite the cost associated with the new position. “The partnership between Trident Health System and Charleston Southern demonstrates teamwork and collaboration between education and practice in increasing the quality and safety of patients, and the educational advancement of registered nurses with associate degrees,” said Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean of the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing.

In the agreement, Trident Health System will contribute $75,000 for three years for salary and Fringe Benefits support for one new master’s level position – Coordinator of Nursing Technology. Potential continual support beyond the three years will be negotiated during the third year based on availability of funding resources.

“Trident Health System is proud to support the nursing program at Charleston Southern University,” said Todd Gallati, President/CEO, Trident Health System. “We have an incredible opportunity to make a positive difference in the health care field, and I’m delighted we can be a part of the University’s efforts to add to their faculty and enhance their technology.”

The benefits to Trident Health System will be increased recruiting potential for BSN graduates, increased safety of patients, educational advancement for current staff of registered nurses with associate degrees, increased retention of current registered nurse staff, and career enhancement for registered nurse staff with dual appointment for master’s level staff and career ladder/promotion advancement for registered nurses obtaining a BSN.

During the 1970s and 1980s the University offered a successful associate degree in nursing program. In 1993 the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing. The success of the nursing program at Charleston Southern has been noted recently by a 100 percent pass rate on the first attempt on the NCLEX-RN Exam for the past two years in a row. The CSU School of Nursing is the only school of nursing in South Carolina to earn this distinction for the year 2007.
The Graduate Services Center celebrated its grand opening Jan. 28 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Located on the first floor of Jones Hall, the Graduate Services Center will become the hub of activity for CSU’s graduate programs.

The oversight of the graduate degrees at Charleston Southern until now had been decentralized. Each director was responsible for advising, promotion, recruiting, enrolling, advertising, and retention of its students. “The creation of the Graduate Services Center puts into place a new organizational structure that should enhance the visibility of Charleston Southern’s graduate programs while at the same time centralizing functions in an effort to gain greater benefit from concerted efforts,” said Dr. Jim Colman, vice president of academic affairs.

Dr. Bill Bowers of the School of Business has been named the Director of Graduate Studies. Bowers will be responsible to lead the Graduate Studies program in the areas of marketing, recruitment, and retention.

CSU currently offers graduate degrees in criminal justice, education and business administration. A master's in nursing is scheduled to begin in the fall of '09. “According to Business Week magazine, since 2001, the only group with positive growth in their ‘real wages’ are those Americans who've earned a graduate degree,” said Bowers. “If you are a school teacher, if you work in law enforcement, if you are a registered nurse, or if you are employed in business you could benefit by earning one of Charleston Southern's graduate degrees. The Graduate Services Center exists to better serve the educational needs of the Charleston community,” said Bowers.

The Graduate Services Center is already meeting the needs of students at the University. “We are very excited about the new Graduate Services Center,” said Alison Harrison, an enrollment counselor for the center. “Students will benefit from being able to come to one place and receive information on everything from financial aid to applying for a particular program.”

For more information about the graduate programs at Charleston Southern call 1-800-947-7474 or go online at www.csuniv.edu/academics/graduate.

Graduate Services Center Celebrates Opening
By Doug Dickerson

Horton School of Music Artist-in-Residence, Ricard Bordas, lived in the world of the rich and famous during Grammy week.

Bordas, a countertenor, is heard on the opera CD Psyché by Jean-Baptiste Lully, released by cpo Records. The CD was one of five to receive a nomination in the Best Opera Recording category at the Grammy awards.

“The Horton School of Music faculty, staff, and students are thrilled with Ricard Bordas’ nomination for a Grammy,” said Dr. Valerie Bullock, chair of the Horton School of Music. “We always knew that we were blessed to have an incredibly talented voice faculty and now it is confirmed on an international level.”

FACULTY MEMBER NOMINATED FOR GRAMMY

Orton School of Music Artist-in-Residence, Ricard Bordas, lived in the world of the rich and famous during Grammy week.

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Facultly Member
Nominated for Grammy

Dr. Lorraine Wylie, dean of the School of Education; Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean of the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing; Dr. Trudy Morris, director of graduate education; Dr. Jairy Hunter, president; Alison Harrison, enrollment counselor; Ashley Millwood, enrollment counselor; Christi Coghill, enrollment counselor; Dr. Bill Bowers, director of the Graduate Services Center; Dr. Jackie Fish, chair of the criminal justice department; and Dr. John Duncan, dean, School of Business. Photo by Doug Dickerson
music, worship

Drs. Ron and Sandra Turner.

Photo provided
Q. Did you know that you wanted to major in music when you began college? Was music a lifelong pursuit for you?

Sandra: No. Although I studied piano from the age of seven, and was a church organist from the age of 12, I aspired to become a physician (I liked the way the lab coats looked!). When I was ready to go to college, however, Baptist College offered me a full music scholarship on the condition that I major in music and be accompanist for the College Choir. For awhile I tried a double major in chemistry, but labs and piano practice competed for the same all-afternoon time commitment. In the end, music won.

Ron: I actually felt called into music ministry very early in my teens, and was in fact the first minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Goose Creek at the age of about 14. When it came time to go to college, however, the only scholarship offer I received was to The Citadel, to be the carillonneur and assistant to the Director of Music, Vernon Weston. After two years, however, at the urging of Vic Lawson, who had been my high school band director, I realized that I needed to transfer and actually major in music, and that was at the right time, when David Cuttino offered me a voice scholarship to BCC to sing in the choir and accompany voice lessons.

Q. How did your studies at BCC prepare you for your advanced degrees in music?

Sandra: Mr. Oliver Yost, my piano teacher, really developed my piano technique. He was a stickler for scales in 3rds, 6ths, and 10th, and all kinds of technical exercises, but he also introduced me to Hindemith and other composers whose music I had never played. We also had terrific training in music theory and music history from Victor Lawson and Mr. Yost. Mr. Lawson was a taskmaster in theory, and that difficult theory training has paid off for our entire careers.

Ron: I agree that our small music faculty of four profs gave us a first-class music education. After my service in the U.S. Navy, when we wanted to do our master of music degrees at Converse College, an excellent music school, they at first were hesitant to accept Sandra and me, coming from the upstart Baptist College. BCC was not even fully accredited at that time. After our placement exams, however, we were the only entering master's students not to have to do remedial work. My voice training at BCC was with my teacher from the age of 13,
Vernon Weston, who also had been Sandra’s piano teacher. He was a fine teacher who influenced many facets of my musical career. And David Cuttino showed us that you can have fun as a musician. I studied composition as well as theory with Vic Lawson, and that too has served me well for a lifetime of composing.

Q. What was it like to attend BCC when it first opened? Did you worry about attending a new college?

Sandra & Ron: We came to BCC in its second year, the first year of the campus, which consisted of three not-quite-finished buildings, plus a music trailer way off from any of the real buildings. The trailer had a classroom, the four tiniest practice rooms ever built and two faculty studios. We did have brand new pianos in that music trailer though, and that was our only luxury. There were also two circle-the-wagons dorms made out of little two-room trailers. The men’s and women’s dorms were arranged sort of like Fort Apache, separated by the music trailer. Sandra lived in the girls’ fort, and they had a curfew that was monitored better than Fort Knox!

There wasn’t a blade of grass to be seen but acres of red mud. You had to dodge the giant earth-movers that were always rushing somewhere on campus. You could actually sink ankle-deep and lose your shoes in the mud on a rainy day, and there were lots of rainy days in 1966-1967. Getting to the gym for chapel was sometimes an adventure. On dry days we sometimes had dust storms!

Neither of us thought twice about coming to a new college. We were glad when the semester finally began, which we remember as being around the beginning of October, because campus construction was way behind schedule. What we found at BCC was a small music faculty of excellent teachers who themselves had first-class educations. Two of our music pros, David Cuttino and Ollie Yost, were graduates of Southern Seminary, where we have taught for so long.

What we gained in those early years was a true grounding in the discipline of academic music study. We left BCC with as much confidence as graduates of much more established music schools, knowing that we were well trained. In our nonmusic courses we had mostly senior professors, quite a few of whom were retired from teaching in great colleges and universities, so they were top notch. And Dr. John Hamrick was as inspirational as any college president could be.

By the second year we were at BCC, there was a real women’s dorm, and the girls thought they had moved into the lap of luxury. It even had a parlor. There was also a nice cafeteria by that time, and we sometimes met for breakfast there.

Q. What are your memories of your BCC days, professors and friends?

Ron & Sandra: Of course we have so many fond memories. Victor Lawson, David Cuttino, and Oliver Yost were our main professors, and each made vivid contributions to our lives. They also were friends to us as well as teachers. We had another music professor for a year or so, Dr. Anne Howe, who can only be described as unique, a great lover of life. And we remember friends like Van (“Bubba”) High, Carolyn “Squeeky” Burbage, Walker Wright, Joe Tallon, and so many others in the Baptist College Choir. We later crossed paths with BCC classmate Duane Toole at Southern Seminary. Duane once got in trouble for playing his trumpet on the roof of the BCC gym. And of course, Sandra’s roommate, Ruth Kuni from Hawaii, who danced the hula at our wedding rehearsal dinner, and Mary Ann Riding, who sang for our wedding.

Q. How did you meet and what was it like to attend college with your spouse?

Sandra & Ron: We had both taken music lessons from Vernon Weston during our teen years, but did not know each other, though Ron remembers really noticing Sandra playing on a recital when she was 13 and he was 15. Years later he could even describe the dress and tell her what she played on the recital (the Khatchaturian “Toccata”), so she obviously made an impression. Sandra did not notice Ron at all on that occasion!

We actually met in theory class and choir at the beginning of our first semester and sort of got together on a field trip to Winthrop College with Mr. Oliver Yost, a dear man who always boasted that he got us together. Our first true date was to the Coastal Carolina Fair in 1966, where Ron lost all his money trying to win some silly prize for Sandra. Things spiraled from that point, and we were married almost two years later, just before Ron’s senior year and Sandra’s junior year. Actually, Ron’s grades went up after marriage, because we didn’t spend...
all that time dating and driving around in Ron's VW bug, when he should have been studying biology or something. We were in many, many classes together, did all of our theory homework together (that's a really hot date!), and managed to sit in the back of the bus on choir tours, checked on regularly by Dr. and Mrs. Cuttinno! We've now been married for 40 years. During that time, we've finished eight degrees between us: Ron (BA, MM, DMA) & Sandra (BA, MM, MCM, DMA, ARCM). That's enough for any couple. And we did all of those degrees in the same schools, going to school at the same time, except that Ron did his doctorate first, and then Sandra.

Q. In addition to teaching, what other duties do you have at SBTS? What is a typical semester like for you?

Sandra: As chair of keyboard studies, I assign students to piano teachers, as well as supervising doctoral students who teach pregraduate piano classes and private students for Southern. I am also seminary organist, so I play for many chapel services, academic convocations and all graduations. In a typical semester, I teach private lessons in both piano and organ to students ranging from undergraduates in the Boyce College division of SBTS, master's degree students, and doctoral students. This semester I am teaching piano and organ pedagogy, accompanying the Chapel Choir, and will play for a major hymn festival in a few weeks. I also have to audition all prospective accompanists for our school and assign a rate of pay for them.

Ron: I am chair of voice, and until this year was also chair of music theory, and for a few years was associate dean for doctoral studies. Nowadays I do the same kinds of things with regard to singers that Sandra does in the keyboard area. Mainly I teach people how to sing. This semester I am also teaching Church Music Literature for Voices, a course that I have taught dozens of times over the past 35 years. I have taught courses in music theory, composition, music history, and every imaginable voice-related course that we offer.

Q. What type of music do you play for your own enjoyment?

Sandra: I love to listen to Bluegrass music and hammered dulcimer Appalachian folk music, an interest that developed after we moved to Kentucky. To really relax, I listen to Dolly Parton. My favorite CD of hers is Little Sparrow. When one of my colleagues was to be married in her late 30s, I once clogged in a music school talent show to Dolly's 'He's done kissed me on the mouth, and he's gonna marry me!' It was a big hit, especially with the students! One of the things that drew me to Dolly was that my uncle, a Methodist missionary doctor in Pigeon Forge, actually delivered Dolly Parton one bleak night and was paid a sack of corn meal for having come on his horse to do that—true story!

Ron: Having spent a year working at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on sabbatical, it's obvious I love English cathedral music, but I can also put up with Dolly. There's really no choice about that around here! Actually, I tend to listen to audio books in the car, because between seminary and church we do so much music that sometimes I need to get away from it. Believe it or not, our home Yamaha grand, a wonderful piano, must feel like a stepchild because we rarely play the piano at home.

Q. Has the direction of church music changed since you've been at SBTS?

Ron: Wow! Where to begin? Church music has undergone nothing short of a sea change in the 36 years we've been at Southern. Whereas we both love the organ as a principal instrument for worship, many of our students will serve churches that don't even have an organ. The entire prevailing view of church music in Southern Baptist churches has changed radically. Where hymns dominated worship for generations, many churches no longer sing them, having gone over completely to praise and worship songs. I find that sad, believing that there's a place for many kinds of church music, even within the same service. In our church we are able to do music ranging from classical to Appalachian to contemporary Christian, and our folks seem to appreciate it all. I think the key to that is making sure that the texts and musical moods fit the specific needs of a worship experience.

Sandra: I think that one of the reasons the organ has lost so much ground is that many Baptist churches have had poor organs and often heard them played poorly. The organ that I played at the age of 12 was not one to inspire me to want to be a church organist forever. It wasn't until I heard great pipe organs such as we have at Southern that I began to get really excited about the organ and its possibilities for worship.

Ron: Another way that church music has changed is that many megachurches today seem to prefer to train their own musicians, turning away from formally trained musicians. The popular music culture has made its way into the church and supplanted much of what has been traditional in church music:

My ideal would be that the best of all styles of church music find a place within worship.

Q. What role do you think music plays in worship?

Sandra: Music has the ability to open the heart to worship. For many worshipers, music communicates beyond words.

Ron: Music in worship should fulfill the same goals as a sermon—to present the gospel, to teach the faith, and to instill a sense of acceptance of God's message for that worship experience. It functions in praise, in prayer, as a witness of our faith to others in the congregation, in fellowship, and in response to the Word. When I plan worship for Deer Park Baptist Church, I begin with the scriptures of the day and the germ of an idea for our pastor's sermon. Then I try to make every aspect of worship, musical and nonmusical, support his goals as much as we can do that. My aim is that, as Doris Akers wrote, "without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place!"

“THE ENTIRE PREVAILING VIEW OF CHURCH MUSIC IN SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES HAS CHANGED RADICALLY.”
Q. What do you think are the greatest challenges facing church music today?

Ron: I think the greatest challenge is avoiding the entertainment syndrome in worship, where a few singers and instrumentalists essentially perform, while the audience becomes a passive group of listeners and watchers. It is possible within any structure of worship style for entertainment to take over, whether in the English cathedral or the evangelical megachurch, but worship at its best is always participatory. There’s nothing greater than a congregation really singing its heart out on a great hymn, whether it’s by Isaac Watts or Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. Too often today church buildings are being built in such a way that congregations are discouraged from singing by dead acoustics. I believe that there is indeed a need for that which is churchy and different from the world, but my view appears to be a minority one in the current climate.

Sandra: On a purely practical level, we are finding it almost impossible to get people to commit to regular choir rehearsals for themselves or their kids. These days even a Sunday morning soccer game can take precedence over Sunday School and worship. Many churches seem to be facing this problem.

Ron: For the long-term, one of the greatest challenges to church music is that too few young people are feeling called into music ministry and continuing their educations at seminary church music schools. All of the Southern Baptist seminary music programs are facing this challenge. We need more music students to come from colleges like Charleston Southern, to develop their abilities as music ministers within the crucible of theological institutions like Southern Seminary and other ministry-oriented schools.

Q. What can our readers who lead small churches do to have a vibrant music ministry?

Sandra: The first thing to do is make sure that you have an open line of communication with the pastor and that both of you work toward the same goals for worship. The two of you must be mutually supportive. Also, you must take a good inventory of the talents that are present in that congregation and then find ways to work those folks into the music ministry. Also, take advantage of denominational training events, from the associational level to the state to Ridgecrest.

Ron: One problem that small churches often have is a lack of financial resources for music purchases. I usually advise that small churches look to larger churches as a source for borrowing music that they can’t afford to buy. For congregational music, churches need to have CCLI licenses, which are inexpensive for small congregations, as a means of providing many songs outside of the hymnal that can be copied inexpensively (and legally) in bulletins or for a screen. And although some will hear this as heresy from a music professor, there are definitely times when the use of trax accompaniments is clearly better than either doing no music or having the piano or organ played poorly. We are fortunate in serving a small
church with a lot of talented people, whose talents range from playing violin concertos to Appalachian music. I’m convinced that many small churches have more talented people than they realize, yet fail to utilize the talents that are available.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for our readers about how they can incorporate music into their lives and with their children?

Sandra: One of the most important ways to incorporate music into anyone’s life is by participating joyfully in music at church, either in the congregation or in a choir, praise team, or instrumental ensemble. Also, I have found that I turn to playing music in difficult times to help me find God’s peace, and for that reason I really am happy to be a musician. Knowing how much my early piano study has benefited me both professionally and personally, I encourage parents to include piano or some other instrumental study in their children’s lives, or at least to take advantage of their church’s children’s choirs.

Ron: It is important that children hear music at home, and also that they be encouraged to sing from an early age. I’m convinced that the musical style doesn’t really matter. It’s the act of singing itself that helps so much to develop a musical aptitude, vocal coordination and the ear. Since public schools tend to be cutting back on music education, and even many churches don’t provide the graded choir programs they once had, parents need to take the lead in developing musical gifts. Once children reach a certain point without musical involvement, it becomes almost impossible to develop them into successful musicians later in life. So, listen to Mozart or listen to Dolly Parton, but listen to something with your kids, and then sing along.

Q. Do you think it is ever too late for someone to learn to sing/play an instrument?

Ron: It is never too late to learn to sing or play to some extent, and I love to brag that I can teach anyone to sing. Sandra once taught a Kuna Indian deacon in Panama to play God Is So Good on an electronic keyboard in one week during a mission trip, and he played it in a concluding service for everyone to sing. He had never played before. I suspect, however, that he had always sung! So, no, it’s never too late to learn to do music to some level, but to learn to do it well, you have to begin fairly early—certainly by the teen years.

Sandra: Also, that Kuna deacon was extremely motivated and dedicated to developing his ability to play his favorite hymn, and “I can’t” was not a part of his vocabulary. For most people, learning music takes dedication. I have taught many piano students who advanced farther in music than some of their peers who were actually more talented.

Q. Tell us about your family/career/hobbies.

Sandra & Ron: We have one daughter, Alison Badgett, a wonderful singer and voice teacher, and an even more wonderful human being, who lives on Long Island, N.Y. She and her husband, Jonathan, are in music ministry at Wantagh Baptist Church, one of the strongest evangelical churches on Long Island. We have two grandchildren (Madison, 4 ½, and Benjamin, 2), plus Safari #3 on the way in August. So we make many trips to New York, and unfortunately fewer trips now to Charleston.

As for hobbies, we’ve really only ever had but one, and that’s riding our bikes. Wherever we go, we take our bikes along. One of our favorite places to ride is actually on Folly Beach, riding down to see the Morris Island Lighthouse at low tide. We also love to ride the 11-mile loop at Cades Cove in Tennessee, and in Louisville we take long rides across the Ohio River to picnic at the Falls of the Ohio.

We have been truly blessed in our careers. Our entire careers have centered around only two institutions: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where we have been since 1973, and Deer Park Baptist Church, which we also began to serve in 1973. Being at SBTS has offered fabulous opportunities for study and service, including spending two year-long sabbaticals studying in London, England, plus a recent shorter sabbatical in St. Albans, England, when Sandra studied organ with Peter Hurford, one of the greatest players of Bach’s organ music in the world. We both studied at the Guildhall School of Music for one year, and then another time Ron spent a year on the staff of St. Paul’s Cathedral as their visiting scholar in church music, composing a considerable body of liturgical music for the Cathedral Choir and doing voice training with the boys in the choir. Sandra was able to do a performance diploma in piano at the Royal College of Music during that year. Ron has conducted choirs at the seminary, served as chorusmaster for Kentucky Opera productions, and conducted the Kentucky Baptist Chorale on a tour of Brazil, as well as having heard his compositions sung by the Choir of St. Paul’s Cathedral. Sandra has been the featured pianist for one Southern Baptist Church Music Conference and the conference organist for another. And she daily presides over an Aeolian-Skinner organ that has been described by a well-known English cathedral organist friend as “the finest instrument I have played in America.” What more can you ask?

At this point in our lives Sandra has finally decided that maybe it really was God’s will that she not become a physician, but rather a church musician. As active church musicians at Deer Park Baptist, where Ron is minister of music and worship and Sandra is keyboard minister (playing organ, piano, and harpsichord), we have found ourselves able to have an impact on people’s spiritual lives, as we do the thing we most enjoy—to plan, lead and play for worship. As teachers of church musicians, we now have former students literally all over the world. As the world of church music changes, one constant for us has been the joy of working with women and men called into music ministry. Another constant has been the joy of preparing and leading music in worship for almost 50 years. God has been good to us.
Starting in about fifth grade, Amy Nokes decided to babysit for the Schueler family in Chicago, Ill., where she grew up. For seven years, Nokes consistently showed up for the family, babysitting as often as twice a week, growing ever closer to the oldest boy, Henry, as well his siblings, Anna and Joe. Even when she wasn’t babysitting, Nokes spent time with the Schuelers, going to Henry’s baseball games, Anna’s basketball games, or just playing with Joe at the park.

Now a sophomore at CSU, Nokes’ senior year at Lane Tech High School brought devastating news. Henry was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

With all of the excitement of her senior year, as well as a scholarship to play Division I volleyball in front of her, Nokes wanted to stay closer to home in Chicago, Ill., and closer to Henry.

“My ‘He knew the mascot, the colors, all about coach (Danyel) Bellush, how the baseball team was. It was amazing how much research he had already done. His support was one of the main reasons that I ended up coming here.”
BY BLAKE FREELAND

Young Man’s Battle Continues
to Inspire Nokes

Even in the midst of the pain he was going through, Henry’s positive outlook and jovial spirit showed through. “You have to go,” he explained. “You are too white, you need a tan.”

Nokes decided to go ahead and sign to play at CSU, and when she visited with Henry a few days later was surprised by what he told her.

“He knew everything about CSU,” said Nokes. “He knew the mascot, the colors, all about Coach (Danyel) Bellush, how the baseball team was. It was amazing how much research he had already done. His support was one of the main reasons that I ended up coming here.”

On March 16, 2007, shortly after his 14th birthday, Henry underwent bone marrow transplant surgery. Not surprisingly, Henry was said to have recovered more quickly than any other patient the transplant team had ever treated. In fact, he recovered so quickly that he graduated with his eight-grade class in June.

Henry remained healthy, playing in his summer baseball league and earning all-star status. In September, though, the leukemia relapsed and he was once again subjected to chemotherapy treatments. Almost 1,000 miles away from home, Nokes watched from afar as he developed zygomycosis, a fungal infection that would force another bone marrow treatment.

Amazingly, the young Henry showed maturity beyond his years. On October 9, 2007, which coincidently was Nokes’s 19th birthday, Henry was given hours to live and was about to be sent home to spend the rest of his time in the comfort of his home with his family. His attitude continued to shine as he tried to encourage those with him. “We will be together again in heaven,” Henry told his siblings. “It will be much better than earth because I can’t get the flu in heaven.”

Continuing to fight, his blood count went back up in the late hours of October 9, and he was able to stay in the hospital with hopes of recovering again. News quickly traveled across the country to Nokes, and even though no one in Charleston knew him, Henry’s perseverance and will to live impacted many around CSU.

Knowing he was a big baseball fan, the CSU baseball team signed a couple of baseballs and gave Nokes a sweatshirt to take home to Henry. She did so during the 2007 Christmas break, a break that Henry would not survive. Henry put up a valiant fight, claiming, “If I’m down to my last breath, I’ll take 20 more. It will take a truck to bring me down,” but passed away on Dec. 14, 2007.

In her sophomore year, Nokes changed her number to 41, which was Henry’s football number. It serves as a reminder for her, and gives her plenty of chances to share his story with others, leading them to the 41 & 9 Foundation set up by Henry’s parents. Henry’s death changed more about Nokes than just her number. Her grades went from a dismal 1.5 GPA to an outstanding 3.75 in one year, and her play on the court improved as well. This past season, she was fourth on the team in kills, third in blocks, and second in assists, playing in almost every game.

“This young man changed my life so much,” said Nokes. “I write his number and initials in a heart on my wrist before every game. I dedicated my volleyball career to him and always try to go above and beyond when I play or in practice. No matter what I do, I try to make Henry proud.”

Over the course of the season, each player on the volleyball team got to have their own “spirit week,” where they got a chance to address and motivate the team. Nokes put up a picture of Henry with a quote in the locker room, and even though her spirit week ended, there was no doubt that the team would leave it up for the remainder of the season.

“You can really tell a difference in Amy,” said Bellush. “When she came back after his death, she came back a different person. She no longer sweats the small stuff but really takes pride in her life. She has a pure joy about her that kept her on the court this year, and I felt like that joy came from him. She has a passion for life that no one could have taught her.”

Because it was Henry that convinced Nokes to come to CSU, the impact he made on her life holds eternal changes as well. Being in a Christian environment during one of the toughest years of her life led Nokes to find her faith.

“I never really went to church before I came to CSU,” recalls Nokes. “I just came here to play volleyball. When Henry got sick, people all around campus came to my aid. Everyone said that they would pray for him, and for me, and that really made an impact on me. It was because of those experiences that led me to my faith.”

Bellush added, “It was so nice that she was here at Charleston Southern, where we could openly pray for her, and for him while he was sick. God has His timing for everything and there is no doubt He had a hand in every aspect of this situation. God has really touched her life through Henry.”

More information on Henry’s battle with leukemia, as well as the 41 & 9 Foundation can be found at www.henryschueler.org.
It Began with

Officially known as the Founding Class, those who were the first graduates were also known as pioneers, the first, and the basketball team was affectionately known as the Wandering Bucs because they were always hunting practice facilities.

Several members of the Founding Class Reunion Committee shared their memories:

Judy Postell Cone

Hal Adams

Ron Turner

Judy Postell Cone

Ligon Dougherty

Ron Turner

Joe Tallon
Ligon Dougherty ‘71

Interestingly, when I decided to attend BCC, it was not for a spirit of adventure. I had actually planned to attend another college but my paperwork was lost and at the last minute, I applied to BCC. However, God is always good and watching out for me for it was at BCC where I met my future wife, Ann Smith (Dougherty). Her story was similar to mine as she was planning to attend a different college but due to circumstances beyond her control, could not attend and therefore applied at the last minute at BCC. I never felt that attending the college was anything of a risk. I felt the college was founded on spiritual principles and that it would be interesting and fun to attend a new institution. With my emotional and spiritual immaturity, it would have been a huge mistake to attend a larger college. I guess God knew what I needed and guided me to the most safe and supportive learning institution that was available.

I was a day student for most of the time and missed out on many interesting happenings. However, I remember the honor of having my say in the naming of the annual, newspaper and mascot (which was most controversial). Starting classes at the church the first year was fun as we spent a lot of time just hanging out and getting to know each other. We moved to the campus the 2nd year and even with all that space had problems with parking. On dry days, we experienced the wind, and sand storms; and felt like we were in the Sahara Desert. On rainy days, it was the mud that you had to sludge through as there were no sidewalks. Another problem was pulling cars out of the mud or driving your car in the mud and making it slip and slide and trying not to run into a ditch. Running into trees was no threat as there were none. I stayed at the St. Johns Hotel on several occasions and that was quite an experience. I would love to hear more from others who stayed the whole year. My most interesting memories of the hotel were lying awake at night and hearing the rats making noise in the walls and ceilings. There was also the issue of the water balloons but others will have to provide the details. Definitely, a lot of mischief went on at the hotel but much of it cannot be repeated, however, I’m sure it will be talked about at the reunion! There were times I wondered what I was missing by not attending a larger college but I would not trade my memories of BCC. I remember the very first day at the church and Dr. Cuttino talking to us and trying to prepare us for what was coming (either we were not listening to him or didn’t believe him). Other memories include checking out everyone who was there on the first day and saying, I didn’t know you were going to attend here; and attending the first basketball game and watching Jim Gardner play (we thought he was our first superstar).

I am proud of the first years of the college and excited to see how it has grown. Yes, we now have trees.

Howard M. Surface ’68

At the time I was accepted at Baptist College, I had an interest in getting my degree but had not made it at two other colleges. I should have been a junior in college at the time but was instead a 28-hour freshman. The fact that Baptist College accepted me, and gave me a third opportunity to succeed with my goal of getting a degree is something that I will always appreciate. They saw something in me and once they gave me encouragement I was able to proceed. After graduating from Baptist College, I worked for several years, and with the education that they had given me, I was later accepted at UNC-Chapel Hill, and from there earned my MPH in Health Administration. Baptist College took a chance when no one else would, and I am eternally grateful. I know that the Good Lord smiles regularly on CSU because of what it did for and with folks like myself.

Mary Francese Buckner

“I NEVER FELT THAT ATTENDING THE COLLEGE WAS ANYTHING OF A RISK. I FELT THE COLLEGE WAS FOUND ON SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES AND THAT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING AND FUN TO ATTEND A NEW INSTITUTION.”
Woodrow Busch ’69

I wanted to go to The Baptist College because I hoped it would prepare me for the pastorate – and it did. Going to a new school was also an adventure. I remember all the mud and the confusion the first year on the campus. But the faculty was great and meeting new people was a positive experience.

Joe Tallon ’69

The risk [to attend] was taken because my church (Dorchester-Waylen Baptist Church) and other Baptist churches were willing to back up the school with their resources. We never felt it had a chance to fail. Also, it was affordable. The first year’s tuition for day students was only $1,000 per semester. However, that didn’t last long since it increased each year.

The first year Dr. Hamrick wanted the mascot to be the Swamp Fox. We protested and voted in the Buccaneers. He said that there were no good Buccaneers and that they were just pirates. Pat Spence and I did a paper on Sir Francis Drake and changed his mind, or we would still be the Swamp Foxes today.

I was in the BCC choir, and we traveled by bus to sing. I would drive Mrs. Cuttino and her young daughter and follow the bus in case it broke down. The bus was called “The Blue Goose.” Mrs. Margaret Gilmore would travel with us and recruit students and money for the college. We sang at schools, churches, and conventions. It was a way to get the name of Baptist College across the state and the Southeast. The first year we also sang in the Nutcracker with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra at the Dock Street Theatre, and the next year we did The Testament of Freedom, again with the symphony but instead at the new BCC gym.

Blast from the Past: 1969

- A gallon of gas cost a whopping 35 cents.
- A new house would set you back on average $15,550.
- NASA successfully landed the first humans to walk on the moon: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.
- Abbey Road, the Beatles’ last album, was recorded.
- The Gulf Coast was devastated by a category 5 hurricane: Camille.
- Do you remember these TV shows? They all premiered in ’69: Sesame Street, The Brady Bunch, Scooby-Doo, Where Are You and Marcus Welby.
- A first-class stamp was 6 cents.
- It was a banner year for teams from the Northeast: The NY Jets beat Baltimore in the Super Bowl; The NY Mets beat Baltimore in the World Series, and Boston beat the LA Lakers for the NBA Championship.
- Glen Campbell’s By the Time I Get to Phoenix captured the Grammy for Album of the Year.
- The beginnings of the Internet were born through the Advanced Research Projects Agency, when four universities went online.
- The 1st home computer, Honeywell’s “Kitchen Computer,” sold for $10,600.
- The #1 song of 1969? Sugar Sugar by the Archies.

Mary F. Buckner ‘69

There is never one easy answer to explain why we do what we do. My decision to attend the new Baptist College at Charleston was quite complex. My heart’s desire was to go to Furman University just like my older brother. But funds were tight, and my parents had one overarching goal in life – to college educate all four of their children. Since I was the #2 child, I knew there were two others behind me that needed schooling, too. So I opted to save money, stay at home and attend college, knowing that I was headed after college graduation to seminary and would have at least two more years of schooling ahead of me.

My mother and I went to Dr. Carpenter’s home one morning to talk to him about the new school and what the dreams for it might be. I must admit that there was something very appealing about being in on the ground floor of a school that could develop years later into a large and wonderful institution. Since Dr. Carpenter had just picked up the initial applications from the printer that morning, I filled one out while I was there, and thus became the first applicant to the school – an interesting honor.

There are many fond memories from being part of the founding class. My classmates and I all bonded in ways not found in other more established schools. We were more like a family, and we had the added distinction of being upperclassmen all four years. We knew, on some level, that the decisions we were making (name of a mascot and a yearbook, for example) would be far-reaching and would probably continue as long as the school existed, so we tried to make those decisions thoughtfully.

If you speak today to any of those founding students, certain images surely are recalled – attending classes that first year in a church building and a local gym, for example. Boarding students have great “war” stories to tell about the old St. John’s Hotel and its warped floor boards and other idiosyncrasies. Every club or group or organization we began that year and every memory we forged together is one of the institution.

Once we moved out to the current campus our second year, we can all remember times of dodging earth movers in order to get to class. I can also recall the smell of the earth being turned over and the sounds of construction as part of our everyday schedule. Dust and mud were just part of the daily scene. But it was also an exciting time, and new those memories are sweet.

Everyone involved in this new school, from the staff to the faculty to the student body, had an investment in it – to see it prosper and grow and be a viable option for a good education. Mistakes? Yes, we ALL made plenty of those. And again, those mistakes were equally divided by a young and largely inexperienced faculty and staff and an eager and fresh-faced group of students. Never in my mind, however, did I question whether those of us who made up those first classes were fully dedicated to seeing this new school succeed. We invested all our hopes and dreams and energies into it. And look at it now! Go, Bucs!

One more amusing anecdote: I was a music major, and so I enjoyed singing in the college choir all my years there at CSU. David Cuttino was the Director during those years. He often would schedule our group to sing for evening worship services at local Baptist churches in order to further advertise the school and the good work taking place there. One Sunday evening, the church where we were singing was also having a baptismal service. Our choir was in the choir loft area and the baptismery was behind the loft. One particularly large adult man was to be baptized. As the man went under the water and back up, the entire men’s section of our choir got soaked; the water sloshed over the edge due to the size of the man.

Memories from the Early Years

• Walter Koon, in a feature in the Charleston Evening Post, said, “some call it ‘instant college’ because it is conducting business with no campus, no buildings, and no graduates.”

• Few who spent their freshman year of college in the old St. John’s Hotel and attended classes in First Baptist of North Charleston will ever forget the excitement of being members of a group known as “The Pioneer Class.” Their thoughts often went on to next year when they would be the first students to call the campus, “way out on I-26, ours.”

• The original faculty, for the most part, were visionaries, attracted by the rare and exciting challenge to become a part of something new, something that could become very big. It would be a college where ideals would be high, potential unlimited, and academic standards would be held sacred – all in an atmosphere that would be distinctly Christian.

• The summer before classes began, President John Hamrick, and his wife, Margaret, hosted a gathering for the employees...Everyone felt important, just to be FIRST in whatever role they were to carry...Afterward John Barry remarked, “We will remember this evening. For very soon now there will be so many of us that the closeness we now feel will be impossible to recapture.”

• The second year. When it became possible to drive on campus, students found not only mud, but in many cases also found their quarters inaccessible except by climbing on precariously placed stacks of material to reach their “dorm” doorway. Residence Directors, Furman and Esther Touchberry, retired pastor and his wife, were “Mom and Pop” to the students and managed to make the experience one of bearable and almost happy survival. Few complained. They had decided they were “Pioneers,” and they took it all as challenging.

• The News and Courier gave front-page, color photo coverage to the commencement story. Dr. Hamrick was pictured with Eugene Franz Jonk, who graduated cum laude, and Mrs. Lowell Dean Martin Rowell, who graduated magna cum laude. The date was May 14, 1969. Seventy-eight of the 175 who received diplomas had enrolled as freshmen at the college. These students had set the tone, broken ground and started traditions that would become historical Ebenezer Stones for the institution.
Dr. Hal Adams Jr.

ADAMS ENJOYED CAMPUS LIFE BUT WAS SERIOUS ABOUT ACADEMICS. HIS FOCUS WAS ON LEARNING HOW TO STUDY, GETTING GOOD GRADES, AND GRADUATING.

Photo by Cynthia Pace Photography
As Dr. Hal Adams Jr. flipped through his 1969 Baptist College annual, pictures of Michael Harmon, Billy Bedenbaugh, Jim Raborn and Phil Bookter brought back a flood of good memories. But memories of playing dorm room football with roommate Billy Mew are by far the sweetest. “Billy was a big guy, and we’d challenge any two guys willing to play football with us. In order to score you had to get both knees on one of our beds, serving as end zones...and no one ever did. We never lost a game, never tied a game,” laughed Adams. “There was great camaraderie in the dorms, and I made lifelong friends there.”

Prior to coming to BCC, Adams spent two years at Clemson where he had struggled academically. A former Clemson roommate, Ron Parnell, had transferred to Baptist College and talked Adams into coming for a visit. In the summer of 1967, Adams visited Parnell and the BCC campus. Later he met with Registrar David Stone who agreed to admit him on academic probation, and Adams transferred to BCC in fall 1967.

The first night in the new dorm Adams woke up to a loud commotion and the sound of rushing water. According to Adams, a pipe between the second and
third floors had burst, and everyone was evacuated. Making the best of a bad situation, Adams pulled his car up and blasted the radio drawing a crowd not only to hear the music but also to admire his 1967 Plymouth Barracuda. One of the students Adams befriended that night was Jim Baker from Kingstree. Baker later introduced Adams to his sister, Cookie, who was a student at Columbia College. A long-distance romance began, and the two were married in 1971.

Adams enjoyed campus life but was serious about academics. His focus was on learning how to study, getting good grades, and graduating. He had many professors who influenced him along the way. Among them were Silas Garrison, English; Doug Donehue, journalism; Charley Brassell, speech; Frank Gay, economics; Dr. Royce Breland, business; Ada Johnson, Spanish; Dr. John Barry, philosophy and religion; and Helen Barry, psychology.

His first semester at BCC, Adams took English 102 with Professor Patricia Allen. His first assignment: to write an autobiography. When the graded papers were returned, he was shocked and angry—he had made an “F.”

The following paragraphs, excerpted from the December 2000 graduation speech he gave when he was awarded an honorary doctorate in business administration from Charleston Southern, tell the rest of the story.

I returned to my room and for about half an hour blew off some serious steam. I then decided to return to the professor’s office and discuss the grade, although I had to muster up all the courage I could to go…

Calmly, the professor asked me to read the theme again and asked me what it really said. I told her that it was my life to date—an autobiography, exactly what she had asked me to write. She then explained that I had been very critical of myself, and that while the theme was technically nearly perfect in structure, its content was a formula for certain failure.

She went on to spend a good deal of time with me, helping me understand that I was not as bad as I had held myself out to be in the theme, and that I had potential.

I left her office nearly an hour later with the instructions to write the theme over. As I did, I was first only relieved to have a second chance for a better grade. With time, though, it began to dawn on me that her words were making a difference in my life and that I could see things in perspective and could make a difference to others. Two years later, I was no longer the below average student that I thought myself to be, and was excelling academically.

“I WILL ALWAYS BE INDEBTED TO CSU FOR MY EDUCATION, AND I STILL WEAR MY CLASS RING PROUDLY. AND ALWAYS, ALWAYS ASK PEOPLE, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP CHARLESTON SOUTHERN?”

LEFT: Former Intern Charlotte Bouchet, Cookie & Hal - Palacio Real (Royal Palace), Madrid.

ABOVE: Famile Bouchet, Cookie & Hal - Chez Bouchet, Reims, France.
Attending a liberal arts college gave Adams a wide range of knowledge and experiences. In 1969 he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration with emphases in marketing and management and a minor in English. He continued his education as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina master's program in business administration from 1970-71.

Adams has had a successful career in the insurance industry for 38 years. He began his career in 1970 with the Dana Insurance Agency in Columbia. The firm handled insurance for several nonprofit organizations and various religious denominations. In 1977 Adams was approached by several Southern Baptist missionaries about property insurance coverage. “I grew up in a very missions-oriented church and family and realized the importance of their need,” explained Adams. He followed up with, what was then, The Foreign Mission Board, and after a two-year process of gathering information and finding an underwriter, they were able to offer the insurance to foreign missionaries. Adams remembers, “The program grew slowly, but the missionary community began to respect the program as having the missionary needs at heart and that we could put together the kind of programs they needed.” Soon after, other denominations began requesting coverage as well, and in 1982, the company added volunteer missionary insurance.

In January 1980, he founded Adams Eaddy & Associates and began its International Division. Adams served as president of the firm until the International Division had grown substantially enough that it was necessary to spin off on its own in June 1992. This change created Adams & Associates International, Ltd., with Adams as chairman and owner. He and his staff were now free to devote their full attentions to providing all insurance lines to not-for-profit organizations who have operations and personnel located outside of North America.

As the business became profitable, Adams wanted to give back to the missionary community. In 2000 he established the Adams and Associates International MK Endowed Scholarship at Charleston Southern, and in 2003, the Adams and Associates International MK Endowed Scholarship II was established. To date, there have been 47 MKs (missionary kids) who have received the financial benefits of those scholarships.

Adams is currently area president of Adams & Associates International - Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services after the November 2006 merger with Arthur J. Gallagher. He continues to focus his energies on the nonprofit, charitable and missionary communities developing and implementing insurance products designed to meet the specific needs of these organizations.

Looking back, Adams experienced many highlights throughout his career. “Creating products and services from scratch is my second most rewarding highlight. The most rewarding has been having eight interns, all foreign, over the past 10 years. Mentoring them at this stage of their lives then seeing them develop academically and vocationally following their tenure with me has been most rewarding,” reflects Adams, who in February traveled with his wife to France, Spain and Switzerland for reunions with five of these interns. He has also received numerous professional awards as the result of his involvement and dedication to the insurance industry and is a member of many professional and civic organizations.

Adams and his wife are now empty nesters. They have two daughters, Dorothy and Alice. Dorothy is a middle school teacher and lives in the Charleston area. Alice is a finance professor at the University of Kentucky. She is married to Matthieu Bonaimé (another former intern) and has a 3-year-old son, Luke, and is expecting another child in June.

“I could just go on and on about my experiences there at school,” said Adams. I will always be indebted to CSU for my education, and I still wear my class ring proudly. And always, always ask people, ‘What can you do to help Charleston Southern?’ This school has really helped me, so I am committed to helping it.”
The athletics department inducted four members into the Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend.

Allison Arreola Delaney was introduced by former teammate and coach Danyel Bellush, who praised Delaney – who played as Allison Arreola – for more than just her athletic ability, saying “Allison will be known for her accomplishments on the court, but I remember her just as much for her personality, attitude and smile.”

An All-Big South selection, Delaney was an Academic All-American for her work on the court and in the classroom, where she earned a perfect 4.0 GPA and was the 1998-99 Big South Christenberry Award winner.

“I am so honored and thrilled to be here,” said Delaney. “I want to thank the selection committee, but also want to thank my teammates and the professors here at CSU. I had forgotten what it meant to be part of this school, but after a long flight, as soon as I set foot in the gym, I was immediately reminded of the love and support.”

Steve Blanchard took the podium second, earning the honor for his accomplishments on the club football team at CSU. Blanchard finished his career with more than 200 total tackles, and 22 career interceptions.

“I am so humbled to be here tonight,” said Blanchard, who was part of the inaugural Buccaneer football team. “My time here at CSU definitely changed my life. How often does someone get to be a member of the first team, and meet the woman of their dreams on the first day of class?”

A pair of golfers, Jim Gardas and Patricia Martinson-Earley, rounded out the inductees, both being introduced by their former coach, Howard Vroon, who had high praise for them. “Both Jim and Patricia live and breathe achievement every day in all that they do. Neither did what they did here for the fame but because they didn’t know any other way.”

Gardas was a Verizon Academic All-American after earning a 3.94 GPA and was also named the 1998-99 Big South Christenberry Award winner.

“I am so proud and honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I want to congratulate the other inductees as well. To see what has happened here over the last 10 years is really amazing,” said Gardas.

Martinson-Earley, whose credentials rival those of anyone, as a three-time Big South Player of the Year and three-time Big South tournament champion, was thankful for the opportunities that her time at CSU has given her.

“I was so excited to get the phone call letting me know that I was being inducted,” said Martinson-Earley. “Because of the opportunity I had to come here as a student and an athlete, so many doors have been opened for me, and I know that even more will be in the future. CSU gave me the opportunity to grow academically, athletically and spiritually. I am proud to wear the Blue and Gold and call myself a Buccaneer.”

Basketball and baseball hall of famer John Kammeyer rounded out the evening by telling those in attendance “As proud as you are right now, I promise you that in a few years when you see what this University is doing, you will feel even better.”
Dr. Anthony Reed, an alum and Charleston native, returned to campus to help commemorate Martin Luther King Day, speak at Convocation, and serve as guest lecturer. Reed’s visit and impact will long be remembered.

The name Anthony Reed is one that is familiar in the presence of people who have been around the Big South Conference for any length of time. Mention Anthony’s name and they remember a number of broken records he left behind after graduating with a degree in religion in 1999.

Reed continues to hold the Big South indoor record in the triple jump and was a two-time Big South indoor champion in the long jump and triple jump. He was also a two-time Big South triple jump champion in outdoor track and held the League triple jump record until 2008.

Those credentials gave Reed plenty of credibility when he spoke to Charleston Southern athletes and coaches. The message he gave was not just how to succeed on the field of competition, but how to succeed in life.

“Remember that this life is more than just your performance,” Reed said to the athletes. “There is a greater reason that God has called you to compete at CSU. CSU prepares athletes for the competition of life, where victory is gained through Christ.”

While speaking at the athletics department luncheon, Reed let the coaches know that the things he remembers most from his days as an all-conference athlete were how his coaches always taught him something new about himself. He urged them to serve as mentors to their student-athletes and to help build character in addition to strong athletes.

“My success on and off the track is because of Christ,” Reed explained. “CSU offered me the opportunity to be surrounded with people who were strong in their faith, people that cared more about me than my performance.”

At Convocation, Reed shared his own experiences growing up in Charleston in a single-parent home and of his dreams for the future. He shared from Matthew 20 about the two blind men on the roadside begging. He recalled from the story that when the men called out to Jesus, others tried to quiet them. “The two men kept focused on Christ, not the crowd.” Reed encouraged the students to remain focused on Christ regardless of the challenges they face.

“Dr. Reed represents the vision we have for our alums. He is demonstrating, as an alum, faith integration in learning, leading, and serving – qualities that Anthony modeled as a student,” said Dr. Rick Brewer, vice president for planning and student affairs. “It is a rich blessing to note Anthony’s growth and cultivation of his God-given gifts which are being used to strategically lead his church and denomination regionally and nationally with a Kingdom focus.”

After graduating from Charleston Southern, Reed attended Turner Theological Seminary at the International Theological Center in Atlanta. He received his Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Reed now serves as the Pastor of Martin Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Miami, Florida. His church is one of the fastest growing AME churches in the state of Florida.

END-OF-THE-YEAR CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN MOTIVATES UNIVERSITY AND DONORS TO NEW HEIGHTS

The donor issued a challenge to the University, “Raise $200,000 in new gifts and pledges, and I’ll match it dollar for dollar.”

The University got to work, and our friends opened their checkbooks. The result was $230,191 in new gifts and pledges received during the month of December, truly a blessing in the spirit of Christmas. When matched by the $200,000 challenge gift, $430,291 in new gifts and pledges was received.

Our thanks go out to everyone who participated and especially to our anonymous donor for making this wonderful Christmas gift possible.
As the challenges of the current economy continue, Charleston Southern has developed a plan to respond to the increasing financial needs of students, to protect the livelihood of its employees, and to secure the financial footing of the University. “I am confident about the future of Charleston Southern in these challenging economic times. We are taking proactive measures to ensure financial stability,” said President Jairy Hunter. Although careful resource management has allowed the University to project a balanced budget at the end of the year, the unknown length of the stagnant economy requires continued careful planning. In light of this challenge, the University has made several key decisions.

Since academic quality is key to accomplishing the University’s mission, maintaining adequate faculty resources will continue as a top priority. Therefore, no hiring freeze is anticipated, no faculty/staff position reductions are planned, and the University will seek to fill new faculty positions previously approved.

Mindful of the economic challenges that exist, the University has implemented significant cost containment measures: 1) no salary increases; 2) voluntary six percent salary cut by President Hunter; 3) only essential travel approved; 4) only essential office equipment purchases made; 5) postage cost reductions through the use of technology. Any funds available at the end of the year will be set aside for financial contingencies.

The financial aid office is reaching out to families who are having financial hardships. Financial aid counselors are setting up help stations in the student cafeteria and sending out letters asking families to contact them should they have a significant change in their family income or new financial challenges due to this economic downturn.

The future is optimistic for the University. Enrollment figures are strong and encouraging. Freshmen applications for fall 2009 are up by 23 percent over the same time last year, and new freshmen confirmed is up 73 percent over last year. New student enrollment for spring 2009 is up by 16 percent compared to last year. New majors for fall 2009 include a B.A. in graphic design and an M.S. in nursing.

CSU is also enhancing its veterans affairs program to meet the increased needs of military personnel who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The new federally funded Post 9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Program have significantly increased benefits for veterans and will go into effect August 2009. CSU has proudly served veterans since its inception in 1964 and is pleased to be a “Military-to-College Friendly” institution.

As we look to the future, the University’s mission of promoting academic excellence in a Christian environment and vision of integrating faith in learning, leading, and serving remain strong. “With faith in God, careful planning, and the generosity of our friends, we believe the best days are ahead for Charleston Southern,” said Hunter. We trust in the promise of the scripture that says, “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28.
Click to CONNECT

Life just got a little easier for alumni, friends and donors who give or desire to give to Charleston Southern University. When visiting the University’s home page, www.charlestonsouthern.edu, notice the new ALUMNI/GIVING tab.

WITH THIS FEATURE YOU WILL FIND THE FOLLOWING AND MUCH MORE:

• Give Now - a way you can securely and easily make a donation online

• Ways to Give- shows all the ways you can make an impact at CSU, from joining the Legacy Society, starting an endowment, giving a funded scholarship or simply giving a small gift to honor a loved one in your life

• Board of Visitors- lists the names of current members, event photos, important dates, joining information and much more.

• Development Officers- meet the team who can help you find the right fit so you can most impact Charleston Southern University students.

Connect to Care
For additional information about Giving to CSU, contact the advancement office at advancement@csuniv.edu or 843-863-7513
Judy Postell Cone is petite, soft-spoken and moves fluidly around the pianos and organs at the Fox Music Store in North Charleston. Although she retired from the public school system in 1996, her schedule is packed with private lessons and senior adult group lessons at the store. She is also the organist and choral director serving with her husband, Frank, pastor, at Rutledge Baptist Church in Charleston.

“Music is who I am, and I know God had a plan for me from the very beginning,” said Cone. She shares that she was adopted as a baby and was her adoptive parents only child. “I didn’t know who my real parents were until I was about 40 years old,” she said. “Looking back now and knowing what little bit I knew about them, I would have probably never been able to take music lessons; it would have never happened.”
As it was, Cone began piano lessons at age five. “I had always loved music and loved to sing,” she said. “I loved dancing around to the music on my little record player.” Her parents were very supportive and created opportunities for her to progress musically.

After years of training as a child, she auditioned with Vernon Weston, a well-respected teacher, who accepted her as an organ student when she was in junior high. After taking lessons for only six months, Weston called and said he had a request for an organist at a small Methodist church. “He recommended me because He thought I could do it, and I believed him,” said Cone, seemingly still amazed by that today. “So I became a church organist and choral director at age 14. That was my first experience, and I have been a church organist ever since.”

Cone received an organ scholarship to Columbia College in the mid-1960s. After attending there two years, her mother became ill, and she returned to Charleston to care for her.

Shortly after coming home, she received a phone call from David Cuttino, assistant music professor at BCC, who offered her an organ scholarship at a brand new school. “That was a God thing for me because my mom ended up being an invalid for 16 years, and I would never have finished my music degree if it had not been for the phone call that day,” said Cone. To this day, she does not know how Cuttino learned about her and her situation.

In 1966 she started as a transfer student at Baptist College. “The music department was in a trailer in the back of campus where we had to wade through mud to get to class,” Cone remembers. But in the midst of the unsavory conditions, she felt very at home on campus and was nurtured by professors like Oliver Yost. “Mr. Yost, my piano professor, did so much for my playing. I had great technique, but I didn't have a whole lot of feeling,” said Cone.

“I remember him saying, 'Judy, you have got to love this music as you play, love it.' I had to think about that because no one had ever said that to me before. He was a wonderful professor who shaped a lot of the way I play today.”

One of the musical highlights of her college career was being invited to play the organ accompanying two choirs and the Charleston Symphony in a presentation of Handel’s Messiah. “That was a really special time for me,” she recalls.

Although Cone was a commuter student, she loved hanging out in the dorm with friends. One of her closest friends was Linda Harrison, an elementary education major who taught her how to play bridge, which Cone says, at that time, was almost as evil as dancing.

In 1968, she graduated from Baptist College earning the first music education degree. Over the years, she has done graduate studies in education at The Citadel, organ at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and choral music and musical theater at USC, Columbia.

The Cones have two children who are following their own dreams. Stephen is a film maker in Chicago. His first film premiered last fall. Daughter Christina is a singer/songwriter living in New York City. Husband Frank graduated from BCC in 1977.

Cone has taught in nine schools ranging from middle school to college level, has an impressive list of church ministry experiences, and has taught countless private organ, piano and voice lessons for more than 30 years.

There is no way to know how many lives Judy Cone has touched over the years. She has freely and consistently shared her God-given talent and has followed the beat of His heart regardless of her circumstances. “God orchestrated things in my life when I was a baby and helpless. As life went on, He continued to orchestrate things in my life when I didn’t realize how helpless I was.”

“God orchestrated things in my life when I was a baby and helpless. As life went on, He continued to orchestrate things in my life when I didn’t realize how helpless I was.”
“WHEN MY OLDEST SON MATTHEW PINNED ON MY AIR MEDAL AND THEN SALUTED ME, IT TOUCHED MY HEART, BUT WHEN HE STEPPED FORWARD AND GAVE ME A HUG, HE SQUEEZED A FEW TEARS OUT OF THIS OLD SOLDIER’S EYES.”
For 1969 graduate Joe Tallon much of what took place between graduation and the day he received his Purple Heart at Charleston Southern in 2008 is what movies are made of.

BY DOUG DICKERSON
PHOTOS BY JAN JOSLIN
On Nov. 12, 2008, after a 36-year delay, Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Tallon was awarded a Purple Heart at Lightsey Chapel Auditorium for injuries he received on a combat mission in Vietnam. He was also awarded The Air Medal and The Bronze Campaign Medal with Bronze Star attachment.

Tallon got his draft notice in June of 1969 and was in the Army by August. He flew combat missions over North Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. He was an OV-1 Mohawk reconnaissance pilot and flew most of his missions under the cover of darkness. His plane was the only unarmed, unescorted plane flown over North Vietnam.

Tallon was shot down Aug. 12, 1972, and was evacuated nine days later. Just after takeoff into the night skies of South Vietnam, his plane took a missile in the number two engine. He ejected from the plane and parachuted to the ground. "I should have been dead," said Tallon, as he recalled that frightful event.

The plane’s aerial observer and tactical operator was killed when his parachute did not open. Tallon says he hit the ground at 140 mph and blacked out. "I landed in a minefield at night in a razor fence. I made it through the minefield without triggering any mines while on fire. I crawled to the perimeter of the airfield's fence."

Dodging flames that surrounded him, Tallon couldn’t find his knife or pistol. “What kept me from being impaled was my radio and my New Testament,” he said. Tallon has since given the New Testament to both of his sons who have taken it to Korea and Iraq.
The next day, Tallon’s commanding officer didn’t see bullet holes at the crash site; the plane had melted and only the propeller was left. Since there weren’t two witnesses, there wasn’t enough proof that Tallon was shot down. The secret nature of his missions also compounded the delay in receiving the Purple Heart.

The crash left Tallon blind for 10 days and left him with double vision which he still has today. He spent two and a half years in six Army hospitals, where he says he received excellent care. After a 36-year delay, and more than 20 surgeries later, Tallon finally received the Purple Heart that eluded him for so long.

“I’ve had many honors in my 37 years of service to the country, but to be at my alma mater and to have my two sons participate in the ceremony was really special. I am very proud to have been a part of the founding class of the Baptist College at Charleston, and I am proud of the institution Charleston Southern University has become,” said Tallon. He earned a BA in history.

The Purple Heart was pinned on him by Ret. U.S. Army Special Forces Lt. Col. Rudi Gresham, a senior advisor to the secretary of veteran affairs who worked in the White House. The Air Medal was pinned by his oldest son Capt. Matthew A. Tallon. The Vietnam Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star attachment was pinned by his youngest son 1st Lt. Joshua A. Tallon.

“When my oldest son Matthew pinned on my Air Medal and then saluted me, it touched my heart, but when he stepped forward and gave me a hug, he squeezed a few tears out of this old soldier’s eyes. My youngest son Josh did the same, but that moment was special too since he had recently returned from combat in Iraq where he earned the Bronze Star. I am very proud of both of my son’s service to their country,” said Tallon.

Tallon continued to serve in active duty and in the reserves for 37 years, spanning five decades. He taught history for 21 years for the state of South Carolina in public schools and for 12 years for the Army.

In reflecting back on his storied military career, Tallon said, “I feel it is the duty of every citizen to serve his country, especially when called.” At the close of the ceremony, Tallon received a standing ovation, a Baptist College war hero had come home. ■
Thanks to the support of the football coaching staff and team, Rory Killeen, father of senior defensive lineman Jake Killeen, was able to watch his son play in his final game for CSU.

Rory is in a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer, and with decreased mobility was unable to come for the senior day festivities at CSU. In fact, the illness is so severe that Jake was honored at last year’s senior day for fear that his dad wouldn’t make it to the 2008 home finale. Diagnosed with stage four cancer during the summer of 2007, Rory was given six months to a year to live.

A year and a half later, he has continued to battle. Justin Witzmann, who has been teammates on the defensive line with Jake throughout junior college and on to CSU, Coach Jay Mills, and his staff would not accept for their all-conference defensive end to have to play his final games without his father getting to see him. They cleared it with the NCAA and decided to take up a collection within the team to get Rory to the final game of the year against Coastal Carolina.

“God orchestrated all of this from the very beginning, and that was quite obvious,” said Mills. “In the pregame chapel we had 16 confessions of faith. My wife, Kim, was released from the hospital just before game time after health issues of her own. God was alive and well in this program. I told team chaplain Jon Davis that I felt like we were living out Facing the Giants. Most of the things throughout this year wouldn’t have designed, but looking back, I certainly wouldn’t have changed anything.”

In just a short period of time, those close to the program donated more than enough money to cover any expenses that Rory would have during the trip.

“You don’t win based solely on Saturday night; you win by putting in the preparation throughout the week,” said Mills. “This selfless and anonymous act by different staffs was not a one-time thing for them, but more an indicator of what was already there.”

When approached with the idea, Jake and his dad were both reluctant. “We felt a little guilty because you are talking about college kids, who don’t have any money to give. It blew me away when they came up with so much, but really showed what a Christian university is all about.”

Defensive Coordinator Thielen Smith was also pleased with the reaction from the team. “This is a great example of teammates going beyond the call of duty for their teammate,” said Smith. “The whole team came together to do an outstanding thing for Jake. He truly appreciated what they did and you could tell by how hard he played.”

Killeen finished the game tied for second on the team with eight tackles and a sack. He finished his two-year CSU career with two all-conference selections, eighth all-time with 17 career tackles for loss and second all-time with 11 sacks. The team also came through for the Killeen family, winning the game 24-0 with the defense handing Coastal Carolina their first shutout in program history.

“I am normally really nervous, but when I saw my dad there with me, I had this sense of calmness come over me,” said Killeen. “I told myself no matter what to have fun, and I did. I don’t think I stopped smiling the entire game. I had about four tackles on the first series, and it was probably one of the most fun games I’ve ever played in.”

Coach Smith believes that rallying around the Killeen family served as a bonding event that pays dividends in more than one area. “Going through this process really helped the team. When you have to pull together like this, you are able to get the results that we saw. This is a true example of a team becoming family and really shows what Charleston Southern is all about.”

In addition to raising funds to pay for the flight and meals, Rory and Jake were named as roommates in the team hotel the night before the game. Then, just before the game, Mills and one of the officials were talking about the situation. The official invited Rory onto the field for the coin toss with the captains – including Jake. Rory, who got to see his son play for the Buccaneers for just the second time, got the thrill of his lifetime as he was presented with the game ball after the victory.

“I must say that the trip out to South Carolina to be with Jake and watch him in his last game was one of the most special times in my life,” said Killeen. “I couldn’t have been more proud of Jake and it is a memory that I will carry with me for eternity. Coach Mills and his coaching staff made it all happen. They did so much for me and their selfless acts speak volumes of their character.”
Nine students joined with campus minister Clark Carter and served with Snow Memorial Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tenn., over their fall break. This was the fifth year of serving in this area of the country for Charleston Southern and was a rewarding experience for all involved. “It was a very fruitful four days of ministry,” said Carter, “Probably one of the greatest things that God did through us was to encourage Snow Memorial Baptist Church. This church has been in decline for a few years, but with the calling of a new pastor and with the help and enthusiasm of our students, the church has already seen people being added to their membership.”

Service projects that the team conducted while there included cutting down a 40 ft. willow tree for an elderly couple; Kool Coated two trailer roofs for elderly and handicapped church members; cleaned the interior of a house for a senior citizen; and worked with Fishery Community Church to present a blacklight gospel presentation.

Rusty Wishon, pastor of Snow Memorial spoke highly of the ministry team’s service. “God has used the CSU mission team to refresh and energize our churches for the past several years,” he said. “We are refreshed to see the hard work and compassion in these young men and women. They have given us a newfound energy to keep ministries going in our church. Our community and our church love Jesus more because of their dedication and love.”

The impact upon the Charleston Southern students will be lasting. “One thing I remember about the trip is the expression from the people that we helped and also how they appreciated everything we did for them,” said freshman Sierra Burnett of North Charleston. “Pastor Rusty is just a great guy; you can just see the love he gives to all that surrounds him,” she said.

“It’s always exciting to see God work through students. Not only were the lives changed of those we served, but our students were transformed by the joy of serving others. Our prayer is that our students will come home not only with great memories, but also with a passion to live a missional lifestyle,” said Carter.

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Members of the CSU Women’s Council, Shirley Whitfield and Sissy Hunter, participated in the WC’s 6th annual fundraising auction. Each year, the Women's Council raises thousands of dollars which are donated directly to student scholarships. The Women's Council has established two endowed scholarships – the Mattie Leigh Francese Scholarship and the Charlene B. Kirk Scholarship.
December graduate Jenise Durant from Lynchburg, S.C., recently was honored by the Dorchester County Department of Juvenile Justice as the 2008 Volunteer/Intern of the Year. The award is given annually to the intern making significant improvements in the lives of the youth of Dorchester County.

“arly very grateful and blessed to even be involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice, so winning this award is like icing on the cake,” said Durant. “I want to thank everyone at Dorchester County DJJ. They are awesome individuals who deserve more compensation for the wonderful selfless job they do,” she said.

As a volunteer for DJJ, Durant conducted intake services for new cases. “Basically, I advise the child and their parent/guardians of their rights and obtain background information from them. I also performed contract meetings,” said Durant. During her time as a volunteer she also made house visits throughout the community and helped whenever and wherever she was needed.

“The reason we chose Jenise,” said Deborah Smith, county director of DJJ, “is she went above and beyond what was required. She always gave more than was asked of her, more than the normal intern. There is something about her enthusiasm; her personality. She showed up on time every day and always seemed happy to be here.”

Durant said, “It is priceless to enjoy coming to work and being able to perform your duties without someone stifling your abilities. I also enjoyed the learning experiences. I learned how very important it is to invest time in our youth. It is sad to see kids have so little hope in their futures, so I am glad to be able to inspire some of them.”

Durant’s recognition was not the only one with a CSU connection. Dr. Susan Styles, professor of psychology, was named the 2008 Intern Network of the Year. Smith said, “The interns from Charleston Southern are easy to work with, reliable, and interested in what we do. She (Styles) always sends us great interns who are highly motivated.”

Styles said, “Our intern sites that are the most successful are those that match the students with internship supervisors that really care that the students are going to have a valuable learning experience, and Deborah does that for us. I can always count on her when I call to find a place for our students.”

As for her future plans, Durant is contemplating whether to pursue graduate school or enter the U.S. Air Force while studying for the Law School Admission Test. She plans to continue her volunteer work at DJJ and hopes to become a part of Howard University’s 2010 graduate class.
How do you pass on your values?


At Charleston Southern University you can help preserve the essence of your beliefs long after your worldly possessions have faded. You have the opportunity to contribute to academic excellence in a Christian environment and help generations develop the values that defined who you were.

For more information on the Legacy Society contact:
Lili Gresham at 843-863-7517 or e-mail lgresham@csuniv.edu
Visit the Legacy Society Web site at
www.charlestonsouthern.edu/development/legacy.asp
Howard M. Surface has been appointed health director of the Lee County Health Department in Sanford, N.C. He received a master's in public health degree from UNC, Chapel Hill in 1974.

John Harper, Ph.D., is the school superintendent for the Bartow County School District in Cartersville, Ga. Bartow County, about 50 miles northwest of Atlanta in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, has seen continued growth. Harper oversees a growing county system which must constantly evolve to meet the needs of its student population of more than 14,000 students.

Harry Scarborough is retiring from the ministry after 42 years of preaching. Most recently, he was pastor of New Life Church in Goose Creek, and has been a member of the Board of Trustees at CSU. He plans to do interim work and pulpit supply preaching.

After a career with the Federal Government that spanned 53 years, Jerry E. Beckley retired to Memphis, where he continued his academic career as a professor of management science. He is currently the department chair of business and accounting at National College of Business and Technology, Bartlett Campus. Jerry's e-mail is beckleyje42@natcollege.edu for those interested in keeping in touch.

David Berry was named a Carolina Panthers High School Coach of the Week during the 2008 season. David is head football coach at Blackville-Hilda High School in Blackville. During his time at Blackville-Hilda, the Fighting Hawks have won 13 region championships and three state championships.

B.J. “Joe” Campbell, Ph.D., has been named customer relations manager for Watson Engineering’s manufacturing facility located in Piedmont. Watson Engineering is headquartered in Taylors, Mich., and is a multimillion dollar global ISO certified, tier one industry supplier offering a wide range of services from the simplest of vehicle builds to high-volume production runs.

Susan Edwards is the director of advancement at Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Boston, and is working on her master of arts in philanthropy from St. Mary’s University.

Holly Michelle Roberts MEd ’02 and Dr. Daniel Webster Cross IV ’90 were married June 28 in Moncks Corner. Holly is a teacher with the Berkeley County School District, and Daniel is employed by Georgetown Hospital Systems, Lexington Medical Center and East Cooper Regional Medical Center. He is a member of the CSU Board of Directors, Board of Visitors and Legacy Society. They live in Moncks Corner.
1993

Michael “Ansel” Brown chose the NFL Alumni Inc. and Ronald McDonald House Charities as the beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds from his IPAK Records’ debut album. As part of Brown’s Bigger Heart Tour, he performed his music at children’s hospitals. To learn more about Brown, visit www.ipakrecords.com and www.youtube.com/abheart08.

1997

Ronda Hall is a teacher assistant working with preschoolers with autism in Greenville, N.C. In summer ’08 she served as an intern with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida working in day camps and with outreach programs.

Amanda Herrmann Livingston and her husband, Eric, welcomed their second child April 22, 2008. Jonah Samuel weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. Amanda writes, “His big sister, Katie, is 2 years older and was happy to welcome him, too! We live in Summerville, and I’m a proud stay-at-home mom.”

1998

Sherry Weilnau Deakin was married Dec. 31, 2008. The Deakins live in Atlanta, and Sherry is a rehabilitation job readiness specialist at Vocational Rehabilitation.

Sheila Ferrer Cathcart and her husband, Chad, proudly announce the birth of their son, Ethan Harold, born Nov. 12, 2008, weighing 9 lbs. 15 ozs. Ethan joins a big sister, Carmen, age 4. Sheila and Chad are still living in Aiken, where Sheila works as an athletic trainer.

Meghan Elizabeth Grace Hutchinson and Andrew Patrick Bell were married Oct. 11, 2008, in Mount Pleasant. Andrew is a yearbook sales representative with Jostens and is currently the representative working with CSU. The Bells live in Hanahan.

Erin Melissa Stanley and Derik James Trent were married Oct. 25, 2008, in Charleston. She is a project manager at GEL Laboratories. They live in Charleston.

2000

Stacey Dryden has been promoted at Advanced Technology Institute in Charleston to procurement analyst II.

Melanie Marie Keppers and Robert Jason Wingard were married Nov. 22, 2008, in Moncks Corner. She is employed by Berkeley County School District. They live in Moncks Corner.

2001

Cherise Townsend Doyle and her husband, Adam, proudly announce the arrival of their third child, Jonah Adam, born Dec. 16, 2008, weighing 8 lbs. exactly. Jonah was welcomed by his 22-month-old twin sisters, Makayla and Makenna. Cherise is a stay-at-home mom, and the family of five lives in New Jersey.
2002

Jessica Diane Eddins and Captain Stephen Gregory Dobbins were married June 21, 2008, in Columbia. She is an admission counselor at Savannah College of Art and Design, and they live in Georgia.

2003

Jennifer Morillo MEd was named S.C. Middle School Principal of the Year by the S.C. Association of School Administrators. Jennifer is assistant principal at Lady’s Island Middle School in Beaufort. She and her family live in Bluffton.

2004

Tomiko Brown earned the education profession’s highest credential, National Board Certification, in November 2008, a credential that can take teachers to any school district in the nation. Tomiko earned her master’s degree in literacy education in 2006 and her +30 certification in reading in 2007. She has been employed with Dorchester School District 2 as a 2nd grade teacher since graduation.

2005

Christina Leigh Davenport and John Cooper Stephens were married Dec. 8, 2008, in Charleston. They live in Mt. Pleasant.

Emily Michelle Young and David Nathan Dent were married at Table Rock State Park, Pickens. He is a fifth grade teacher at Hanahan Middle School, and they live in N. Charleston.

Rebecca Heckathorn and Kirby Mack were married Oct. 26, 2008, in Boiling Springs. She works at Spartanburg County Public Library. They live in Boiling Springs.

Samantha Dyal and her husband and daughter proudly announce the birth of their new addition, Benjamin Micah, born May 15, 2008. They have recently moved to Savannah, Ga.

Alan Smith and his wife, Heather, proudly announce the birth of a second child, Julius Emerson. Alan is a reference librarian with the Horry County Library.

Kate Hayden MEd ’05 and Eric Jackson were married March 14, 2008, on Driftwood Beach, Jekyll Island, Ga. Katie is a kindergarten teacher with Glynn County Schools and is currently working toward her doctorate degree at Georgia Southern University. Eric is a network analyst with South Ga. Health System. They are active in their church, The Chapel, and live in Brunswick, Ga.

Brandi LaFaye O’Quinn and Jarred Matthew Boan were married Dec. 20, 2008, in Branchville. He is a health science technology instructor at Central Carolina Technical College, and they live in Manning.
2006

Virgina Vann and her husband, Bobby ’05 announce the birth of a daughter, Alyssa Faith, born Nov. 13, 2008, weighing 9 lbs., and 20 inches long. The Vanns are ministering in Minot, N.D.


Jessica Nicole Effler and Ian Andrew Holmen were married Oct. 26, 2008, in Spartanburg.

Kristen Dale Fraylick and Ronald David Patrick were married Dec. 6, 2008, in Mt. Pleasant. She is a teacher at Flowertown Elementary School in Summerville, and he is a software analyst at Santee Cooper. They live in Mt. Pleasant.

Ashley Iseman and Adam West were married Nov. 9, 2008. Ashley writes, “We recently moved from Utah to California because Adam received orders from the Air Force. We are loving the warm weather and pleasant people. I was teaching 5th grade in Utah and absolutely loved it. I am currently seeking a teaching position in California. We are excited about starting our life together in California, but we can’t wait to get back to the beautiful East Coast!”

Ryan Kohlkepp has been deployed to Iraq and would like to hear from classmates through Facebook or at SPC Kohlkepp Ryan C., 772 MP Co, Camp Delta, APO, AE 09317.

Adam R. Lawrence was awarded the J.P. Strom Award by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Dec. 5, 2008. He is employed by the Mauldin Police Department and lives with his family in Taylors.

Melissa N. Mehl MAT and her husband, Graham, announce the birth of a daughter, Miranda Norene, born Nov. 18, 2008.

Drena Lynn Smith and Kevin Jeffery Hazel were married Sept. 27, 2008, in Walterboro. She works at Colleton Medical Center, and they live in Walterboro.

2007

Jona Lee Maloney and Bryce Alan Jeffcoat were married Oct. 4, 2008, in New Windsor, N.Y. She works for Progressions Music Therapy. They live in New Britain, N.Y.

Julia Ann-Marie Sims and Howard James Owens were married Jan. 3 in Sumter. Julia is minister of music at Bethesda Church of God. They live in Sumter.

2008

Morgan Laine Brinson and Richard E. Fann were married Nov. 29, 2008, in Charleston. She works for Thornley Oil Company, and they live in Moncks Corner.
Melissa Katherine Query MBA and Jonathan Frank Pearson were married Dec. 20, 2008, in Summerville. Melissa is employed by CSU in enrollment services, and Jonathan is minister of students at Calvary Baptist Church in Neeses. They live in Norway.

Delia Anne (Dee Dee) Register and Barrett Auldman Smith were married Oct. 4, 2008, in Charleston. She is working toward a master's in social work at the University of South Carolina. They live in Bowman.

Ashley Williams and Joshua Adams were married Nov. 22, 2008, in Charleston. Ashley is minister of music and education at First Baptist Church of Hemingway, and Joshua is the art teacher at Johnsonville Elementary School. They live in Hemingway.

KEEP in TOUCH

We would love to hear about your career & family.

IN ORDER FOR YOUR NEWS TO BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE, WE NEED TO RECEIVE YOUR INFORMATION BY MAY 22, 2009.

Photos are welcome and should be 300dpi high resolution and saved as jpeg format.

send via e-mail to:
jjoslin@csuniv.edu

or mail to:
Class Notes,
CSU University Relations
P.O. Box 118087
Charleston, SC 29423-8087

If you have an alumnus friend who isn’t receiving the magazine, send his/her address to jlondono@csuiv.edu.
Memorials

Ruth Elizabeth Gilchrist Bridges ’72, age 86, died Jan. 5 in Summerville. She taught school for 25 years and was a military spouse.

Dr. Tony Ray Coburn ’72, age 59, died Oct. 17, 2008, in Zirconia, N.C. He was a family therapist in Hendersonville and owned and operated Camp Timberwolf in Zirconia.

William H. Gaultney MEd ’92, age 61, died Oct. 15, 2008, in Georgetown. He taught high school science and coached softball at Hanahan High School. While in high school, he was voted one of the top 100 high school athletes in the country by Sports Illustrated.

Charlene B. Kirk, age 84, died Oct. 15, 2008, in Charleston. She was a dedicated member of the CSU Women’s Council, assisting the University in fundraising and beautification activities. Memorials may be made to the Women’s Council Scholarship Fund, CSU, P.O. Box 118087, Charleston, SC, 29423.

Christopher Lane Kowalski ’91, age 40, died Nov. 7, 2008, in Charleston. He worked for Value Music Inc., and worked around the Southeast.

Loubie M. O’Neill ’88, age 69, died Dec. 7, 2008 in Charleston. She was a homemaker.

Richard Thomas Rivers ’77, age 52, died Dec. 1, 2008, in Chesterfield. He was retired as administrative assistant to the chief of staff at the VA Medical Center in Columbia.

Lt. Col. Judson C. Spence Sr., U.S. Army ret., age 87, died Dec. 6, 2008. He was the first dean of men and chair of the department of foreign languages at CSU. He retired as a professor emeritus from The Citadel.

Erin Stanton Schlitt and Tara Stanton write: “Our brother, Brett Stanton ’01, passed away on October 18, 2008, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, after a three-year battle with brain cancer. Brett showed sheer grit and determination throughout his illness, never giving up hope that he would beat this deadly disease. After graduating from CSU, he had a successful career in television advertising sales with the CBS and WB networks in Atlanta and the CW network in St. Louis. Brett enjoyed watching and playing sports, making friends wherever he went, and spoiling his niece and nephews. His good CSU friends, Jason Kristowski ’99 and Gerrit Stam, supported Brett throughout his illness and served as two of Brett’s pallbearers. Jason and Gerrit delivered beautiful tributes at Brett’s funeral luncheon as they recalled their great times together at CSU and told memorable stories that made everyone smile. In life, Brett’s ultracompetitive spirit shined in every soccer game he played, every deal he closed, and every challenge he faced. One friend recalled a conversation with Brett after his first surgery. ‘Brett called and told me the score was Brett: 1, Brain Cancer: 0.’ If only that had been the final score.

We are honored by the number of people that have expressed their condolences to our family and their desire to help keep Brett’s memory alive. In honor of Brett and to help fund a cure for brain cancer, one of Brett’s friends will be running the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii in May 2009. Please visit his Web site at http://www.active.com/donate/teamstanton to help him meet his goal of raising $25,000 for the National Brain Tumor Society in Brett’s memory.”

Donald Winfield Weldon ’72, died Feb. 1 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. He owned and operated Vista Travel Agency in Fairbanks, Alaska, before retiring to Florida. He was an Alaskan Travel and Tourism Advisor to three governors.
One of our proudest moments in 2009 will be when the University has the opportunity to celebrate the 40th reunion of the Founding Classes of CSU. The Class of 1969, along with those who transferred in credits to graduate in 1967 and 1968, represent the first group of alumni to receive their degrees from the new Baptist College at Charleston, now known as Charleston Southern University.

This group saw the University from its beginnings as a dream among Lowcountry Baptists who were aware of the need for more choice in higher education in the Charleston area. With a growing population due to a strong industrial, manufacturing, and military presence, the shortage of opportunity in higher education had become acute. There were no buildings, no students, no faculty, and no staff, but the early founders of the University were able to see the big picture and were able to envision a sprawling, modern campus springing up from the former Izard Plantation, a 500-acre site made available to the new college by Charleston County. Those students who decided to become a part of the instant college in the fall of 1965 were about to become a part of a pioneer group, the first class of Charleston Southern University. The first year classes were held at First Baptist Church in North Charleston. The boarding students commuted by bus from the St. Johns Hotel, now the Mills House in downtown Charleston. By the second year, classes had moved to the campus, but classes, convocation, sports, and all other activities were accompanied by constant construction and noise...these students were a part of something big, the birth of a college.

These students paved the way for the more than 13,000 alumni around the world who have earned their degrees from Charleston Southern. Homecoming 2009 will provide a unique opportunity to honor the accomplishments of the Founding Classes on the 40th anniversary of their graduation. I would like to personally encourage all members of the Founding Class to attend the reunion and encourage your classmates to attend. To register to attend, view the schedule of events or view the list of those planning to attend, look for the Founding Class Reunion link on the alumni webpage, located at www.csuniv.edu/alumni. Also, you can e-mail alumni@csuniv.edu to inquire about the Reunion or other Homecoming events.

Remember, Homecoming is for ALL alumni, regardless of class year. All graduates and friends of the University are encouraged to bring the family out to campus for Homecoming festivities. With the President’s Cup Golf Tournament, the Homecoming Parade, the tailgate lunch, and the football contest against Liberty, there are events for everyone to enjoy. Other events will be added, so be sure to visit www.charlestonsouthern.edu/alumni to find updated event listings for Homecoming.

I look forward to seeing you on campus in 2009!

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As some of you know, the data collection process for the CSU 2010 Alumni Directory Project began in early 2009 by Publishing Concepts. If you have already called to update your information, thank you. If not, PCI will be in touch on behalf of CSU over the next few weeks. You may get a postcard, e-mail, or telephone call from PCI/Publishing Concepts on behalf of CSU giving you the chance to both update your contact information and purchase the upcoming alumni directory.

We will be producing and offering a bound directory and a CD-ROM directory of alumni for release in early 2010. The directory will provide opportunities for maintaining and encouraging both personal and professional connections among alumni. It will also serve a primary role in keeping alumni contact information current so that Charleston Southern University can share with its alumni information about reunions, opportunities to get involved, and information about what’s happening at CSU.

If you have any questions about the directory project, please contact David Weiss, director of alumni affairs, at 843-863-7516 or dweiss@csuniv.edu.
During February, March, and April, many of you received phone calls from CSU students and alumni volunteers. Our callers made thousands of phone calls to update alumni contact information, reacquaint alumni with the University, and to make the case for financial support. All gifts to Phonathon benefit the University’s annual fund, which provides vital aid to our student body. As you already know, more than 95 percent of CSU students receive financial aid, and many of these students would be unable to attend Charleston Southern without scholarship assistance. The entire CSU family is grateful for alumni who are willing to pass the generosity of past donors on to today’s students. By supporting Charleston Southern students, you are making an investment not only in Christian higher education but also in the future of our country. Thanks again for your generous show of support.

Remember, it’s not too late to be a part of the 2009 Phonathon Annual Fund Drive! Simply visit the CSU Web site, www.charlestonsouthern.edu, and click on the “Give Now” button. Making a gift before May 31, 2009, will ensure you are listed in our Honor Roll of Donors for 2008-09.

Homecoming 2009 is planned for the weekend of October 23-24. All alumni are encouraged to bring the whole family out for a great time of fun, fellowship, and football. Watch your mailbox for the Homecoming brochure, and view www.charlestonsouthern.edu/alumni to see an updated schedule of events. Remember, Homecoming 2009 also marks the 40th anniversary of the Founding Classes of BCC. Please log on to www.charlestonsouthern.edu/alumni to view all the details of this reunion. Contact the alumni office at 843-863-7516 or at alumni@csuniv.edu if you have questions.

The Wingate Inn at Charleston Southern is the official hotel of Homecoming. Call 843-554-4444 or log on to www.charlson-wingate.com for more information. Remember to ask for the special CSU alumni rate when booking your room.

South Carolina Representative Tim Scott ’88 was the guest speaker at the December graduation luncheon hosted by the Alumni Association.

Scott encouraged the graduates to “have faith and have fun.” He told them, “I wish I would have left college with a bigger dream. Think of your best and brightest idea and then know that you can do better.”

Scott is the first African-American elected as a Republican in S.C. since Reconstruction. He is the owner of Tim Scott & Associates, an Allstate insurance company.
Bryant Joins Religion Faculty

By Sherry Atkinson

Dr. Michael Bryant, assistant professor of religion, has joined the religion department.

Bryant graduated in 1995 with a BS in history. He entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 1998 with his MDiv.

Bryant served as a pastor in eastern North Carolina for eight years, during which time he completed his PhD in New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2008.

“I really love teaching,” said Bryant, “it is one of my three passions, as well as the pastorate and missions.” Bryant’s heart for missions is evident as he speaks of teaching national pastors overseas in Moldova, Cameroon, Ecuador and Uganda for short stints during breaks and summers.

“We are excited to have someone who is a CSU alum and who brings both the practical and academic experience that Dr. Bryant has,” said religion department chair Dr. Keith Sharp. “He is one of our own who has come full circle and has returned to help prepare the next generation of students for God’s call on their lives.”

Graduates Enter the World of Fashion

By Jan Joslin

Billy Boyd ’03 and Quentin Gilmore ’03 have embarked on the ambitious venture of designing and marketing a clothing line.

Boyd said, “The initial idea to create a clothing line stemmed from our ambition to be entrepreneurs. Most of Quentin’s and my influences come from CSU where we were exposed to different races, cultural backgrounds, religions and fashion trends.

“Our goal with the Ross NuMan clothing line is to create a positive image for men by portraying a self-assured individual who is conscious of who he is, where he is going and what it takes to get there. We want others to adopt these qualities and pursue their dreams,” said Boyd. Additional information about the company can be found at www.rossnuman.com.

They’ve been in business for more than a year and are expanding their clothing line and availability. Currently, Ross NuMan styles can be found in Myrtle Beach and Chicago, with plans to expand into Atlanta and Florida. Their 11 member marketing team includes 2004 graduate Ed O’Neil.

Gilmore, Boyd and a designer came up with the Ross NuMan logo of a man leaning against a wall thinking. Boyd said, “He is suave, yet cool, all the while contemplating his options. The styles were derived from research through the Internet, questioning individuals and attending some major fashion shows.”

Boyd and Gilmore both hold down full-time jobs as they expand their urban clothing line. In addition to building a successful clothing line, they one day hope to establish a foundation to support higher education for male and female students.

“‘I’m a police detective at North Carolina Central University,’ said Boyd. ‘I investigate all major crimes that occur at the university. Working on Ross is a part-time thing. There are nights when I’m tired from working, but I can hear my English professor, Nancy Canavera, who used to tell me, ‘Billy you are an inspiration. You can accomplish anything you put your mind to.’ This fuels me to keep striving. Through Ross NuMan, I am a living testimony that you can accomplish anything that you put your mind to.’

Gilmore is a program supervisor at the Boy’s and Girl’s Club in the Chicago suburbs where he mentors youth and assists in coordinating activities. He is also a substitute teacher who believes in education. ‘We love working on Ross NuMan because it is getting a positive message to people,’ said Boyd.

Sporting the Ross NuMan line are Quentin Gilmore ’03 wearing a brown hoodie, Billy A. Boyd ’03 wearing a blue hoodie, Bradley Hardee wearing a blue skyline shirt and LaShire Ward wearing a blue/black hypnotize shirt with rhinestones.
How does being a marketing director for a home-building company prepare you to feed 300 people three meals a day for seven days for free and run check-in for more than 2,000 volunteers for seven days?

Linda Hunt Dickert ’83 of Raleigh, N.C., would tell you it doesn’t. “Only God can help someone stay awake and functioning that long,” said Dickert.

Dickert worked seven days straight 24 hours a day with about two hours of sleep a night. This was her week during her first stint with the popular show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

Arteus Homes and Communities, which builds in Atlanta, Raleigh, Charlotte, Phoenix and Albuquerque, signed on to build a house for an inner-city mother with a legally blind husband and two children, who also runs a ministry for preschoolers and an after school program for inner-city schools. Dickert, marketing director for Atreus Homes, said, “We designed a house, engineered it, got all of the materials and workers donated in five weeks.”

Dickert enlisted the help of the N.C. Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief group to provide shelter for check-in and volunteers to help run it. “We ran four six-hour shifts per day of volunteers. It was great to see a fresh crew come in every six hours. This is all the stuff the show doesn’t show you,” she said.

Her latest stint with Extreme Makeover: Home Edition was in New Orleans for the show’s season finale last season. Arteus Homes was one of 18 builders who went to New Orleans to build a home for twin brother firemen and their mother and to rebuild Noah’s Ark Church. During Katrina many people in this inner-city area sought shelter at Noah’s Ark Church. “This was the group that Sean Penn and an EMT rescued in john boats, taking them to the overpass that we all saw photos of on TV. We took 32 volunteers and more than 75 construction guys with us. My job was coordinating the volunteers. It was an amazing build,” said Dickert.

She also volunteered to provide marketing for a project called Operation: Coming Home that provided a home for a returning veteran who was injured by a road-side bomb in Iraq. A group of military veterans in the building industry, Triangle Real Estate and Construction Veterans, secured a lot and builders to make the project possible. “We broke ground on the house on Memorial Day, 2008, and gave Joey Bozik the keys on his Alive Day, Oct. 27, the anniversary of the day he woke up and realized the bomb had not killed him,” said Dickert. “This was perhaps one of the most rewarding things I have ever been part of. I actually live in the community where Joey’s house is. It is an honor to call him a neighbor.”

Dickert was recently honored as Chair of the Year for her outstanding service by the Triangle Sales & Marketing Council of the Home Builders Association of Raleigh/Wake County and the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange, Chatham counties.

Helping others is reward enough itself for Dickert. “Each of these projects seemed absolutely impossible. It was only by the grace of our good Lord that he touched so many people to make these projects happen.” And she encourages others to get involved. “Don’t think that something is too big or out of reach. Everything is possible when you have the right resources on your side. Our Lord was our biggest resource. Now...go do it!”

**Dickert Marketing Dreams**

By Jan Joslin

**TOP:** Linda Dickert coordinated volunteers and meals in New Orleans for Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

**BOTTOM:** Builders in the Raleigh, N.C., area built a home for a returning vet from Iraq.
Charleston Southern mourns the passing of Mr. Jimmie Brewer, a valued friend and supporter of Charleston Southern University who died Tuesday, February 3 at his residence in Garden City Beach.

President Jairy Hunter said, “Jimmie and Patricia Brewer have been long-time friends to Sissy and me. All of us at Charleston Southern University extend our sympathies and prayers to Patricia and the Brewer Family.” The Brewers first began supporting CSU in 1990 as donors for The Hunter Reception Center. The Brewers also established the Brewer Family Endowed Scholarship Fund which continues to provide numerous scholarships for CSU students. Brewer has served on the Board of Visitors at CSU since 1992.

In 2000 the Brewers provided a significant donation to the University in honor of Jimmie and Patricia’s mothers, Jessie S. Brewer and Dorothy S. Penegar, both of Lancaster. The Board of Trustees recognized the Brewers for their gift by naming the beautiful new student activities and wellness center The Brewer Center.

Brewer was born in Jefferson, a son of the late Roy E. and Jessie Brewer. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Surfside. He was a lifetime Mason in Lancaster. He was the owner of Brewer Sand Co, Inc. and Sara J’s in Garden City Beach.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia of Garden City Beach; a son, Brad Brewer of Garden City Beach; a daughter, Audreya Adams of Murrells Inlet; five grandchildren, Holly Johnston of Murrells Inlet, Chase Adams of Murrells Inlet, Jaden Brewer of Garden City Beach, Amanda Brewer of Garden City Beach; Joshua Hammond of Lancaster, two great-grandchildren, Foster Johnston and Salem Johnston both of Murrells Inlet; and a sister, Norma Jean Parker of Spartanburg.
Michael Silvestri

Class: Senior  
Major: Education  
From: Myrtle Beach

Favorite Class:  
Education 300

Who/What inspires you?  
My family has always been there for me no matter what, and knowing that they are there for me inspires me to do great things throughout my education at CSU.

My life verse is ...  
Because no matter what bumps in the road happen throughout your life this verse will get you through whatever you are going through. - Philippians 4:13

When I’m not in class you might find me ...  
In the Brewer Center working in student activities or at an elementary school doing practicum for one of my education classes.

I enrolled at CSU because ...  
The atmosphere that CSU offers and the small school environment was what sealed the deal for me becoming a CSU Buccaneer.

Before I graduate, I want to ...  
Have a 3.0 GPA.

Student Life at CSU is ...  
It can be summed up in one word: Awesome!

Life after CSU:  
I would like to get a 1st grade teaching job and then return to CSU for my Master’s in Elementary Education.
Promoting Academic Excellence in a Christian Environment

FOUNDOING CLASSES CELEBRATE
40th Reunion
OCTOBER 23-24, 2009
www.charlestonsouthern.edu/alumni

LEARNING
Drs. Ronald & Sandra Turner; SBTS professors of church music

LEADING
Those who were the first graduates were also known as pioneers

SERVING
Joe Tallon had to wait 36 years to receive the honor owed him

SCHOOL TIES
Graduates enter the world of fashion