

the
messenger

the McMURRY UNIVERSITY magazine for alumni & friends

NEW!
Introducing...
MM



**remember
when**

"Someone who desires knowledge should always listen to the messenger and keep his eye on the Hawk."

- TERRY GILBRETH '68
Sculptor of *Sacred Wind*



Dear Alumni and Friends:

McMurry University has reaped the benefits of several transformational occurrences over the past several years: a \$39.1 million capital campaign, nearly \$25 million in completely funded building projects, outstanding faculty and student achievements in undergraduate research, re-establishment of graduate programs, moving to Division II athletic competition, stabilized enrollment, doubling the general endowment, and successfully transitioning to the War Hawks as our new mascot.

A year ago the University unveiled the new mascot logo and it has been well received by alumni, friends and students. Soon after, McMurry began to re-brand many of its publications, messages and signage to reflect the War Hawks name. I'm sure you have seen many of these over the past few months.

The re-branding of the alumni magazine is an important part of the re-branding process. Because the magazine belongs to all generations of alumni, the name should respect and honor our history and should also reflect our new mascot. Re-branding the magazine required a process that welcomed and encouraged input from all alumni—those who graduated as Indians, those who graduated without a mascot, and those who have graduated and will graduate as War Hawks. The Alumni Association Board of Directors structured a process for solicitation and submission of new names (Fall 2011), review by an ad hoc committee of the Alumni Board (January 2012) and ultimately, the selection of a new name for the magazine by the Alumni Board. The Alumni Board completed its work in late January with the selection of *The Messenger* as the new name for McMurry's alumni magazine.



The Messenger is meaningful for several reasons. Terry Gilbreth '68, the sculptor of *Sacred Wind*, was intuitive in his rendering of the Indian and the hawk, and Terry Gilbreth describes the hawk in Native American lore as a “messenger to human beings.” *Sacred Wind* embodies the connection and the harmony between the Indian and the hawk, and *The Messenger* should remind all alumni that we too are connected and are members of the same McMurry family. This symbolism is so powerfully depicted that the following inscription on *Sacred Wind* will serve as a tagline for *The Messenger*: “Someone who desires knowledge should always listen to the messenger and keep his eye on the Hawk.”

In addition to the symbolic nature of *The Messenger*, the Alumni Board believes that this magazine will serve as a *messenger* to communicate and connect us with our alma mater through stories, photographs and news. And as alumni, we should take that information and become *messengers* to others of the good work being done every day on campus by faculty, staff, students and all those who are part of the McMurry family. Share these stories and share YOUR story with others. Recruit a new student or inspire another alum to “reconnect” with McMurry. Above all, be proud of both the rich heritage we share and the positive transformations that will position McMurry to impact the future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Alexander '97

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

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the messenger



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...finding my Fiat in the middle of Wah Wahtaysee Park. Some guys picked it up and put it there without my knowledge.

...teaching Dr. Kim how to two-step!

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The Teachers We Remember

Since 1923, McMurry University has been blessed with many gifted faculty members whose knowledge of subject matter and pedagogy is unsurpassed, whose concern for the welfare of their students is inspiring, and whose model of high ideals and character have epitomized “the spirit of honor, truth and right” professed in our alma mater. Thank you for sharing your memories of these fine educators, and we publish your remembrances as a tribute to them and their lasting legacy.



“Prof Raymond Bynum, without a doubt, was the most influential professor I had for those four years. He was the band director but was so much more. I learned so many everyday lessons from that man. He was a man of great wisdom. His practical application of life lessons was a vital part of why he was such an influential teacher.”

CAROL MCCLELLAN '60

“I enjoyed English 101 with **Dr. Gerald McDaniel**. It truly was the best of times.”

SHELLEY PICKETT '85

“As a chemistry major, from my first day of orientation in early September 1958 to the day I completed my master’s degree at UNT in 1969, **Dr. W. Norton Jones** was an extremely important influence in my life. At McMurry, he served as my faculty adviser, mentor, and inspiration. After graduation, he wrote several recommendations for me and even attended the presentation of my master’s thesis research in a paper at a meeting of the Texas Academy of Science in Beaumont. When I feel that I have not lived up to my potential for a particular day, I still have flashbacks of Dr. Jones saying, ‘Mr. Albin, you have been lollygagging around.’”

LES ALBIN '62



“Some of my favorite professors were **Dr. Robert Monk** (looooooved him); **Dr. Chuck Etheridge** (always had a blast in his classes); **Dr. Lou Rodenberger** (I really loved her English classes), and of course, **Dr. Pug Parris!** I also remember **Dr. Sandra Harper** (great communications teacher), **Dr. Morris Baker**, **Dr. Gerald McDaniel** (who did NOT like the Arthurian legends), and **Dr. Joseph Stamey!**”

LEIGH SCALLORN '92

“I would have to say the professor who had the greatest impact on me had to be **Dr. Phil LeMasters**. He not only imparted great knowledge to me but made me realize the importance of being actively engaged in my higher education. I would miss his class often, to his chagrin. Instead of just dropping my grade he asked me to meet him in his office. He explained how he valued my input in his class and how I actively engaged my fellow classmates. I guess I had never looked at my attendance in class from that perspective. It really made me examine my values and what I wanted in life. I truly owe my educational success and professional success to the lesson he took the time to teach me. Thank you, Dr. LeMasters!”

LESLIE BOX-YBARRA '01

“**Dr. Selma Bishop** had an influence on me that I am thankful for every day. I was a math major, but I minored in English. Dr. Bishop introduced me to poetry. Poetry became a constant side interest while I pursued a career in software engineering. After I retired, my interest in poetry has filled my life. I have published well over 200 poems in various anthologies; I have won manuscript contests that resulted in publication of a chapbook and a full-length book of poems; I have taught writing in special programs in the public schools; I have written poetry columns in various publications; I am a past president of the Poetry Society of Texas; and I present programs on poetry to various groups. I am indeed grateful to Dr. Bishop.”

J. PAUL HOLCOMB '62

“THE POET FROM DOUBLE OAK”



BISHOP



BYNUM



TATE



CHRISTOPHER

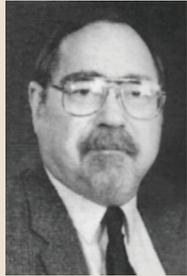
“I remember quite well and especially loved two teachers: **Ms. Jennie Tate**, who taught many of my math courses, and **Miss Willie Mae Christopher**, known as Miss Chris. I was an education major at McMurry with an academic major in math. I took additional math courses for most of my electives because I liked it so much and Ms. Tate was a great teacher. I remember after she completed a very complicated calculus problem covering four blackboards on all four walls in the room, she would turn around and in her very jolly way would say, “Now isn't that pretty?” Miss Chris was a hard teacher who had high expectations of us. She was the kind of teacher who brought out the best in her students and made us want to strive for perfection. But in addition to being hard, she was kind and understanding. When the grades were posted for English 330, I had several students run up to me on campus before I had seen the grades to tell me that I had made the first A+ that Miss Chris had ever given! I have treasured that A+ all these years, not because it was *my* grade, but because it represented all the energy, enthusiasm, and desire she brought out in me to strive for *my best*. And she was among *the best!*”

BETTY CRAFT JENNINGS '49

“They all had an impact on me, but I would have to say that **Dr. Bill Short** had one of the biggest impacts. He was so intelligent, yet so humble! So adept at learning languages, yet so unassuming. He could be so serious, yet so humorous! This Christian man dedicated himself to God, his family, church, mission work, and all of his students. He was a shining example of what all

Christians should reflect, and I consider him a great role model. He is missed here, but there is no doubt of where he lives now. What a great teacher and mentor!”

LINDA J. HOLLOWELL '92



STAMEY



DULIN



RODENBERGER



HINKLE

“**Dr. Ralph Hester** was the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department chair. I was his student from '69-'73 as I majored in Health, P.E. and Recreation. He inspired me to pursue my master's degree, and later hired me from 1976-78. May God bless his soul.”

YSAU FLORES '73

“**Dr. Andrew Rockover-Cecil** was a professor in the business department back in the 1950s, and he had a tremendous influence on my life. For one thing, he had fled Hitler and his tyranny when the Nazis invaded Poland during WWII, so I greatly admired his courage. In addition, he was an outstanding teacher who imparted knowledge and skills to me which I have used all of my life. I am so thankful to have been privileged to sit at his feet—every class he taught was a highlight!”

SYLVIA SOUTH JOHNSON '57

“I remember **Muriel Burress** and her classes and being on her forensic team. Folks don't get any better or any sweeter than ‘Mrs. B.’”

GENEVIEVE FOSTER MEADOR '74

“My favorite professor was **Johnny Cornelius**. He was a retired banker who started teaching at the advice of his doctor—lucky for McMurry!

He taught most of my upper level business courses, and not only did he know his stuff, but he was absolutely hilarious! I loved all of his classes.”

LESLIE BAILEY '95

“All of the faculty members at McMurry with whom I came in contact had a positive influence on my life, but by far the most influential was **Dr. Raymond T. Bynum**. He was my teacher, my mentor, my spiritual leader, and most of all, he was my friend.”

GARY ZOOK '54

“**Dr. Bill Dulin** stopped me after class during my first semester and offered to tutor me through his class. He knew I was struggling academically. I so appreciated the individualized attention; it helped me get through college.”

CHRIS WILDER '83

“One of my favorite professors at McMurry was **Dr. Chuck Ethridge**. He always took the time to get to know the students, and he made writing so much fun. Two of the best things I share with people about McMurry are the faculty and its size. A lot of my friends went to large universities where they were a just face in the crowd. At McMurry, people knew who I was. I still remember **Dr. Mary Buzan** referring me to academic counseling my freshman year because I dropped from an A to a B. Most college professors wouldn't have blinked an eye at that change, but she knew I could do better.

Dr. Carrol Haggard also was someone who took the extra time to teach me not just the basics but beyond. I am a better public speaker because of all my communications classes with him.”

LAURE UNDERWOOD DALLUGE '96

“Some things sure had changed by 1984 when I returned to McMurry to finish my degree, but **Drs. Clark Beasley** and **Ben Pilcher**



had not! Many thanks to those men for their encouragement, patience, and a fabulous education!”

MARTHA COGBURN GLASSY '86

“I remember **Dr. Fane Downs** best of all my McMurry professors. She definitely had a positive impact on me! **Mr. Tommy Fry** was a great band director. He turned around a band program and built a fine concert band and jazz band. He was relentlessly committed to excellence and got the very best out of what he had.”

JIM HADDOX EX '82

“**Dr. Bill Short** gave his all when trying to teach me French. I was not very good, but he never gave up on me and was always in his office when I needed help. It is so sad to go by his office and know that he's gone. He left too soon, but he left a mark on many of his students.”

LINDSAY HARRIS LEMONS '06

“I treasure the memory of several faculty members who shaped my life. Some of these professors I had as a student, others I knew

from talking with them. McMurry was a close knit community of students and revered faculty and staff: **Vernie Newman** [history], **Dr. Thompson** [dean of students and history], **Miss Chris, Miss Tate** and **Mr. Long** [math], **Dr. Schaeffer** [Bible and religion] **Frau Schaefer** [German], **Ada Wilkins** [English literature], **W. Norton Jones** [chemistry], **John Hillard** [biology], **Dr. McDaniel** [vice president and chemistry], and **Dr. Rockover** [economics]. What a devoted list of professors and teachers who worked for little money and yet considered teaching at McMurry College a calling. Also, I remember **Dr. Richard Von Ende** and **Francis Hinkle** and other members of the music/fine arts department. Our student generation was blessed in the time of drought. Bless their memories.”

JAMES A. GLASSCOCK '57

“I loved **Dr. Joyce Carroll** and her poetry workshop. We met one night a week for three hours in the big upstairs room in Old Main. She was an amazing teacher.”

ANNA THOMAS MAGGARD '85



Where Are They Now?

In case you were wondering, here are the whereabouts of some of your favorite faculty members:



Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll

McMurry University, 1970 to 1988—Professor of English and Writing

Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll is co-director of Abydos Learning International, formerly New Jersey Writing Project in Texas (NJWPT), with her husband Edward E. Wilson. Dr. Carroll has served as President of the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, served on the National Council of Teachers of English's Commission on Composition, and was Chair of NCTE's Standing Committee Against Censorship and has written numerous books and journals.



Dr. Charles "Chuck" Etheridge

McMurry University, 1989 to 2004—Professor of English and Writing

Dr. Chuck Etheridge is Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Dr. Etheridge and his students have written successful grant applications totaling more than \$270,000 to benefit the Food Bank of Corpus Christi. Earlier this year, Etheridge secured a grant from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation's Diabetes Initiative to fund the Food Bank's "Kitchen Kaptains" program targeting children at risk for obesity and diabetes. For his commitment to the Food Bank, the non-profit honored Dr. Etheridge with the Bill Crook Award.



Dr. Fane Downs

McMurry University, 1970 to 1988—Professor of History and Chair of the History Department and Division of Social Sciences

Dr. Fane Downs most recently served as Interim Pastor of Northwoods Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas, following a 'retirement' period of six months. She was Honorably Retired in Tres Rios Presbytery from her service as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Midland (1995-2002). Prior pastorates include Interim at John Calvin Presbyterian, San Antonio; Interim at Preston Hollow in Dallas; Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian, Dallas; and Westminster, Abilene. During Dr. Downs' ministry at Preston Hollow, this was the largest church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with a woman senior pastor. She was ordained as a minister in 1988.



Dr. Morris Baker

McMurry University, 1982 to 1994—Professor of Psychology

Dr. Morris Baker retired from the Community Action Program in 2009. He joined the Abilene-based CAP in July 2003 as Executive Director. Before and after his service at McMurry University, he served several years as an administrator with the U.S. Peace Corps. He is now retired and living in Abilene.



Dr. Carrol Haggard

McMurry University, 1975 to 2000—Professor of Speech and Communications

Dr. Carrol Haggard currently serves as Chair, Department of Communication Studies, and is an associate professor at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. His teaching and research interests include instructional communication, leadership and interpersonal communication.

"The Daily Examiner: Strategic Initiative 2013," a case study written by Dr. Haggard and co-author, Dr. Patricia LaPoint of McMurry, was published in the December 2009 issue of the *Journal of the International Academy for Case Studies*. The study examines the current state of the newspaper and print industries as they expand into online publishing and was the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award at the October 2008 Allied Academies Convention.



Tommy Fry

McMurry University, 1979 to 1997—Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands

In May 1997, Tommy retired from McMurry University after eighteen years of teaching. The University recognized Tommy as Associate Professor of Music, Emeritus. In July of that year, his wife Bobbye became the registrar at the University of the Incarnate Word, and they still reside in San Antonio. To remain active after relocating, Tommy started working for Southern Music Company in the publications department.



Dr. Robert "Bob" Monk

McMurry University, 1964 to 1995—Professor of Religion

Dr. Robert Monk, Emeritus Professor of Religion, is teaching a class for McMurry's Course of Study School in 2012 for United Methodist pastors as part of a collaborative effort with SMU's Perkins School of Theology. The course discusses the role and responsibility of the pastor as an interpreter of the gospel with emphasis upon Wesleyan heritage and the students' own growing sense of theological identity.



Dr. Sandra Harper

McMurry University, 1985 to 1995—Professor of Speech and Communications and Dean of the Department of Communications

Since 2006, Dr. Sandra Harper has served as president of Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, an independent, private Catholic College founded by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady. Over 2,000 students participate in this student-centered academic community, which promotes a holistic approach to student growth and development. ❖

Your Favorite Faculty Members Still at McMurry



Dr. Pug Parris

1978 TO PRESENT

Chair of the Kinesiology Department in the School of Education and Professor of Kinesiology

Dr. Mary Buzan

1980 TO PRESENT

Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Letters and Professor of English



Dr. Philip LeMasters

1995 TO PRESENT

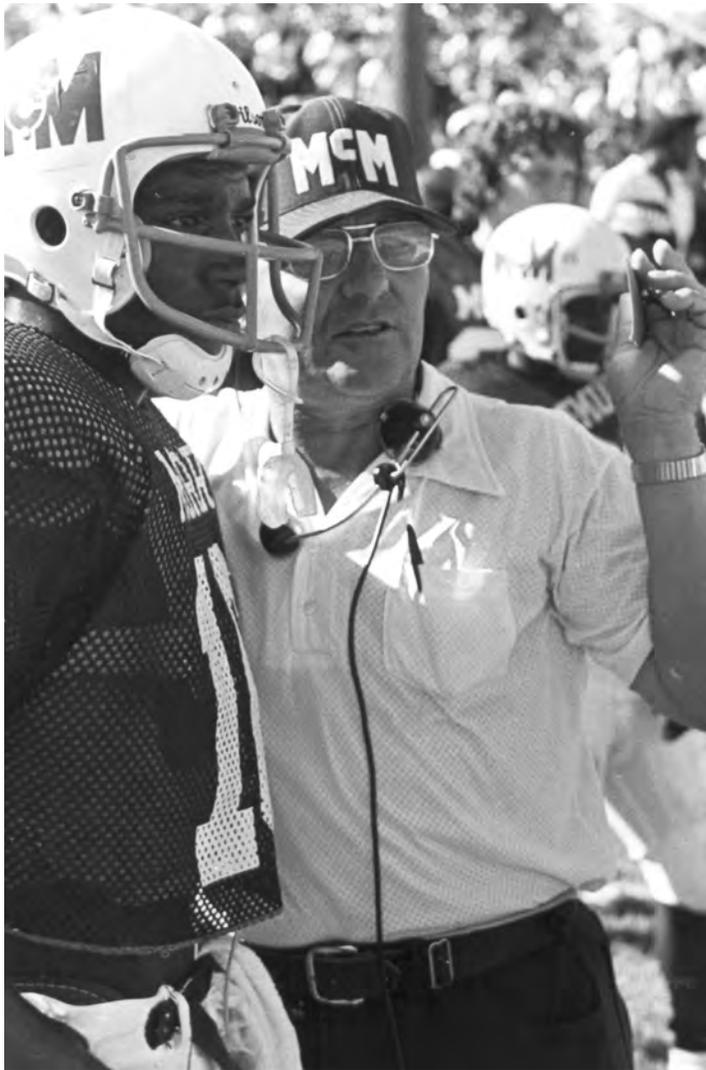
Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Religion and Professor of Religion



Dr. K.O. Long

2003 TO PRESENT

Dean of the School of Business and Professor of Business Administration



COACH
ALDRIDGE

In the history of McMurry football, there are many notable teams that won conference championships. In addition, Wilford Moore took McMurry to two bowl games in 1947 and 1949 while Joe George's 1993 Indians accepted a bid to the Aztec Bowl hosted in Mexico. However, the 1980 and 2011 teams stand as the only two McMurry squads to advance to a national playoff.

Coach Spud Aldridge's club not only advanced to the NAIA Division II playoffs in 1980 after a 9-1 regular season, but the club is still the last team in McMurry's history to win a conference championship. The Indians competed in the Texas Intercollegiate Athletics Conference and took home the TIAA championship with quality wins over Tarleton State, two victories over Sul Ross State, and they split epic battles with Austin College.

The 1980 team's regular season finale was a

REMEMBERING the 1980 Playoff Run

As The Messenger takes a look back at memorable moments from the university's past, the 2011 football team's accomplishments brought forth memories of Head Coach Spud Aldridge's 1980 football team. As the 2011 squad under Hal Mumme went two rounds deep into the NCAA Division III playoffs, it sparked the memory of the only other playoff team in school history in 1980.

47-39 victory over the 'Roos that propelled the Indians to a playoff berth and the opportunity to host Valley City State of North Dakota in the first round.

"The sad thing about it was that it was in the 60s all week in North Dakota; and in Abilene we had six inches of snow on the ground," Aldridge recalled. "We worked out on the Aldersgate Church parking lot because the snow wouldn't melt, and by the time we played the game there was no grass left. We were an option team, and we could throw, but we had to play the game in the mud. That killed us and we got beat. It wasn't meant to be."

Valley City State took a 16-7 win over McMurry that day, but Aldridge said that making the playoffs and winning the championship was a badge of honor for the university. "It was real important for the school; we were a small school and to get there we had to beat a lot of teams

at larger universities that had scholarships,” he said. “McMurry was non-scholarship, so to do what we did was exciting for the kids and all the folks at McMurry.”

The 2011 War Hawks defeated Trinity University in the first round of the NCAA Division III playoffs this season and became the only team in school history to win a playoff game. But, the 1980 team remains the only squad in history to achieve nine wins, finishing the season with a record of 9-2. In addition, the team still holds the school’s team record for rushing yards in a season with 2,756.

The 1980 team will be inducted into

McMurry University’s 2012 Athletics Hall of Honor in May, which will gather many players and coaches from the team more than thirty years after their accomplishments.

Fifteen players from that team landed all-TIAA conference honors while Luke Taylor, Dudley Woodard, Ricky Nolly and LeRoy Duncan were all hailed as all-Americans that season by the NAIA. Woodard, Taylor and Nolly have been recently inducted into the Hall of Honor while Aldridge was inducted for his service as both coach and athletic director in 1992. ♦



TAYLOR



WOODARD



Help McMurry recognize the
2012 Class of the Athletics Hall of Honor
**** May 5, 2012 ****

Richard Brett Lang '80 • William "Craig" Jones '84
 Raquel Patrice Oliver '94 • Elliott H. Park '92
 Naldie "Doolie" Hale (1927-28)

- 1968-69 Men's Basketball Team
- 1980 Football Team
- 1999 Men's & Women's Track Team

Contact Debbie Ford for Tickets & Details 325.793.4631 or dford@mcm.edu



REMEMBERING the social hall

When one of Abilene's landmarks, Radford Auditorium, opened on the McMurry campus in 1951, it included the second floor Social Hall, which over the years has seen many incarnations.

The Social Hall immediately became the venue for a variety of formal events and student assemblies like pep rallies and club meetings through the early years, yet never actually hosted a "dance" until about 1957, when the Delta Beta Epsilon social club lay claim to hosting the first event where dancing was called something other than "folk games."

In what may be the Social Hall's most memorable incarnation, a small group of McMurry Student Government officers in 1976 decided to follow a national dance trend and open a disco in the venerable room, according to an article in the spring 1990 *Chieftain*.

Doug Wofford, one of the MSG officers at the time, was quoted in the article saying, "At that time, the Social Hall room itself wasn't really even being used for anything. The floors were all dusty, and the plaster was falling off the walls. So it took a couple of months of intense effort just to get the room in a shape we could use." Students painted a mural, built a sound booth, added a broadcast-quality sound system and, of course, a multi-colored disco lighting system. According to Wofford, "Our set-up was unquestionably comparable to that of any of the local dance establishments. We went first-class."

At its peak, more than 300 college students—including visitors from Hardin-Simmons and Abilene Christian—would squeeze into the noisy, energized room or onto the balcony (for a more romantic setting) every Saturday night and spend more than \$500-\$600 on admission and refreshments.



Once the United Methodist Campus Center opened in 1979, taking the disco dance floor with it, the Social Hall became a catch-all for many tenants including McMurry Student Government, the campus yearbook and newspaper, the United Methodist Church’s District Superintendent, the Dean of Students, various faculty offices and a faculty lounge.

After many years of little use, the second floor Social Hall was renovated as part of the addition of the Furr Welcome Center and became used frequently as a choreography rehearsal hall, including one entire mirrored wall. At the time of this renovation, an elevator was added, as well as a ramp for the handicapped.

In 2010 the Social Hall underwent another metamorphosis. McMurry transformed the former disco dance hall into Bishops Hall to honor the three McMurry alumni who became bishops in the United Methodist Church—Bishop Alsie Carleton

’33, Bishop Lance Webb ’31, and Bishop Dan E. Solomon ’58.

Bishops Hall underwent a complete renovation and now houses the offices of the Texas United Methodist College Association and McMurry’s Bishop-in-Residence, a 4,000-square-foot meeting space with new sound and lighting systems, and a conference room for the admission department. The meeting space is being used for seminars, special recognition events and academic presentations.

The versatile room with a great view overlooking campus has been a center of activity since Radford’s early days and will continue to be a venue for everything from social gatherings to board meetings. Memories abound within its walls, and when alumni from the 1970s visit campus and enter Bishops Hall, they might still hear the faint but distinctive chorus of an old Bee Gees song—“... *Staying Alive, Staying Alive...*” ❖



The Last Dance

In the following recollections by Tom '59 and Marnette '60 Isbell, they share their love story that began over fifty years ago on the campus of McMurry University. We've received many such stories of young love and enduring relationships, and as we "Remember When" in this issue of our alumni magazine, we express our appreciation to Tom and Marnette for sharing their memories with us.

Tom's Story: I learned during my freshman year that while dancing was not encouraged at McMurry, most girls at McMurry preferred to dance. Girls did not often accept a second invitation for a date from a guy who did not dance. My roommate exhausted himself trying to teach me to dance, but with no success. I began making it clear to any girl I dated that I did not enjoy dancing. At the beginning of my sophomore year, I met a young lady for whom my dislike of dancing was no obstacle. I was very much attracted to her and hoped that our relationship would expand into something serious. But such was not to be, as we decided to take a break to consider the depth of our relationship. Perhaps her need to dance overcame her interest in me. In the weeks immediately following the break in the relationship, I began to pray as seriously as I've ever prayed in my life that the young lady would be led to the realization that our relationship should continue.

On the Sunday morning after a night of serious prayer that God would open the door for me to the ideal woman for my life, I went to the college class at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and sat near the back. Later, four young ladies I had never met walked into the class and seated themselves near the front. Following the

church service, as I waited in line for lunch in the Iris Graham Cafeteria, the one lady on whom I had focused my attention at Aldersgate walked to a table in the dining room. I inquired as to who she might be. I soon learned she was a new student from Anson, Texas, and her name was Marnette Bushell. The next day, as Marnette and I passed one another on our way to/from class, I noted that Marnette seemed to follow me with her eyes. Perhaps it was a nudge from God, but the thought entered my mind that I should pay more attention to Marnette.

Marnette's Story: When I began my year at McMurry, I had little interest in boys. Oh, I did have an interest in boys, alright, but my grandmother and aunt who raised me led me to believe that boys could create too many problems and discouraged me from dating any of them. It was my intention to attend McMurry for one year and then transfer to North Texas State for my degree in elementary education.

Tom's Story: The M System Grocery Store opened in November when the River Oaks Shopping Center held its grand opening. I was able to get a job at M System at the time and I was praying that God would open the door for me to find the girl of my dreams. The job hindered my dating, but about two weeks after first meeting Marnette, I called and asked for a date. She declined because she had already accepted a date for the night I suggested. However, she said, "I'd be happy to consider a date at another time." This was a first for me because the future potential of a date had never been suggested by anyone who had turned me down in the past.



Marnette's Story: When I met Tom, I thought he might be something special and I was immediately attracted to him. When he called and asked for a date, I was thrilled and did not want to miss out on establishing some form of a relationship with him.

Tom's Story: Although we disagree on where our first date took place, our relationship did evolve into a lasting one. In 1957, as we discussed exchanging rings, I informed Marnette that I did not have money to purchase a ring. In an attempt to determine Marnette's ring size, I would remove her high school class ring, study it carefully and ask questions about it, all the while placing it on my little finger. I did this several nights over the span of a month or two. On the night I placed her engagement ring on her finger in the lobby of Gold Star Dorm, I removed her class ring and openly messed around with it in front of her. Finally, without her knowing, I put her class ring in my pocket and slipped the engagement ring on her finger without calling attention to what I was doing. It was not until she returned to her room and began to get ready for bed that she discovered what I had done. She called me all excited about the

ring and I asked if she would be interested in getting the remainder of the set. Eventually, we married on May 31, 1958. Over the years, my initial investment of a one-carat diamond set of rings in a white platinum setting has escalated to a monetary value at least ten times greater than the initial investment. I believe this is symbolic of our marriage, and our relationship has escalated into something that is priceless.

The Dance Goes On

Tom and Marnette's romance has endured the test of time. A trademark of their relationship is that whenever possible, they always hold hands. After more than fifty years of holding hands in public, it is not uncommon for strangers to comment on this practice. As they were entering a grocery store in a distant city, a man coming out of the store said, "Do you two have a license for that?" The two lovebirds just laughed and responded, "No, at our age, we just do it to hold one another up." Inspired by their example, a fellow Lion's Club member committed to holding his wife's hand when in public together.

Though Tom never learned to dance, he appreciated the skill involved in learning to dance. Several years ago, Tom chose "Let's Dance Together" as the theme for his year as a District Governor in the Texas Lions Club. His rationale for the selection was that "just as effective dancing takes great skills, it takes great skills to become effective leaders or effective local Lions Clubs."

Figuratively if not literally, Tom and Marnette Isbell have been dancing together throughout their marriage. Marnette recently penned a poem titled, "The Last Dance."

Best wishes to Tom and Marnette Isbell for many more happy years together from McMurry University, the place where their dance began. ❖

THE LAST DANCE

"Dance a little longer,"

A voice seemed to say.

Then my heart gave a leap.

Dancing interest went away.

My True Love came along

And he didn't dance.

If we listen to our hearts,

God gives love a chance.

~ MARNETTE ISBELL

Curry Holden and His Boys

BY DR. ROB SLEDGE

When McMurry started its second year (1924-25), it had on campus four men who would rise to the highest ranks of their disciplines. One of them was Professor William Curry Holden, who came to McMurry with a brand new M.A. degree from the University of Texas. He taught all the history and government classes, created the McMurry Museum, and served as sponsor of the Philomathian Club.

In the Philomathians, one of two men's literary clubs on campus, were three students who were destined for greatness in the fields taught by Holden: sophomore H. Bailey Carroll of DeLeon, freshman Ralph Steen of Clyde, and academy senior V.O. Key Jr. of Lamesa. It is doubtful that Holden could see what lay before these three. Their McMurry grades were decent, but not spectacular; one of them never made higher than a B+ in history or government under Holden. Another only stayed one year and was suspended for two days for cutting chapel. The third was a whiz at chemistry and English, but somewhat lower in history and government. No one could know it then, but Holden had two stars and a superstar in his classes.

During his one-year stay at McMurry, H. Bailey Carroll loaded up on courses in Western Civilization, American History, and Political Parties—Curry Holden's classes. He then transferred, finally getting his B.A. and M.A. from Texas Technological College in 1928. His was the first master's degree granted by that

institution. Holden left McMurry after 1927 for Texas Tech, so the two may have been reunited there for a short time. During his time as an Indian, Carroll was the assistant editor for both the *Totem* and the *War Whoop*.

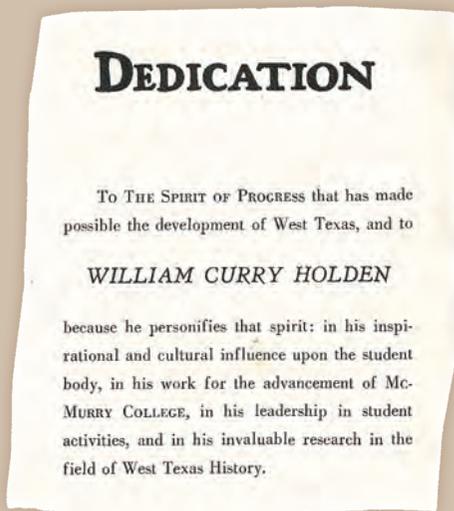
Over the next few years, Carroll taught Texas history at several colleges in Texas and New Mexico, while working toward a doctorate at the University of Texas. Dr. Carroll joined the faculty there in 1942. From then until his death in 1966, he was a valued member of the UT history department.

Carroll's contributions to the celebration and preservation of Texas history were numerous. With Walter Prescott Webb, he edited the first *Handbook of Texas*, a three-volume project which appeared in 1952. He served as the director of the Texas State Historical Association for twenty-four years, editing the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and founded the Junior Historian program in the state. He wrote several significant books and mentored hundreds of graduate students. He collected Texana and added precious documents to the university's collections.

Ralph W. Steen came to McMurry from Clyde. Unlike Carroll, he stayed to complete a four-year degree and to make a big splash on campus while he was at it. He was editor of the *Totem* for two years, associate editor of the *War Whoop*, president of the debate club, and president of his senior class.

Steen got his M.A. from the University of Texas in 1929 and completed his Ph.D. there in 1934. He came back to McMurry to teach for the

*Dedication
from the 1927
Totem yearbook*



1929-30 school year, then returned to Austin to be a teaching assistant at UT. From there he went to Big Lake High School, Hillsboro Junior College, and finally to Texas A&M in 1935. Steen taught history at College Station for over twenty years, a good part of that time as department chair. In 1939, he published a history of Texas, a book which became the basic state public school text for many years. He served as president of the Texas State Historical Association, 1957-59. In 1959, he accepted the post of president at Stephen F. Austin State University, leading the school until his retirement in 1976.

As for V.O. Key, Jr., this Lamesa boy attended McMurry Academy for a year where his lowest grades were two A minuses. He graduated as valedictorian of the academy class. For the next year and a half he took college classes at McMurry, transferring to the University of Texas in January 1928. Holden was by that time at Tech, which may have affected Key's decision. During his time at McMurry, V.O. was elected editor of the *War Whoop*. Ralph Steen was his campaign manager. He was also president of the Press Club and a member of IHR social club.

Key earned his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Texas in 1929 and 1930, then headed for the University of Chicago for a Ph.D. in political science, earning Phi Beta Kappa honors along the way. Dr. Key went from there to UCLA, Johns Hopkins, Yale, and Harvard. He was chair of the department at each of the last three. Among his accomplishments were the presidency of the American Political Science Association and the Woodrow Wilson Award for his groundbreaking book *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. He served federal appointive posts in the Roosevelt and Kennedy administrations. Key is esteemed among the foremost of American political scientists.

Carroll, Steen, and Key—two academic stars and a superstar. And their professor's subsequent career was just as spectacular. Though born in

central Texas, Holden knew the Abilene area well enough—the family lived in Colorado City for a time but moved to Rotan where he graduated from high school in 1914. While at McMurry, he developed an interest in Southwestern anthropology and led McMurry students in excavations at sites along the Canadian River. At Texas Tech, he continued his anthropological pursuits while teaching history and turning out several books, two of which are of interest at McMurry. The most important was *Alkali Trails*, taking its title from Rev. J.W. Hunt's most famous sermon. Another was a biography of



STEEN

KEY

HOLDEN

CARROLL

a famous South Plains rancher, Rollie Burns, who was once cowboy J.W. Hunt's foreman.

He founded the museum at Texas Tech, as he had at McMurry. He continued his anthropological work throughout West Texas, New Mexico and across the border in Sonora, Mexico. In Sonora, he worked among, and wrote extensively about, the Yaqui Indians. This expertise led many to conjecture that Holden was influential on the mystical writer Carlos Castaneda. Holden is also rumored to have been conducting field research near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 when a mysterious object allegedly dropped from the sky. He never confirmed either of the two rumors, nor did he exactly deny them. He died, full of honors, at the age of 96.

Has any other brand-new college ever hosted as brilliant an array of men, and all in related fields? McMurry must have been a stimulating place in the 1920s with these kind of people around. ❖



MABLE PHILLIPS '34

The Loss of a Dear Friend

This fall McMurry University lost a beloved life-long friend in Mable Phillips '34. Mable was born in Andrews, Texas on August 8, 1912 and passed from this life on December 10, 2011.

Mable began a long history with McMurry University when the Phillips family settled in Abilene in 1924. After graduating from Abilene High School, Mable enrolled at McMurry in the fall of 1930, just seven years after the university opened its doors.

In an interview several years ago, Mable shared her remembrances about McMurry. When asked why she chose to attend McMurry, she recalled the following: "I graduated from high school on a Friday night. Twenty five of us graduates decided we would visit McMurry. Willard Brown was a senior at McMurry and was in the young people's department at St. Paul's Methodist Church. He told me he would

come by for me on Monday morning if I'd go to McMurry. So he came by for me, and I did."

Phillips enjoyed the McMurry campus so much she decided to register for classes that morning. In breaking the news to her mother, she recalled the following conversation: "I came home and told Mother, 'Okay, you don't have to worry about college anymore. I've already registered.' She said, 'Where did you register?' I told her McMurry." Like any good parent, Phillips' mother was concerned about financial aid and asked Mable what they [McMurry] said about money. "I told her it wasn't mentioned. She said, 'It will be. Let's go back out there in the morning, and we'll get that settled.'"

The following morning, they met with Dr. J.W. Hunt, McMurry's president at the time. He put her to work in the library as part of a government program. She appreciated his assistance in helping her get her college

education. She shared, "When we were seniors about to graduate, everybody in my class was on some kind of work program. Dr. Hunt always had a way of keeping students in school."

While at McMurry, Mable was a member of T.I.P. social club and Wah Wahtaysee. She served as the Secretary of McMurry Student Government and was a member of the *War Whoop* and *Totem* staff. As a senior, she was selected as Senior Class Favorite and served as a senior class officer.

After graduating in 1934, Phillips began a forty-four year career in education, serving in a variety of positions—as a teacher, librarian and school counselor. She served children in many communities across Texas including Iatan, Rotan, Colorado City, Iraan, and Merkel. From 1947 to 1949, Mable returned to McMurry and served as the assistant librarian. She finished her distinguished career as a counselor at Franklin Junior High from 1958 to 1978.

At the funeral service for Mable, fellow McMurry alum and long-time friend Robert Gillette '72 and '76, spoke of Mable and her life. Here are some of the reflections he offered: "Who was first in Mable's life? Anyone but herself... She was one amazing lady...She was informative and funny and blunt and insightful and the list goes on...She was one of the smartest people I have ever known."

Gillette lauded Mable for her lifetime of service. "I can say with a straight face that Mable never said 'no' and at the same time, she never took 'no' for an answer. Whenever Mable was asked to serve on a committee, keep the archives at the church, be the sponsor for the girls tennis team, join the book club or play a game of bridge, she always said 'yes.'" He continued, "If one of her students was not being treated right, she fought tooth and toenail until a better solution was found. How she did this and made everyone love her, I do not know."

Gillette completed his eulogy by saying, "Mable spent the last year and a half at Wisteria Place. Her address was 3202 S. Willis, Room 204. She now has a different address, a better address. When the time comes, I hope that my mansion is next to Mable's."

Mable's love for McMurry University was demonstrated by her attendance at campus events through the years and by her example of life-long giving. In 2007, Mable was honored as a Distinguished Alumna because of her many contributions to McMurry University and its students.

Robert Gillette was rightfully blessed through his relationship with Mable Phillips as were countless others in the McMurry family. Her ninety-nine years on earth certainly distinguished her as one of our oldest living alumni, but it is in the relationships that she nurtured over her ten decades of life that she will be most remembered. ❖

McMurry's Oldest Living Alum

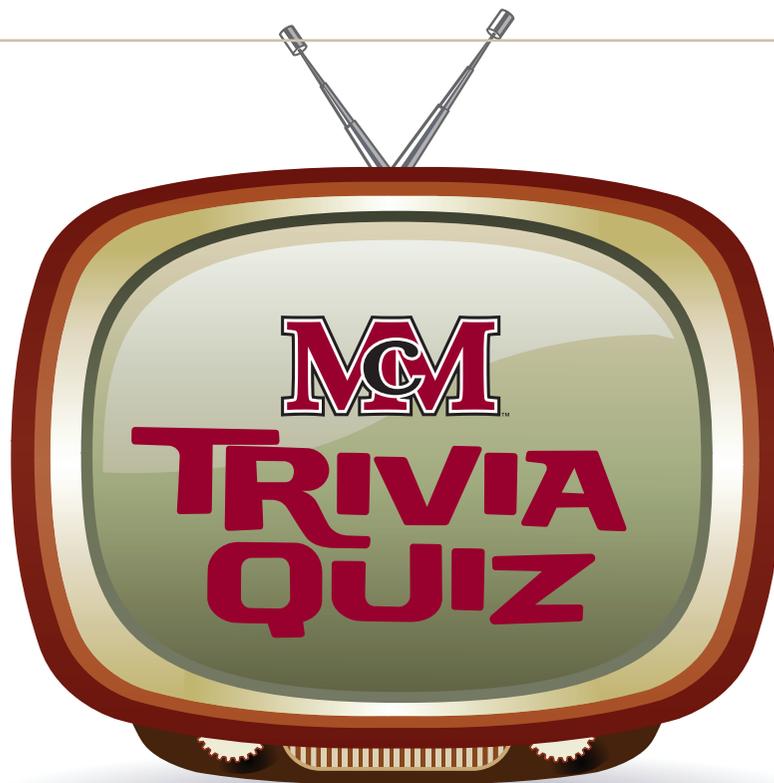
Byrdie Lee West Terry turns 103 this month! She also happens to be McMurry's oldest living alumna. Byrdie graduated with a BA in English in 1930, a mere seven years after McMurry first opened its doors. Dr. Hunt was still president, there were only a handful of



buildings, and Old Main was the administration and classroom building. Best wishes to Byrdie for a very happy birthday!



Mable gives her acceptance speech for the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award.



ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FOR EACH PHOTO AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MCMURRY PLACES AND PEOPLE!

1 This construction project resulted in the completion of what facility?



Freshmen students wore matching beanies like the ones in this 1962 homecoming photo. What was the name that upperclassmen used to refer to freshmen?

3



2 This photo is of what early leader of McMurry?



4 Who are the former administrators in this photo?



5

What important event is preserved in this early photo?



6

Who is this well-known woman in McMurry's history?



8

The Iris Garden once located on the south side of Radford was nurtured with TLC by what beloved faculty member?



7

What is the name of the women's group on campus in this early photo?



9

Where was this wishing well once located on McMurry's campus?



10

This aerial photo of campus was taken during the early years of what decade?



13

This popular performing trio of the 1960s put McMurry on the map. What was the name of the group?



11

The track all-American in 1963 is pictured in this photo with his coach. What are their names?



12

This housing for married students was known as what?



ANSWERS

- 1** Garrison Campus Center
- 2** Dr. J. W. Hunt, McMurry's first president
- 3** Slimes
- 4** Charles Hogsett and Jack Holden, long-time development officers for the University
- 5** The opening ceremonies of McMurry University in 1923
- 6** Amy Graves Ryan, wife of Basil Ryan, former trustee of the University
- 7** Wah Wahhtaysees
- 8** Dr. Joe Humphrey, Dean of the School of Education
- 9** South of Old Main
- 10** 1960s
- 11** Grant Teaff and Bill Miller
- 12** Vet Village
- 13** The Windjammers

...the ever famous Saturday nights at the "Social Hall," and getting ready for the big night to the background noise of "The Love Boat."

...sneaking into Radford and ringing the bells.

...the year there was streaking on campus! One day, I was coming out of Martin and when I realized what was going on, I ran back in the dorm!

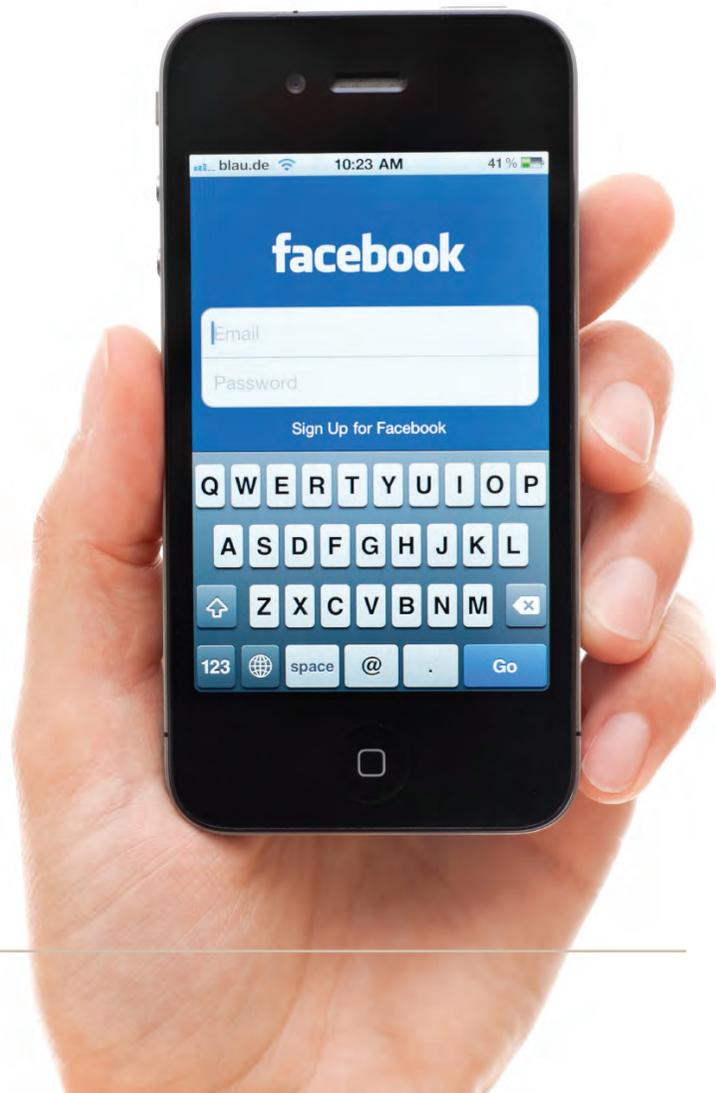
...Freshmen women had to be in the dorm by 8:30 pm on weeknights!

...a student who could imitate the president of the college (Dr. Kim) called off classes because of snow.

Remember at McMurry When...

In the summer of 2011, a group was formed on Facebook named "Remember at McMurry When..." Cindy Holden Davenport '79 formed the group and asked alumni to respond by sharing their memories of their years at McMurry. There were hundreds of responses, and in keeping with the theme of this alumni magazine, we would like to share some of those memories with you—

To read more comments, log on to Facebook and search "Remember at McMurry When..."



I REMEMBER!

...Mr. Hinkle playing the carillon in Radford. I grew up a block from campus, and it filled our neighborhood with music!

...'mooring' the milk machine in the cafeteria when sliming and the skeleton from the biology department that got to ride in someone's MG.

...going to check mail in the basement of Radford.

...freshmen having to "button up" and "button down."

...the Dixie Pig...enough said!

...having to knock on the door of the dorm if you came in after midnight and having to show your ID to the security person stationed there so you could get in!

..."Lake McMurry" that was formed where the student center is! It took forever for them to finish building the student center because it kept raining, and they had to wait for it to dry up enough to keep working!

...practices for Sing Song. I laughed until I cried so many times during those practices!

...the 1978 convocation when a laugh box mysteriously began playing under the organ pedals!

...Neel Lemond. He was there when my parents went to McMurry and also when I was there. He was always at football practice and I loved to hear him sing "Figaro."

...the old cinder track. To smooth it out, they pulled an old bedspring behind a tractor.

...when Good Morning America filmed an intro segment of us in front of Radford saying "Good Morning America!" I think there were about 250 of us that walked around Radford 3 or 4 different times to get the perfect shot.

...Gold Star's roof gave you a great view of the campus in the 1970s.

...the pie shop down S. 14th Street. I finally found a recipe for banana caramel pie, a favorite of my Yankee friends. I think of McMurry every time I make it!

...a torchlight pep rally where we carried actual torches and walked from Radford to Old Indian Gym.

athletics UPDATE

FOOTBALL

 In its final season as an NCAA Division III member, the War Hawks reached the NCAA playoffs for the first time in school history, and also advanced to the second round of the post-season. The team finished with a 9-3 mark overall (8-2 regular season) and 7-1 in the ASC.

The War Hawks defeated Trinity in the first round of the NCAA Division III Playoffs Nov. 19 and earned national rankings for the first time since the 1999 season. The two most prominent national top 25 polls sent the War Hawks out on a high note, as the AFCA ranked McMurry No. 15 and D3football.com ranked them 14 in the final polls of the season.

VOLLEYBALL

 McMurry University reached the American Southwest Conference title game for the first time since the 1998 season. McMurry started the season with a 17-match win streak on their way to a record 28 wins. Cammie Petree, in her 15th season, surpassed the 350-win plateau and finished the year at 374 victories. The team's 16-2 ASC regular season record earned McMurry its first West Division title since the 2002 season.

SOCCER

 The McMurry men's soccer team had three of its players—juniors Tyler Tarango and Ryan Prince, along with freshman Cody Gentry—earn post-season recognition from the American Southwest Conference. All three McM honorees were selected to the ASC honorable mention team.

The War Hawks women's team finished the season with a 4-12 record finishing 10th in the ASC. McMurry was honored with the ASC's "Sportsmanship Award" for women's soccer for the 2011 season.

CROSS COUNTRY

 Both of McMurry's cross country teams ran to third place finishes at the 2011 American Southwest Conference championships. At the NCAA regional meet, the War Hawks women finished 21st.

Alaisha Guerra became the fourth woman in McMurry University's history to win the American Southwest Conference Individual title. Guerra would go on to an all-region finish, with a 22nd place (for the second-consecutive season) at the NCAA regional meet.

The top finisher for the War Hawks in the men's 8K race at the ASC meet, Michael Dowd, finished 11th place in the field of 99.

SWIMMING

 McMurry swimming head coach Bev Ball's team saluted seven seniors—three women and four men—who all closed out their careers as War Hawks during the 2011-12 season.

McMurry's 2011-12 slate included three home meets versus UT-Permian Basin, Dallas Baptist and Austin College. The War Hawks' teams were victorious against Austin College on January 21 for the squad's "Senior Day" event. Road trips to Colorado College and to the Liberal Arts Meet in Elmhurst, Illinois highlighted an ambitious road slate for McMurry.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

 Midway through the season, the men's basketball team found itself in a heated ASC West battle. Head Coach J.D. Isler's team put itself in contention, thanks to a combination of some key wins (including knocking off a previously-unbeaten and then No. 6 nationally-ranked Mary Hardin-Baylor team on January 21), stout defense and a multi-pronged offense.

The War Hawks success was directly attributable to the contributions from seniors Steven Jones, Jaden Isler, Anthony Johnson, Bryce Hill and Bryant Taylor. All five provided both the on and off-court leadership on McMurry's road to success.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

 With just one senior on its roster, center Celeste Belizario, the War Hawks' women's hoops team got out to a fast start, clinching an American Southwest Conference playoff berth by the midpoint of the league season. McMurry strung together two noteworthy win streaks during the regular season



Dr. Russell presents Coach Hal Mumme with the Wilford Moore Trophy.

to position itself among the ASC frontrunners. In addition to Belizario's prowess down low, sophomore Keshia Collins found herself among the ASC's 2011-12 statistical leaders in both scoring and rebounding. Juniors Rikeita Thomas and M.J. Vickers also bolstered McMurry on both ends of the court.

TENNIS

 Head Coach Mark Hathorn pointed his teams toward an ASC West title as play began in the spring. The McMurry men were the 2011 ASC West runner-up, while the women finished fourth. Chris Breaux and Preston Steblein are returners for the McMurry men. The women's team welcomed back senior Hillary Stone and junior Chelsea Miller, as well as sophomores Sydney Gonzalez, Lacey Krusmark and Autumn Patterson.

GOLF

 Head Coach Russ Evans and McMurry women's and men's golf teams teed it up in the spring in pursuit of ASC titles. The women's squad will look to replicate the effort that earned the team a second place ASC finish in 2011 with returning players Kelly Green and Courtney Norton. On the men's side, seniors Jefferson Wesson and Chisum Cope return. The ASC championships take place April 16-17, 2012.

BASEBALL

 Under Head Coach John Byington in his fourth season at the War Hawks' helm and 14th with the McMurry program, the 2012 baseball team welcomes back a strong nucleus from last year's unit, which advanced to the championship round of the 2011 American Southwest Conference tournament.

Byington's War Hawks finished 17-27 overall and were 11-10 in the ASC. Starters return at six of the eight field positions. Senior first baseman Matt Thompson and junior hurler Spencer Smith were both named to the ASC's "Watch List" in pre-season voting by the league's coaches, and the War Hawks' team was picked to finish fourth in the West Division.

TRACK & FIELD

 The NCAA III Indoor Championships are slated for March 9-10, 2012 at Grinnell College of Iowa. The men's team has ranked in the top-four in the USTFCCA national rankings, while the women were ranked in the South/Southeast regional poll.

Coach Barbara Crousen's War Hawks had already posted several outstanding performances in the early part of the 2012 indoor season. Thus far in 2012, McMurry has had several individuals at, or near, the marks or times to qualify for the NCAA III indoor championships. ❖



class NOTES

1953

Richard Deats, a 1953 magna cum laude graduate, who was the senior class president and active in band, has written books on Martin Luther King, Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, Muriel Lester and Hildegard Goss-Mayr. He is the author of *Active Nonviolence Around the World and Stories of Courage, Hope and Compassion*.

1955

McMurry graduate **Norma McMahan Taylor '55** authored the book *Valley View Days: 1939-1945*. Her book was published in October 2011 by H. V. Chapman & Sons of Abilene. The book "aims at interweaving a background of historical events of a nation at war and its impact on the daily lives of children in an average, midsize town in America." She writes of the sacrifices they made, ration stamps, war bonds, lunchboxes, the antics of classmates, the war, growing up on North 12th Street, and the lingering effects of the Depression. She graduated from Abilene High School in 1951 and McMurry University in 1955 and received a master's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington. She worked in medical technology and technical writing at a hospital in Dallas and a computer software company in Houston before retiring.

1962

Paul '62 and Caroline '62 Rankin of Abilene, Texas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Santa Fe, one of their favorite New Mexico cities. They were married on August 19, 1981 at Miami Methodist in Miami, Texas. They were sweethearts while attending McMurry University. Caroline taught kindergarten at Taylor and Bonham, and Paul was a CPA with Love and Rankin. They were blessed with two children.



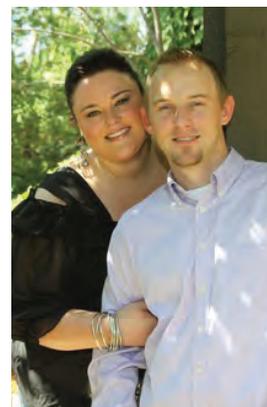
1971

Cecil Davis '71 of Abilene, Texas, was inducted into the Wylie Hall of Honor. Davis was the fifth of seven

superintendents for the Wylie Schools since the establishment of the Wylie Independent School District in 1968. He had a 30-year career in Texas public schools in Abilene and was appointed Wylie superintendent in 1989. He has four children and nine grandchildren.

1972

Roger '72 and Charlotte '71 Martin of Brady, Texas, are happy to announce the January 2012 marriage of their daughter, **Kimberly Claire Martin '99** to **Jeremy Jones**, son of Paul Jones of Forney, Texas, and Woody and Becky Kemp of Grand Prairie, Texas. Kimberly, a McMurry graduate, is the senior recruiter and training manager of APA Services in Fort Worth. Mr. Jones graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington and works at CitiFinancial in Las Colinas.



1977

Ken McDonald '77 married Marge Lemons last July in Austin, Texas. The couple has moved to Clovis, New Mexico, where Ken is the Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church. In addition, he serves as an adjunct faculty member at Clovis Community College, directing the High Plains Chorale, a chorus comprised of both students and community members.



1985

Chuck Fallon '85 was named president of Terminix of the ServiceMaster Company, one of the world's largest residential and commercial service networks. Fallon is a seasoned business leader, most recently as president of Burger King North America. Fallon graduated with

bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance. He has an MBA in finance from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

1986

Kelly Bonner '86 was reunited with his football championship ring after 23 years. David Garcia notified McMurry when he found the ring, and Bonner was contacted. He was a first-year defensive lineman when the McMurry Indians won the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship in 1983. Bonner currently teaches and coaches in the Arlington school district.

1996

Stacy Kirk '96 of Tuscola, Texas, was inducted into the Wylie Hall of Honor. He attended Wylie from kindergarten all the way through high school. He is currently employed at Hendrick Health Systems in the human resources department. Kirk received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Disabled Worker of the Year Award. His wife Maxi is a physical therapist. They have two daughters, both of whom are students at Wylie.



**make a
lasting impression
on the
McMurry campus!**
PROCEEDS BENEFIT McMURRY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

As we make several monumental changes at McMurry, we would like to give you the opportunity to commemorate achievements and legacies. The class of 2013 is participating in a fundraiser to give current and former students, families, departments, organizations, and friends of McMurry University the opportunity to purchase bricks with a customized inscription.

The 8" x 8" bricks will form the sidewalk between Gold Star Residence Hall and J.W. Hunt P.E. Center. These bricks will make excellent gifts for graduation, birthdays, major events, or to commemorate achievements and legacies.

All questions and transactions will be handled by McMurry Student Government. Proceeds will go towards the McMurry Class of 2013 and will be applied toward a gift for McMurry University. If interested, please contact us at mmsg@mcm.edu.

2002

Poteet ISD hired **Henry "Hank" Willis '02** to lead the Poteet Aggie football team. He comes to Poteet from South Oak Cliff High School in the Dallas I.S.D. and has been coaching since 2002.

2004

Danny & Staci (Pappas) Patyrak '04 are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lyla Kathryn Patyrak. Lyla was born November 29, 2011 and is their first child.



2006

Erin Elizabeth Stevens Samson '06 and Aaron Samson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Harper Elizabeth Samson, born on January 18, 2012 in Lexington, Kentucky.



2008

Krista Lynn Waters '08 and **Shawn Ryan Hailey '08** were married November 19, 2011 in Austin, Texas. Both Krista and Shawn are graduates of McMurry University, and both are employed by Midland Charter Academy in Midland, Texas.

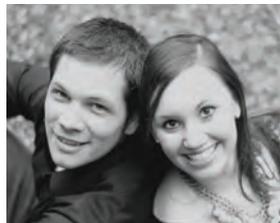


Kaden Bratcher is the son of **Lauren Yeater Bratcher '08**. Kaden is now 15 months old.

2009

Marlee Hager Brooks '09 and Christopher Brooks were married March 11, 2011 at Little Palm Island, Florida. Marlee is a graduate of Abilene High School and received her degree from McMurry University in all-level physical education. Chris is a graduate of Cooper High School

class NOTES



Stephen Frank '09 is assuming the role of chef at The Turtle Restaurant in Brownwood, Texas.



and received a degree from Texas A&M in computer engineering. He is employed by Brock Solutions. They reside in Irving, Texas.

Zachary Landon Sharp '09 and **Eliana Ashley Fanous Sharp '10** were united in marriage on October 22, 2011 at the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas. Eliana graduated from McMurry University with a degree in art, and Zachary also graduated from McMurry University with a degree in business. They reside in Dallas, Texas.



Alumni INSIDER

Alumni Awards

Do you know a McMurry alum who deserves recognition? The Alumni Association would like to know about it. Please take a look at our alumni awards criteria below, and submit your nomination by April 30th. You can fill out an online nomination form at www.unite.mcm.edu and then select the Alumni Awards link on the left sidebar.

Cross and Flame Award

The Cross and Flame Award is given to recognize and strengthen the relationship between McMurry University and the United Methodist Church by recognizing individuals for service to their local churches and to the university.



Spirit of McMurry Award

The Spirit of McMurry Award was created in 2011 to honor alumni who have graduated in the last twenty years and have excelled in their profession, have served their community, and have served McMurry.



Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is McMurry's most prestigious award and was established in 1971 to recognize alumni who have made a significant contribution to their profession and society.



save the date!
HOMECOMING 2012
October 25-28

McMurry Family Legacy Network

The McMurry Family Legacy Network is just finishing up its first year, and we would like to say "Thank You" to all who participated. For those of you who have not heard of this program, students and alumni who choose to participate are matched based on common interests. We then ask our alumni to communicate with their matched students once a month by sending a letter, email, or facebook message. This helps our first year students feel welcome and also helps keep our alumni up-to-date with what's happening on campus. If you would like to sign up for this great program, please fill out the form at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mfln>



AABOD

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is a diverse group of alumni volunteers who serve the university in a variety of capacities. They assist with everything from homecoming to student relations to promotion and selection of alumni awards. If you are interested in serving on the AABOD please email poorman.joshua@mcm.edu, and we will keep you in our nomination pool for consideration when the time comes for us to select new members.

friends WE'LL MISS

Leota Jean Ball Allen '60 of Apple Valley, California, died May 4, 2011.
David L. Aycock '73 of Abilene, Texas, died January 1, 2012.
Beatrice Bailey of Odessa, Texas, died September 14, 2011.
James Max Bryant of Sherman, Texas, died November 23, 2011.
Lou Cox '92 died December 14, 2011.
Robert W. Crisman of Cadiz, Kentucky, died December 10, 2011.
Lue B. Bowden Crites of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died September 9, 2011.
Robert Ward Curry '34 of Pampa, Texas, died January 3, 2012.
John L. Davis '56 of North Oaks, Minnesota, died November 5, 2011.
John R. Day '43 of Abilene, Texas, died December 27, 2011.
Phyllis Corahynne Mosier Dickey of Moore, Oklahoma, died December 13, 2011.
Oscar R. Fanning of Abilene, Texas, died October 28, 2011.
Sue Fite of Abilene, Texas, died September 20, 2011.
Virginia Elizabeth Long Fuller '41 of Lubbock, Texas, died August 8, 2011.
Evelyn Betty Cummings Gossett of Round Rock, Texas, died June 10, 2011.
Howard E. Graham '50 of Pampa, Texas, died October 1, 2011.
S. King Graham '80 of Stephenville, Texas, died October 18, 2011.
Art Wayne Haggerton '69 of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died October 3, 2011.
Robert Hailey of Williamsburg, Virginia, died September 26, 2011.
Bill Houston '57 of Snyder, Texas, died November 17, 2011.
Bobbie Gerald Johnson '57 of Rankin, Texas, died October 11, 2011.
Jerry Glenn King '71 of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, died June 20, 2011.
Georgia B. Kniffen died August 29, 2011.
Lothar Thomas Maier '77 of Plano, Texas, died December 1, 2011.
Earl Dwayne Marrs '73 of Abilene, Texas, died November 26, 2011.
Nancy Jane McLaren '57 of Amarillo, Texas, died October 28, 2011.
Mary Youvonne McMillan of Cisco, Texas, died December 25, 2011.
George "Bud" Miller of Abilene, Texas, died January 15, 2012.
Wayne K. Moore of Abilene, Texas, died July 21, 2011.
Vernon Austin Nichols '82 of Clyde, Texas, died September 22, 2011.
Norman L. Olsen of San Antonio, Texas, died June 29, 2011.
Ruth Palmer '40 died October 30, 2011.
Henry Eugene Parmenter '50 of Clovis, New Mexico, died May 11, 2011.
Paula Gay Perkins '92 of Abilene, Texas, died September 3, 2011.
Mable F. Phillips '34 of Abilene, Texas, died December 10, 2011.
Jack Reese '52 of Abilene, Texas, died July 29, 2011.
Roy Richardson of Abilene, Texas, died November 27, 2011.
Dale Riley '50 of Colorado City, Texas, died November 12, 2011.
James A. Rose of Abilene, Texas, died January 11, 2012.
Anna Smith '42 of Big Spring, Texas, died September 4, 2011.
Eddie T. Smith '68 of Sherman, Texas, died August 4, 2011.
Mildred V. Vaughn Smothermon '40 of Spearman, Texas, died September 6, 2011.
Luther Weldon Tucker '49 of Keller, Texas, died December 2, 2011.
Au Gladis Wallace of Abilene, Texas, died January 7, 2012.



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McMurry has mailed printed copies of the alumni magazine to our alumni for many years. However, the cost of printing has skyrocketed in recent years. We will continue to print the alumni magazine for those who wish to have one, but we are offering the option for alumni to request the online version only. This will help the University save money on printing and we will “kill fewer trees,” thus doing our part to be environmentally-friendly. This new option will begin with the Spring 2012 issue. If you're interested in participating in our new online *The Messenger* opt-in program, please go to www.mcm.edu/magonline and complete the brief form. *That's all there is to it!*

friends WE'LL MISS



Leota Jean Allen

Leota Jean (Ball) Allen, 73, was born September 23, 1937 in Ardmore, Oklahoma. She was loved and known as “LODAJEAN” by her husband Don for over 49 years of marriage. She put up a memorable battle against the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease and had to yield to this 13-year fight in her last home in The Sterling Commons, Victorville, California on April 27, 2011.

Leota Jean leaves her loving Don; son, Earl Lance, his wife, Cassie, their children Brooks and Gabrielle of Apple Valley, California; son, Craig Lee, his son, Matthew, of Redmond, Oregon, and son, Pvt. Brett M. Allen, US Army; sister, Lola Stiles and her husband, Gerald, of Longview, Texas; sister, Loretta Sherard and her husband, Glenn, of Longview; Don’s brother, Steve Allen and his wife, Beverly, of Allen, Texas and many nephews and nieces.

Leota Jean lived a full, successful and happy life. She was raised in a house trailer as an “Oil Patch Kid” in West Texas and attended 26 different elementary schools before junior high. She graduated from Seminole High School in 1956. In 2007 she became a 50-year member of the Eastern Star of Seminole, Texas. She graduated from McMurry University in 1960. She attended West Texas State in Canyon and Chapman University in California and was paid as a master’s degree teacher in Texas. She taught elementary school in Odessa and Amarillo and in California at Oro Grande, Apple Valley, Lucerne Valley and retired after 32 years of career teaching from Hesperia Unified School District.

She attended college on a voice scholarship. She was principal soloist for the McMurry Chanters and toured with them. She became a choir member and soloist in every church she attended. She was a 34-year member of The Church of the Valley and 7-year member of The

Community Church of Jess Ranch. She sang with The Victor Valley Community Chorus, and for three years with the Sweet Adelines of North Texas and The Amarillo Symphony Chorus. She loved musical theater and grand opera. For many years, she and Don had season tickets to the LA Opera, the Orange County Opera and the LA Master Chorale. She was very proud of the fact that she was “Nellie Forbush” in *South Pacific*. She also had lead parts in *Girl Crazy*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and many other shows in college and as produced by the High Desert Theater Guild.

In 2002-07 she and Don took 42 cruises, including three trans-Atlantic cruises and one “west” through the Panama Canal. She toured England, France, Spain, Italy, Central America, Mexico, Canada and the eastern part of our United States. She traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe by rail, including five round trips across our great country. All of her travel came after the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s.

In 2008, Leota Jean and Don relocated to Longview, Texas so her sisters could spend time with her before the Alzheimer’s disease took control. For over 25 months, Leota Jean was a resident of The Sterling Commons including time under the care of the Community Hospice of Victor Valley. Leota Jean’s life and her love will be missed. There is no doubt; the singing angels in heaven have a new voice.



George “Bud” Miller

George “Bud” Miller, 76, passed away January 15, 2012 in Abilene. Bud was born January, 8, 1936 in Abilene to

George and Martha Amy Miller. He attended Abilene High School and then began working for McMurry College where he retired after 49 years of service.

His dedication to hard work was very evident throughout his life; he earned several awards for

outstanding performance. Although he never officially joined the military, he was very proud of the fact that he and his family worked hard and supplied most of the fruits and vegetables to our military men stationed at Camp Barkley.

He met and married Edith Lucille Kilpatrick in 1963, and they enjoyed 48 years of marriage. He served as a deacon at Trinity Interdenominational Church and later at Harvest Time Church. He was an avid woodworker, loved being outdoors fishing and camping, and spending time with his grandkids was a highlight of his life. Bud was a simple man, hardworking, and always ready to help anyone he could.

George is survived by his two sons, David Miller and Dan Miller and wife Joy; his two grandchildren, Jessica Miller, and Garrett Miller and wife Kaylee; two brothers, Frank Miller and Ernest Miller; four sisters, Clara McQueen, Rosa Fletcher, May Lloyd, and Slome Philips. He was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Amy Miller, and father, George John Miller.

Robert Ward “Bob” Curry

Robert Ward “Bob” Curry, 98, of Pampa, died January 3, 2012 in Pampa, Texas. Bob was born March 8, 1913 in Snyder, Texas to Walter and Effie Curry. In 1924, Bob’s father, Walter, bought the newspaper in Crosbyton, Texas, and moved the family of six to the plains of Texas in a Model T Ford. Bob graduated from Crosbyton High School in 1930 and attended McMurry University in Abilene, Texas where he played football and basketball, setting a conference scoring record in basketball. He was later honored by being inducted into the McMurry Athletic Hall of Honor. After graduation in 1934, he coached athletics and taught school at Snyder, Miami, and Pampa, Texas.

Bob married Alleith Elliston in Hereford, Texas in 1937. They were married 64 years when Alleith died in 2001.

Bob joined the U.S. Navy in 1944. He was a lieutenant on a communications ship attached to the amphibious force in the Pacific War. He participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. His ship was recognized for shooting down two kamikaze planes and sinking four suicide boats during the Okinawa invasion.

Bob worked for Cabot Company in Pampa and was vice president of Morrow-Thomas Hardware Company in Amarillo before purchasing a welding and industrial supply company in 1958. Four R Industrial Supply grew over the next forty years with stores in five cities and a compressed gas plant in Amarillo. He was active in the National Welding Supply Association and was a member of the Union Carbide National Distributor Advisory Council for several years.

Bob was an active United Methodist for his entire life, holding many leadership positions at First United Methodist Church in Pampa. Curry was a civic leader in Pampa, serving two terms on the City Commission, president of the United Way, member of the Gray County Appraisal Board, member of the Youth and Community Center Board, and the City Planning and Zoning Commission. He further served as president of the Pampa Country Club and the Tri-State Seniors Golf Association. Bob served as president of the Adobe Walls Boy Scout Council.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, a brother, and two sisters. Bob is survived by two sons, Don and wife Sue of Fort Worth; John and wife Faustina of Pampa; three grandchildren, Faustine of Mount Pleasant, Texas, Ward of Fort Worth, and Stewart and wife Brandi of Weatherford, Oklahoma; and one great-granddaughter, Cambre of Weatherford, Oklahoma; and close family friend, Della Mae McCampbell of Pampa. ❖



I Remember...

...Dr. El Attrache and his government class. It never mattered which side of a discussion you were on, he always took the other side and you knew you were toast!

...the “fake crime scene” between Old Main and Cook that the very first Makona pledge concocted.

...the first time I was on McMurry’s campus when my sister was a freshman in 1965. The arrow was actually shot from the carrillon tower. No wires!

...finding the pledges on skip night then not knowing what to do with them because it had never happened before.

...football practice with Pug Parris leading the stretching. She wore us out before any football stuff began!

Read more “Remember When”
moments on page **20**