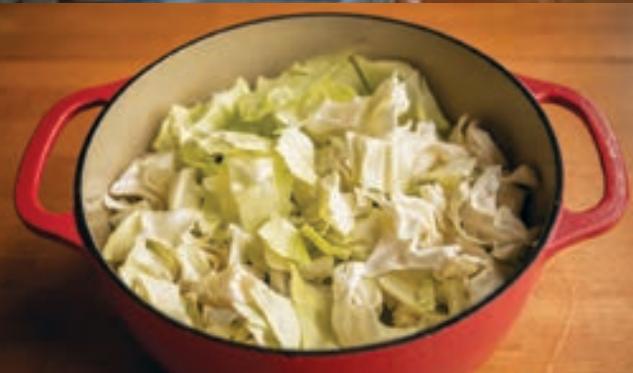


the messenger

THE MCMURRY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FALL 2015



ZACH KERZEE '11
A Simple Life and Church

Alumni and Friends,

At homecoming, we celebrated the 25th year of Servant Leadership at McMurry University. It is a success story worth celebrating!

The servant-leader concept has always been a part of McMurry's Wesleyan heritage. Charles Wesley's hymn, "To Serve the Present Age, Our Calling to Fulfill" sums up McMurry's enduring purpose nicely. According to Paul Wesley Chilcote's *Recapturing the Wesleyan Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley*, "John Wesley was never willing to leave any spiritual insight on a theoretical level. Spiritual principles had to be put into practice ... Wesley's social ethic, which was essentially an ethic of love, can be summarized in this memorable statement, most likely the creation of a later Methodist imbued with the Wesleyan spirit:

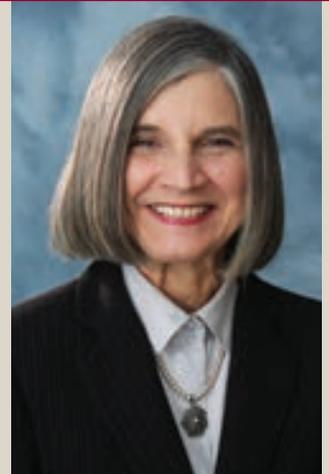
**Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."**

The more formal establishment of the McMurry University servant leadership program began when Dr. Rob Sledge, professor emeritus of history and a United Methodist minister, encountered the teaching of retired AT&T executive Robert Greenleaf. Greenleaf brought the servant leadership concept into the corporate world with his 1970 essay *The Servant as Leader*. According to Greenleaf, the difference in a servant-first orientation rather than a leader-first orientation is "the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that

other people's highest priority needs are being served." Greenleaf explains, "The true test of a servant-leader is this: Do those around the servant-leader become wiser, freer, more autonomous, healthier, and better able themselves to become servants? Will the least privileged of society be benefitted or at least not further deprived?"

After much discussion on how to incorporate a formal servant leadership component into the McMurry curriculum, the Servant Leadership Center opened in 1990 and since that time, the program has benefitted hundreds of students and many Abilene non-profits. In McMurry's most recent strategic planning process, *McMurry Momentum: Grounded in the Past, Soaring to the Future*, McMurry proclaims that the university is an academic community focused on service and community and student engagement, which is informed by the principles of servant leadership. One of the central tenets of the McMurry Centennial Vision is that all McMurry graduates will be expected to be servant leaders and to contribute to our multi-faceted society in meaningful ways.

Over its 25 year history, the McMurry University Servant Leadership program has touched over 3,000 students. We expect that McMurry University will continue to keep empowering and lifting up those whose lives are inspired by our faculty and our graduates.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

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Cheyenne Krigo '18 and Andre Artis '17, at Tipi Village during Homecoming.

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Students Attend Fundraiser Featuring Former President George W. Bush

Four McMurry students received an opportunity of a lifetime due to the generosity of McMurry board member Melody Hunt and Dr. Sandra Harper earlier this fall. Lindsey Vines '16, Andre Artis '17, Ashlea Beckner '17, and Casey Bargsley '16, attended a fundraising event for Global Samaritan Resources at the Abilene Civic Center featuring former President George W. Bush.

"I was excited to see him because he was president the entire time I was growing up," said Vines, who visited his presidential library at SMU twice during the summer. "He is one of my favorite people."

When she was asked by Debra Hulse, vice president of Advancement, if she wanted to attend an event featuring Bush, Casey Bargsley at first thought it was a joke. But she jumped at the chance when Hulse said it was for a Global Samaritan fundraising event.

"He was president for the majority of my life," said Bargsley. "When he came out, I had tears in my eyes. It was very cool to see him."

Bush spent a little more than an hour answering questions about his time as governor of Texas, as owner of the Texas Rangers, in the White House and what he is doing now.

"Being in the same room with the president is definitely an experience I'll never forget," said Bargsley.

McMurry Highly Ranked in US News Best Colleges Guide

McMurry University is proud to be recognized as a top-ranked institution for the 20th consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report Best College Guide. McMurry was ranked 17th in the top ranked institutions in the Western Region of the Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's category for these rankings. McMurry also was highly ranked in several other categories in this year's US News report.

McMurry ranked eighth in ethnic diversity in the regional college category with a Hispanic student population of 22 percent. The University also was cited in the Great Schools, Great Prices category as the number seven school in the West region. Finally, McMurry was ranked as one of the best colleges for veterans in its region, coming in at number 13.

In all categories, the top 20 schools in Tier 1 are numerically ranked, while schools in tiers 2, 3 and 4 are listed alphabetically. According to U.S. News and World Report, rankings are based on seven categories: assessment by administrators at peer institutions, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance.



Think You Know McMurry History?

McMurry's official historian Dr. Rob Sledge has put together a short online quiz to test your knowledge! Take the quiz and see how you score.

about.mcm.edu/quiz



Dr. Jerry W. Hollingsworth

Dr. Jerry W. Hollingsworth participated in the 40th annual "Friends of Multisport" event, a 24-hour running

event held at Bluff Creek Trails in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma during the weekend of October 24-25. He was representing the national RWB (Red, White, and Blue) team, a Veterans Outreach Organization.

Hollingsworth ran for 20 hours and 20 minutes in a 100k finish. This was a prelude to the Snowdrop 55-hour race to be held in Sugarland, Texas, where all the proceeds will be used to assist the efforts to help children with brain cancer. Hollingsworth will represent Team RWB in that event in December.

"The race director and the volunteers were amazing, as they endured the cold weather, helping

runners stay fueled and hydrated, with smiles on their faces all day and all night," said Dr. Hollingsworth. "The medical professionals were also amazing, and they helped me get a few more miles in after treating my blistered feet."

All in all, though, it was the people that he found so amazing. "It's always amazing to be around people who put themselves out there, running in all kinds of conditions, battling the pain, the weather, sharing stories, laughing, crying, and struggling. It was a pleasure to share those moments with them."

And after the blisters heal, and the sore muscles recover, all that's left are the good memories.

"I'm looking forward to the main event of the year, the 55-hour event in Sugarland, Texas as we raise money for the Texas Children's Hospital which exists to assist patients and families with brain cancer," Dr. Hollingsworth said.

Paxton Grayer '16 and Kayla Hines '15 Receive First Coach Neel Lemond Award

Paxton Grayer '16 and Kayla Hines '15 were selected to receive the first Coach Neel Lemond Heart of a War Hawk Award. The award was established in honor of Neel Lemond, who was an important part of the McMurry community for more than 50 years.

Grayer '16, in addition to being one of McMurry football's top rushers in school history, is a youth ministry leader at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where he leads Rosary Prayer prior to church each Sunday and is also a choir member. He volunteers at Love and Care Ministries, where he gathers food and clothing for those in need. He also, literally, gets into a car and drives around town looking for homeless where he prays with them and tries to help them with any material needs. He has also applied for volunteer work at a nearby hospice.

Hines '15, was a starter for four years on the McMurry volleyball team and was not only an impact player on the court (NCCAA All-Region, NCCAA Scholar-Athlete Team, NCCAA National Championship Team), but off as well. Hines is a compassionate and loving person who is concerned with not just the physical, but spiritual, well-being of others. She has demonstrated this love of Christ through serving others through the mission work of the McMurry Religious Life Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Meals on Wheels, Disability Resources, and by hosting Bible studies for her friends and teammates throughout her time at McMurry.



Kathie Walker-Millar Wins Statewide Award

Art Professor Kathie Walker-Millar has been named the 2015 winner of the Higher Education Division Outstanding Art Educator Award from the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). She received the award during the organization's annual meeting on November 12-14 in Galveston at the Moody Gardens Convention Center.

Walker-Millar has served as a professor of art at McMurry for 23 years and has been a member of TAEA since 1985.

TAEA's promotes quality visual arts education in Texas by promoting it as an integral part of the curriculum through professional development of knowledge and skills. The organization has about 3,400 active members.



Mission Trip to Haiti

McMurry-in-Motion recently completed a fifth mission trip to Haiti. Team members were Megan Baldree, Jessiah Broussard '17, Kirsten DeFrance '17, Maddison Fatheree '17, Dakota Hartness '16, Jack Payne '17, Rebecca Williams '17, and Mark Waters. McMurry works with an organization called Partners In Development (PID).

PID offers a range of empowerment services for people in Haiti, Guatemala, and Mississippi. Services include support to keep kids in school, micro-loans for small businesses, medical care, and housing assistance through construction and no-interest loans. Depending on interest and ability, McMurry participants generally work at construction sites or in the clinic. Waters believes that short-term mission trips are best accomplished when partnering with organizations like PID that provide long-term, sustainable services in the region that is served.

McMurry Student Earns UPS Scholarship

Marco Flores '16, a physics major from Dallas, has been selected to receive a UPS Scholarship provided by the ICUT Foundation and its national partner, the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). At the national level, CIC teams up with the UPS Foundation to distribute funding of the UPS Scholarship. Through this program this year, the ICUT Foundation awarded \$88,200 in UPS Scholarships to 36 deserving students at private institutions across Texas.

CIC is an association of 744 nonprofit independent colleges and universities and higher education affiliates and organizations that has worked since 1956 to support college and university leadership, advance institutional excellence, and enhance public understanding of private higher education's contributions to society. One of CIC's major program areas is its work with member fundraising consortia of private colleges, including the ICUT Foundation.



McMurry Hosts Students from China

McMurry hosted 20 international students through the first full week of August. Students from Shanghai University of Electric Power, along with chaperones, were here for a three-week summer camp in English and history.

Aside from their classes, taught by McMurry faculty members Tina Bertrand, Joel Whittemore, Cole Thompson and Donald Frazier, they toured the Abilene Reporter-News, Frontier Texas!, May Farm in Hawley, the Abilene Zoo, Grace Museum and Paramount Theatre, among others.

The students left Abilene on August 9, and flew to Washington D.C., Philadelphia and New York City before returning home.



Agreement to Help Internationalize McMurry Campus

McMurry has been accepted by the American Council on Education (ACE) to participate in a three year lab to internationalize McMurry's campus. ACE's Internationalization Laboratory provides institutions with customized guidance and insight as they review their internationalization goals and develop strategic plans.

The leadership team for the three-year process is Dr. James Hunt, Dean Vanessa Roberts Bryan, Dr. Joel Olufowote, Dr. Robert Wallace, and Dr. Mark Waters.



Working With Our McMagnets

Dr. Edward Donnay gave the McMagnets a demonstration on liquid nitrogen and its effects on different objects during a lab on Friday, October 18.

McMurry, Texas Tech School of Pharmacy Sign Agreement

President Dr. Sandra Harper and Dr. Quentin Smith, dean of the Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy, signed an Early Admission Agreement that will allow McMurry students to transition to the School of Pharmacy after their junior year at McMurry.

The agreement is designed to aid in the transition of selected students from McMurry University to the Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy using their first year at the School of Pharmacy as a substitute for their senior year's undergraduate courses.

"This means that a student saves a year's worth of tuition. It's not for the faint of heart, the rigor of the outlined coursework at McMurry University still fully prepares them for their transition to Pharmacy School," said Dr. Larry Sharp, a professor of biology at McMurry. "It is a win-win for the student and it directs our most competent pre-pharmacy students towards completion of their McMurry University degree in Biochemistry or Biomedical Science and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Texas Tech University."

"McMurry has always had a close relationship with the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy and many of our students have gone on to successful careers in pharmacy after graduating from Texas Tech's program," said Dr. Harper. "We are thrilled to have this new pathway for our students to enter the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy. It's a great step forward for both schools."



Handprint Visible Across Campus

A very generous friend and benefactor of the University, Barbara Seidel Swagerty '56, was honored at a unique event on Friday, September 18. Barbara has provided support for academics, student scholarships, athletics, the Seidel Swagerty Tennis Center, and most recently, the new parking lots on campus. Figuratively speaking, Barbara's handprint is visible across our campus, and at Friday's event, we asked Barbara to place her handprint in wet cement as a concrete symbol of her very real presence on our campus through various building projects and programs she has funded. Faculty, staff, students and trustees attended to express appreciation to Barbara for her friendship and generosity.

PROFESSORS MADE AN IMPACT ON HER

*now her
students are impacting
the world*

BY KATHERINE MANSON



Aletha Williams '04, didn't always want to be a teacher. The Director of Science in Career Technical Education at the Houston magnet school, Jane Long Academy, teaches chemistry, forensic science and integrated physics and chemistry (IPC). But before she was making an impact on youth, Williams worked in the oil and gas industry.

Williams began her college education at McMurry University where she was originally pre-med. After graduating from McMurry, Williams worked in the oil and gas industry where she quickly learned that it was not for her.

"I was bored out of my mind," laughed Williams. "I went to my mom and said, 'I can't do this,' and when she asked me what I wanted to do, I told her that I wanted to be teacher. From there, I went back to school to be a teacher and found what I should be doing."

"My mom always said that teaching was destined for me, that I would end up being a teacher because God had given me this gift," Williams said. "I would laugh at her because I never wanted to teach."

Now, Williams and her mother look back and laugh together as Williams is happily teaching and helping students graduate with enough experience and technical degrees to succeed after high school. "I love teaching students a balance between college life and high school life," said Williams. "A lot of students want to be pharmacists or engineers, and



“Williams says it’s her experience with her McMurry professors that set the example to the type of leader and educator she wants to be.”

they're able to graduate with specializations and associate degrees that give them a job."

Williams teaches sophomores and helps them get on specific career paths into the avenues that interest them. Many begin taking college courses their sophomore year and receive the certification they need to go into the work force they aspire to. "The students are able to get on a career pathway right away," explained Williams.

Aside from beginning at McMurry not knowing she would become a teacher, Williams also attended the University not knowing much about the school that would have such an impact

on her. After becoming involved on campus and as a student leader, Williams built relationships with her peers and learned about herself as the University prepared her for her goals.

"Being a teacher has been the most rewarding job I have ever had," explained Williams. "The most rewarding thing is after my students have graduated, I stay in contact with them, and even after almost 10 years, I stay in contact. Knowing that some of them are going to become teachers one day and just watching them grow so much ... they follow in my footsteps."

"My students, they're going to impact the

"The most rewarding thing is after my students have graduated, I stay in contact with them, and even after almost 10 years, I stay in contact."



“My students, they’re going to impact the world,” said Williams. “When they tell me I’ve impacted them, I say ‘No,’ because they’re the ones who are impacting me.”

world,” said Williams. “When they tell me I’ve impacted them, I say ‘No,’ because they’re the ones who are impacting me.”

Williams is currently pursuing her doctorate degree from Texas Tech University and is focused on educational policy, and what she can do to help students, teachers, and parents in order to make an impact on those she interacts with.

“McMurry truly prepared me for what I’m doing now,” said Williams. “I never really looked into working in education when I was in school but now that I do, I’ve put my nose to the grindstone and seen what does and doesn’t work for the kids. It’s time to make some changes.”

Williams says it’s her experience with her McMurry professors that set the example to the type of leader and educator she wants to be. “Dr. Gary Wilson was one of my professors at McMurry who I still look up to. He formed a bond with his students the minute they walked in the door and was always there for us,” explained Williams. “That’s what I hope to be for my students. Because my professors at McMurry impacted me, it made me want to impact my students in the same long-lasting way.”



LOVE FOR MCMURRY STARTED AT AN EARLY AGE

BY LORETTA FULTON

*McDaniel's love
for McMurry
started at an early
age, continued
throughout his life,
and will be reflected
for generations to
come, thanks to his
generosity.*



As a child, Raymond McDaniel Jr. would sneak out of his house on the Friday night of McMurry homecomings to join in a tradition in Wah Wahtaysee Park.

The McDaniel family lived in the 1300 block of Highland Avenue, an easy walk for a kid who was determined to be a part of the activities—even if he was quite underage. That was in the 1940s when sneaking out of the house at night wouldn't have been alarming. And, no doubt the freshmen carrying on the tradition of an uninterrupted drum beat loved having the little neighborhood kid join them.

“He would sit with the freshmen students and help them beat the drum,” said Debra Hulse '80, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

McDaniel's love for McMurry started at an early age, continued throughout his life, and will be reflected for generations to come, thanks to his generosity. McDaniel died April 18 at age 81. Although he did not attend McMurry, McDaniel loved the University and gave of his time and resources to ensure its success.

“He had a real passion for McMurry,” said his son Bryant McDaniel of Marietta, Georgia.

To honor that passion, Bryant McDaniel and his wife, Nancy, created the Raymond and Gloria McDaniel Scholarship as a Christmas gift to his parents in 2014.

It is the second scholarship at McMurry to bear the McDaniel name. Raymond and Gloria McDaniel created the Ruth Barr McDaniel Scholarship in 1999 for a student who is majoring in



Bryant, Nancy and Gloria McDaniel



In addition to being a nice person and good conversationalist, McDaniel always was on top of what was going on at McMurry.

Gloria McDaniel receives proclamation honoring her husband Raymond during fall commencement ceremonies.

history. Ruth Barr McDaniel was Raymond McDaniel's mother.

The renovated commons area in the Jay-Rollins Library carries the name of the McDaniels in honor of their donations that made the remodeling possible. McDaniel also was a committee chair for the Shaping the Future campaign, a \$40 million campaign for campus improvements that ended in 2010.

"They have just been enormously generous the past few years," Hulse said.

McDaniel's gifts to McMurry also included his time and expertise. He was a member of the McMurry board of trustees from 1981 to 2001, including serving as chairman. And, he and Gloria were always supportive of McMurry athletics and arts programs. McMurry President Sandra Harper said the last time she saw McDaniel was at a McMurry play earlier this year, not long before his death.

Harper's first knowledge of the impact that Raymond and Gloria McDaniel had on McMurry came when Harper was a professor of

communication at the university from 1985 to 1995.

When Harper was hired in October 2013 as McMurry's president, she knew who to turn to for support.

"He was one of the first ones I reached out to when I came back to McMurry," Harper said. In addition to being a nice person and good conversationalist, McDaniel always was on top of what was going on at McMurry. Because of his love of the university and his business expertise, McDaniel was asked to serve on Harper's President's Advisory Council, made up of former trustees and friends of the university. Unfortunately, Harper said, McDaniel was too ill to be able to attend a council meeting.

The business expertise that McDaniel brought to the table came from a lifelong involvement with the local Texas Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Born in Abilene on Nov. 26, 1933, McDaniel graduated from Abilene High School in 1951. After earning a degree from Texas A&M University in 1955 and serving in the military,

McDaniel returned home to continue the family-owned Coca-Cola business, which his grandfather had bought in 1918.

McDaniel became president of the bottling company in 1975 and was so well respected in the industry that he served on the boards of the Texas Soft Drink Association and the National Soft Drink Association. He also was a past chairman of the Texas Coca-Cola Bottlers Council.

In addition to being widely respected in the business world locally and nationally, McDaniel also was known for his community involvement.

He was a past president of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, served on the board of the Abilene Industrial Foundation and the Hendrick Home Development Council. McDaniel also was interested in the quality of life in his hometown, serving on the boards of the Abilene Zoological Society and the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

The McDaniels pose for a photo after the signing ceremony.



Bryant and Raymond McDaniel sign the agreement for the Raymond and Gloria McDaniel Endowed Scholarship.

His concern for people was manifested in his service to the Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army, and St. Paul United Methodist Church where he and Gloria were longtime members and later at Aldersgate UMC.

But nowhere was McDaniel's passion and devotion more evident than at McMurry. Harper was delighted when McDaniel agreed to serve on the President's Advisory Council. She regretted that he was too ill to ever get to attend a meeting, but the fact that he agreed to serve spoke volumes about McDaniel's love of the University he first got to know by sneaking out of the house so he could take part in a homecoming tradition.

"Up until the very end," Harper said, "he was a big supporter of McMurry."

Nowhere was McDaniel's passion and devotion more evident than at McMurry.

Celebra



2015 HOMECOMING



Thanks to all our alumni, families, friends, Abilene community members and visitors who attended Homecoming this year. We came together to celebrate the past, present and future of McMurry with Homecoming, a tradition dating back to 1928.

We celebrated our traditions like Tipi Village, bon fire and pep rally, football game, social clubs and class reunions, and other festivities; there was something for everyone to participate in this year.

Take a moment to view all the photographs from the year's Homecoming at mcm.edu/homecoming2015



ting THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



THE YEAR'S HONOREES WERE:



Roger Ward '67
Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient



Clay Bulls '95
Spirit of McMurry Award Recipient



THE CONCEPT OF “LEADING BY SERVING” DOESN’T END WHEN STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM MCMURRY UNIVERSITY. JUST ASK SHANA NORMAN BRISTOW ’92, A PRECEPTOR OR GROUP LEADER IN THE FIRST SERVANT LEADERSHIP CLASS AT MCMURRY.

LEADING BY *Serving*

“I still have my Servant Leadership preceptor’s manual from that very first year,” said Shana Bristow ’92 at the reunion held during homecoming in observance of the program’s 25th year.

Today, Bristow is an executive with FleishmanHillard public relations firm in Dallas. She still employs the tenets of the Servant Leadership program, even though she has been gone from campus for 23 years.

After getting into a leadership position, Bristow quickly realized that being a servant leader isn’t just for campus organizations. It works in the “real world,” too.

“I use it frequently,” Bristow said at the reunion. “I try to implement it in all my interactions.”

Establishing a Servant Leadership program at McMurry was the brainchild of Sandra Harper and Rob Sledge. Back in the early 1990s, Harper, who now is president of McMurry, was a communications professor. Sledge, now retired, was a history professor and an active lay member of the United Methodist Church.

At the reunion held during homecoming, Harper recalled that she and Sledge met to discuss a weighty question, “What does it mean to be an educated person at McMurry? Sledge mentioned the “servant leadership” concept that

was introduced in the corporate world by Robert Greenleaf. Harper and Sledge agreed that the concept fit the McMurry experience perfectly and launched the first Servant Leadership class in the fall of 1990.

“We were one of the pioneers in education to get it started,” Harper said at the reunion.

From the beginning, the program was successful. The first semester that Servant Leadership was offered, 90 students filled a classroom. Today, the program is led by Mark Waters, a religion professor. About 100 students are enrolled each year and more than 3,000 have gone through the program in 25 years.

To ensure the program’s future success, a campaign was kicked off during the reunion to raise \$25,000 to create an endowment in support of Servant Leadership. During a panel discussion at the reunion, a question was asked of each panel member: “Is there anyone who can’t be a servant leader?”

Panelist Pug Parris ’73 answered that everyone can be, but that it is up to true believers in the concept to plant the seed of belief in others. With her answer, Parris, professor of Kinesiology and Health, also gave a good pitch for why donating to the endowment fund would be a good idea.

“It’s up to everyone who believes in that concept,” Parris said, “to keep sowing those seeds.”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



HOMECOMING 2016

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY

If your class year-ends in 6 or 1, you will be celebrating a reunion next Homecoming. If you would like to help plan events for your class please contact the alumni office at alumni@mcm.edu



EVEN AS A STUDENT
WAS PEGGED AS AN
WOULD BE GOOD AT



A SIMPLE LIFE AND CHURCH

LIVING OUT HIS FAITH IN CHRIST

LORETTA FULTON

AT HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, ZACH KERZEE '11
INNOVATOR, THE TYPE OF YOUNG MAN WHO
CHURCH PLANTING.



While completing a master of divinity degree, Kerzee served as a student pastor in Boston-area United Methodist Church congregations. Leaders in the New England Annual Conference had their eye on Kerzee. They saw in him a bright, creative Harvard student with ample potential.

What they didn't know was that the qualities they so admired in the Harvard graduate student had roots far from New England. Kerzee credits his experiences—in and out of the classroom—at McMurry University for bringing out those traits in him.

"I'm honored to have my name attached to McMurry," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Grafton, Massachusetts.

Kerzee, 26, recently was featured in a Grafton Telegram story that was picked up by the Associated Press and larger newspapers. It told of Kerzee's unusual United Methodist Church in

Grafton called Simple Church.

The church isn't a church at all in the traditional sense. It has no building of its own. It doesn't meet on Sunday. Members bake and sell bread each week at local markets to help pay expenses. It may all sound unusual to outsiders, but to Kerzee it's just an extension of the creativity he eagerly embraced at McMurry.

"McMurry really allowed me to thrive," said Kerzee.

He was active with Change for Change, a movement to address poverty, and he co-founded the McMurry Gay-Straight Alliance, which attracts other college students in Abilene as well as McMurry students.

Kerzee is fondly remembered by faculty, who realized his potential. One of his religion professors, Dr. John Miller, called Kerzee a "fantastic student" but saw something more in



him.

“He is passionate about social justice,” Miller said. “He lives out his faith in Christ and his call to Christian ministry with remarkable integrity.”

Kerzee credits Miller, and all of McMurry’s religion faculty, for his relatively easy journey through the master’s program at Harvard Divinity School.

In fact, Kerzee said, his classes at McMurry

adjacent to the parsonage.

In return for his labor, the owner of the farm allows Kerzee to keep all the produce he wants for his church. And that is significant because Simple Church meets on Thursday nights for dinner. In fact, the entire service is based on the shared meal, an extension of the Holy Eucharist.

Kerzee came up with the idea as soon as leaders of the New England Annual Conference

KERZEE CREDITS MILLER, AND ALL OF MCMURRY’S EASY JOURNEY THROUGH THE MASTER’S PROGRAM

in some cases were more rigorous than those at Harvard. He laughs recalling something Miller told his students on the last day of class after three years of Greek.

“No matter what you do in the future,” Miller told the students, “you’ve already done the hardest thing you’re ever going to do.”

So far, that’s proven true for Kerzee, although he said he rarely uses his Greek now and jokes that, “I wish I had taken farming.”

That’s because Kerzee’s gig as pastor of Simple Church in Grafton, Massachusetts, is an uncommon position. His church meets on Thursday night, and the rest of the week Kerzee works on the organic produce farm located

asked him if he would be interested in starting a church in Grafton. The old, traditional United Methodist Church in Grafton closed and the annual conference wanted something different. They got it with Kerzee and his creative mind.

“I kind of had an idea it would be a dinner church on Thursdays,” Kerzee said.

The old church building was sold, with the proceeds going toward sustaining Simple Church and its pastor for three years. The parsonage was retained and now is home to Kerzee, his wife, Kendra, who is a high school Spanish teacher in Grafton, a dog named Skunk, and 13 chickens. The congregation meets in rented space, with 25 to 40 people gathering to prepare the fresh organic



HE WORKS ON A
FARM, BAKES BREAD,
MEETS PEOPLE
FOR DINNER, AND IS
SERVING GOD.

vegetables, share potluck dishes, sing along to Kerzee's guitar, share the Eucharist, and talk. There is no sermon—the conversation is the sermon.

Getting Simple Church off the ground wasn't simple. A few members of the old United Methodist Church came the first Sunday, along with some curiosity seekers.

"They came from me knocking on doors," Kerzee said. "You've got to hustle."

the simple life—and Simple Church—of rural Massachusetts more to his liking. In fact, he can hardly believe his good fortune. He works on a farm, bakes bread, meets people for dinner, and is serving God.

"I think it's a real blessing," he said, "to be able to do these things as my full-time job."

To find out more about Simple Church visit them at simpleumc.com.

RELIGION FACULTY, FOR HIS RELATIVELY AT HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL.

The congregation is still small, but faithful. People come on Thursdays and then attend Sunday services at other churches in town. To supplement the proceeds from the sale of the former building, members bake fresh bread to sell at local markets. Kerzee also fills in some Sundays at area churches and also performs weddings and funerals when called.

Living a simple life in rural Massachusetts isn't an entirely new experience for Kerzee. He grew up in Copperas Cove and his dad was minister of a United Methodist Church in the small Coryell County community of Pidcoke.

Boston was the first big city Kerzee ever lived in. He loved his experiences at Harvard, but finds



Dear Alumni,



I am honored to represent you as I begin my two-year term as president of the Alumni Association. I would like to first thank Steven

Bristow, the former president, for his hard work and dedication. Under his leadership, the Alumni Association Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan that aligns our Alumni Association goals with those of the University, in order to foster and strengthen our lifelong connections with McMurry. I have some big shoes to fill.

During my term, my personal objective is to build on the progress we've made and continue to grow opportunities for alumni volunteerism and engagement. The committees of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are working on some really exciting initiatives including student mentorship and an Alumni Speakers Bureau. We are partnering with Admissions and Campus Ministries in order to have much more alumni interaction with prospective students whether it be in the form of a letter, a phone call, or in their home churches.

Along with providing more opportunities for volunteering, we will be utilizing our regional networks, offering a living calendar of alumni events throughout Texas and beyond. All of this is alumni engagement

– fostering lifelong connections – with each other, with students, with McMurry.

But it's not enough for us to open the door – you have to walk through it! Participate. Attend the social and professional events and activities you see for your area over the next six months, serve as a regional or homecoming reunion planning volunteer, help recruit promising students, and return to campus to mentor current students. Increased participation in giving, particularly through The McMurry Fund, is also critical. Today's students must have access to the opportunities and financial aid scholarships that so many of us depended upon and received thanks to the generosity of the alumni who came before us. Ultimately, this will lead to an increase in committed alumni who will confidently shepherd McMurry into the future.

I look forward to reporting on our progress over the next two years. I value your feedback and participation. Please let me know how your Alumni Association can serve you better.

JOLISA HOOVER '92
PRESIDENT
McMurry University Alumni
Association Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chanters Tour

Fredericksburg/Kerrville/San Antonio
Thursday 3/3/16 – Sunday 3/6/16

Come support the McMurry Chanters as they tour the Hill Country in March! More details on locations and times will be available soon. Please keep an eye on the events calendar for updated information.

The Witte Museum – San Antonio

Tour led by Dr. Don Frazier
Sunday, 4/3/16

Join McMurry alumni for an afternoon at the Witte and a personalized tour of the exhibit "The Wests of Texas: Cattle Ranching Entrepreneurs" with our very own Dr. Don Frazier.

McMurry Serves

Multi-City Service Events

Saturday, 4/23/16

McMurry alumni across Texas (and beyond) enjoyed giving back to their communities last April – and we can't wait to do it again in 2016! If you'd like to participate, please contact the alumni office at 325-793-4608.

For a full and up-to-date listing of events, please visit: mcm.edu/alumni-events

If you would like to help plan McMurry alumni events in your area, please contact the alumni office at 325-793-4608 or email alumni@mcm.edu



FORTH ANNUAL MCMURRY ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

Supporting the Science
& Math Advisory Board

Saturday, March 5, 2016
8 a.m. Shot Gun Start

Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center
12900 Mount Olympus
Universal City, TX

EARLY BIRD ENTRY FEE THROUGH 1/31/16:
\$100 per golfer
INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE
SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME
More info online at
connect.mcm.edu/events/alumni-golf

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**OVER 90% OF
MCMURRY
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RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID.**

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give.mcm.edu

ClassNotes

'50s | **RICHARD TUCKER '59**, a sculptor from Custer, SD, was the alumni artist for our Homecoming 2015 art show. He also designed and created this year's Distinguished Alumnus award. Thank you, Richard!



'60s | **SARAH FREY '69** and daughter **LEESA FREY FREEMAN '96** returned to McMurry

homecoming to fulfill the last wish of their husband and father, **GORDON FREY '69**. Gordon was Freshman Class President in the fall of 1965 and was very involved with Homecoming and the bonfire; his wish was to have his ashes scattered in the bonfire at Homecoming. The family received permission from the president and honored that wish this year with many family members and friends attending.

'80s | **DAVID OSBORN '83** has been promoted to executive vice president and chief lending officer at WestStar Bank in El Paso. He has 32 years of lending experience and continues to oversee the bank's lending activity, including managing all lending officers.

SUSAN NIX '86 has been working at West Texas A&M University since 2003. She earned her M.Ed. and Ed.D. from Texas Tech University in 1996 and 2001 respectively. She has taught elementary school and served as an assistant principal, and principal before becoming the program chair for the Educational Leadership program. As of September 1, 2015 she is officially a full professor. Susan writes, "I am humbled,

knowing all the individuals and various committees who were included in the process of examining my work. I share this with you because of my excitement about the next journey I am about to undertake. And, I am proud of the first step that took place with graduation from McMurry."

'90s | **JOLISA HOOVER '92** has been selected as a full-time Washington Fellow for the U.S. Department of Education's 2015 Teaching Ambassador Fellows Program. JoLisa is a founding 2008 Classroom Fellow and 2014 Alumni Fellow from the Leander School District in Texas where she has taught fourth grade at River Ridge Elementary School. Congratulations JoLisa!

JENNY (TERRELL) FEENSTRA '99 and husband Nathan welcomed a baby girl, Katelyn Elizabeth, in January 2015. In February, Jenny was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Optometric Association. And in May she was honored with the "Volunteer of the Year" award from the University of Houston College of Optometry. Congratulations on all the great life events, Jenny!

SCOTT JAMESON '99 was promoted to chief operating officer at West Texas Rehabilitation Center. A Coleman native, Scott has been with WTRC since 2002, and has served as director of the organization's orthotics/prosthetics departments in Abilene and San Angelo the last six years. Congratulations Scott!



'00s | **KIMBERLY STANSBURY '00** received Teacher of

the Year for the 2014-2015 school year for Noel Elementary in Odessa, Texas, where Kimberly has taught fourth grade for eight years. This is the second time in three years she has received this award; previously it was for 2011-2012. Kimberly is pictured with Board of Trustees Secretary Teri Ervin, Board of Trustees President Dr. Steve Brown, Board Member Doyle Woodall, and Superintendent Tom Crow. Way to go Kimberly!



LORIE SPRAGUE '01 graduated from Stephen F. Austin University with a Masters of Education in May 2015. She is currently working towards her Educational Diagnostician Certification. She is employed by the Krum Independent School District as a pre-kindergarten and PPCD teacher. Pictured with Lorie are her husband, Mark Sprague '01, their oldest daughter, Victoria and their youngest daughter, Amelia.



DAVID '01 & TRACI STOUT WALKER '02 welcomed Emma Jo Walker on May 12, 2015. Emma Jo joins big sister Tyler

Ann, age seven. Congratulations Walker family!

Moved? New Job?

Update your information and submit a classnote to let your fellow McMurry alumni know about the milestones in your life—including everything from weddings to births, retirements to awards, adoptions to promotions. We'll print your update and photos in *The Messenger* and deliver to over 11,000 of your McMurry friends and family!

Send your note by email to Suzann Coutts, Director of Alumni Relations, at coutts.suzann@mcm.edu or **fill out and mail this form** to The Messenger, 1 McMurry University, #938, Abilene TX 79697.

NAME

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

CLASS NOTE:

(use additional sheet of paper if needed)



DR. DREW HILLHOUSE '03, a biology graduate who received his Ph.D. in medical microbiology

from University of Missouri-Columbia, has accepted a position as research assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University. He will also be the assistant director of the Texas A&M Institute for Genome Sciences and Society. In his capacity, he will be collaborating with McMurry scientists on projects of mutual interest. Drew is the son of McMurry alumna, and member of the Science Wall of Honor, **DR. LEE ANN ODOM HILLHOUSE '76** and nephew of Head of Security **MARK ODOM '82**. Congratulations Dr. Hillhouse!

TYSON ALEXANDER '05 and wife Lisa share a photo of their son Jase in his Future McMurry War Hawk bib!



ANA BARRIENTOS MCBRIDE '05 and her three sisters were featured on Good Morning America to share their story on becoming debt free.



ANNALISE ALLEN '06 and Russell Allen share a photo of their son sporting his Future McMurry War Hawk bib – thanks for sharing Allen family!



TJ HUNTER '06 is pictured with his new daughter wearing her Future McMurry War Hawk bib. Thank you for sharing this with us, TJ!

MATT '07 & KELLY PROCTOR '08

welcomed a little boy, John Ellis Proctor, on July 24, 2014. Here he is in his Future McMurry War Hawk bib! Thanks for sharing Proctor family!



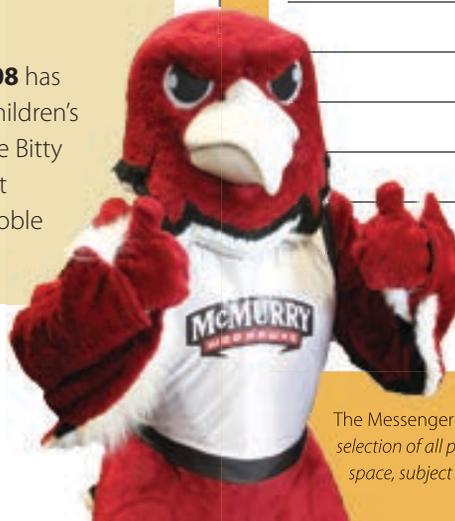
CHARLES '11 & ELIZABETH WHITING JONES '10 welcomed daughter Madeline on April 7, 2015. Congratulations

Jones family!

ALUMNI AUTHORS

WALTER HOFHEINZ '79 has published a coloring book of hand drawn mandalas. He originally began drawing the mandalas under the direction of Dr. Bob Monk many years ago. For more information about the book please visit ninetydays.com/book.php. The book is also available at Amazon.

LUISA R. CANTU '08 has published her first children's book, "Wow, My Little Bitty Baby." It is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and eBooks.



The Messenger reserves the right to make the final selection of all photography based upon available space, subject matter and photo quality.



In The Spotlight

Maybe no one at McMurry is happier for Leesa Frey Freeman '96, who has success with two books to her name than a former professor, but not the most logical one. She did take a lot of English classes at McMurry, but no creative writing classes. Instead, it was her sociology classes under Robert Wallace that eventually led to her creative treatment of social issues. So, when Leesa decided to attend homecoming in October, she sent Wallace a copy of her new book, "Into the Deep End," and scheduled time to visit with him.

"He was just so excited for me," she said.

Leesa lives in Bristol, Connecticut, with her husband, Jason, and two daughters, ages 18 and 12. While at homecoming, she finally sat in on a creative writing class. But she wasn't a student. Instead, she addressed a combined class of students from Cole Thompson's creative writing class and Wallace's sociology class.

Her new book is about the struggles of a young man who is a paraplegic after suffering a spinal cord injury in a car wreck that killed his twin sister and his best friend. Before the accident, he was in training for the Olympic swimming finals. The idea for the book came to Leesa like many of her ideas.

"I have rooms for rent in my head, and a guy in a wheelchair moved in," she said. "I didn't choose him so much as he chose me."

From there, Leesa took over. She spent six months

researching spinal cord injuries before attempting to write. She had no formal training in creative writing but knew she was driven to write a book about the guy who had moved into her head.

"It really scared me," she said, "because I had no idea how to write this book."

But she forged ahead and completed the project. Her interest in social issues and how people handle them can be traced to her freshman year at McMurry in 1993. She didn't know what she wanted to do, but her roommate was a sociology major and Leesa loved listening to her talk about what she was learning.

"I think I was a sociology major before I took my first class," she said.

She hopes that people suffering from addiction or

She hopes that people suffering from addiction or paralysis will recognize their own story in her books.

paralysis will recognize their own story in her books. And, she hopes her books will help sufferers explain their feelings to others.

Leesa grew up in Carrollton but knew

about McMurry all her life. Her grandfather, the late W.K. Frey, was dean of admissions at McMurry and her father, the late Gordon Frey, was freshman class president when he attended.

Gordon Frey graduated from McMurry in 1970. Leesa's mother, Sarah, was a member of the Class of 1969.

"It's the whole big circle kind of thing," Leesa said of her McMurry experience.



ATHLETE PROFILE

Mary Affleck '16

The United States' neighbor to the north has given us many good things. Any baseball fan certainly enjoyed the Toronto Blue Jays run in 2015 and Canada no

doubt has one of the most beautiful national anthems. Then there's Jeopardy host Alex Trebek, William Shatner (Star Trek's Captain Kirk) and songstress Shania Twain ... Canadians all. And you can't beat their version of "bacon" topping on a pizza, while also getting credit for the invention of peanut butter and (of course) Canada Dry Ginger Ale!

But for McMurry University's cross country program, senior Mary Affleck '16, has been the premier "import" from Canada. A native of Bradford, Ontario - located 42 miles (or 68 kilometers for the locals) north of Toronto - Affleck came to Abilene from Holy Trinity High School after being recruited by former McMurry cross country coach David Chandler.

During her career at McMurry - where she also competes in distance events for the War Hawks' storied track program - Affleck has been a model of consistency ... both while running and in the classroom. As a freshman, she had a top-10 finish at the Bill Libby Invitational, helping McMurry to the women's team championship. By her junior season in 2014, her efforts helped the War Hawks to a seventh place finish at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) championships. She has not missed a race in her career and, as a junior and senior, has finished as the top McMurry

runner at events on a regular basis.

"One of the philosophies of our program is to get better every day," said Zach Leggett, McMurry's current cross country head coach and benefactor of Affleck's talents. "The only way to do that is to train consistently at a high level. Mary works hard every day. She trains the right way and is very easy to coach. She really sees the "big picture" and she knows what she needs to do to get better. All of those things, combined with tremendous work ethic, have really set her up to be successful in the long run."

She is equally successful in the



classroom, earning NCCAA Scholar-Athlete status and helping the McMurry team to an NCCAA Scholar-Team designation in 2014, while also receiving American Southwest Conference All-Academic accolades. An accounting and business management double-major, Affleck attributes her accomplishments to discipline and balance.

"I'm kind of a driven individual on my own," Affleck explained. "I'll usually choose to make sure my school work is done before I go have fun. The biggest thing is setting goals for yourself and sticking with those goals, athletically and academically. Then you have something to work for."

"I like having the small classes and I wasn't sure I would," Affleck recounts of her time at McMurry, who originally was considering larger universities. "I like having the smaller classes because I get to know my professors, which is something I didn't think I would care about, but it's been nice having that connection with them. McMurry professors will end up writing your reference letters and at a bigger school they can't really do that as much for you. That's been a real cool experience."

"We have a lot of good professors in the business program!"

Leggett knows that he has a valuable commodity with Affleck on his roster.

"Mary truly epitomizes the Dill philosophy of putting academics first," recounted Leggett. "She works just as hard on her studies as she does on the track. She understands how important her education is and what it takes to get where she wants to go."

"Mary leads by example. She is a very good role model for the new folks in our program. She has worked very hard to put herself in a position to be successful."

Wendell Tooley

Former McMurry Board of Trustees member and alumnus Wendell Tooley died on October 11, 2015. One of his greatest loves was serving on the board of trustees of McMurry University for almost 40 years, where he was honored as a Distinguished Alumni in 2005.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from McMurry University, and a master's in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1950.

He made his mark in the newspaper and printing business for over 50 years. He owned and published newspapers in Floydada, Ralls, Crosbyton, Slaton, Canyon, Tahoka, Lockney, Tulia and Littlefield. He was named to the Panhandle Press Association Hall of Fame and was recognized for "50 Years of Service to Newspapers" by the Texas Press Association.

Raymond McDaniel Jr.

Former McMurry Board of Trustees President Raymond Allen McDaniel, Jr., 81, passed away on April 18, 2015.

Raymond enjoyed a long career as a leader in several business enterprises. He spent 30 years working at Texas Coca-Cola Bottling Company. He served as its President from 1974 until his retirement in 1986.

In addition to his many years serving on the McMurry board, McDaniel's community service included serving as President of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, President of the Abilene Zoological Society, President of the Abilene Industrial Foundation and chairing many non-profit agencies in Abilene.

William "Bill" Barrick

Former McMurry Professor Dr. William "Bill" Barrick died on June, 24, 2015.

He and his family moved in 1977

to Abilene, Texas, where Bill and his wife Jean both taught at McMurry. Bill served on the faculty in the Religion Department and enjoyed teaching courses on the history of Christianity and world religions. After 33 years in Abilene, he relocated to Georgetown, Texas.

Bill Dulin

Former McMurry Professor Dr. Bill J. Dulin died on June 26, 2015.

He was recruited to head the Mathematics Department at McMurry University in 1971 where he later served as the Chair of the Science Division and the Chair of the Computer Science Department. He worked at McMurry for 29 years where he positively impacted hundreds of students. He also worked as a visiting professor at The University of Texas in Austin doing research in Mathematics.

Bryan Mahon '48 of San Angelo, TX died August 6, 2015.

D.G. Porterfield '51 of Abilene, TX died February 28, 2015.

Billy Schooler '53 of Odonnell, TX died April 13, 2015.

Jane Wescott Collen '59 of Dallas, TX died August 1, 2015.

Ernestine Hofmann Moore '60 of Fort Worth, TX died June 10, 2015.

Billy "Jack" Rudd '60 of Lubbock, TX died February 23, 2015.

Russell Fuller '65 of Robinson, TX died August 19, 2015.

Barbara Waldon Corn '67 of Baird, TX died September 15, 2015.

Raymond Neil Beeks '68 of Hermleigh, TX, died September 9, 2014.

Carolyn Carl Middleton '68 of Glen Rose, TX died August 24, 2015.

Larry Connell '72 of Georgetown, TX died June 5, 2015.

Robert Robbins '72 of Houston, TX died September 6, 2015.

Molly Burress Boyd '73 of Georgetown, TX died May 19, 2015.

Jan Huie Martin '79 of Abilene, TX died May 28, 2015.

Donna White Wheeler '80 of Abilene, TX died April 29, 2015.

Jean Abbott Shoultz '81 of Abilene, TX died August 1, 2015.

Jennifer Goins Layne '92 of Las Vegas, NV died May 8, 2015.

Melba Hendrick Ellinger '93 of Abilene, TX died April 2015.

Debra Dillon Hays '97 of Odessa, TX died August 11, 2015.

Gordon "Doc" Arnold of Austin, TX died May 23, 2015.

William Barrick of Georgetown, TX died June 24, 2015.

John Carter of Colorado Springs, CO died March 19, 2015.

Lou Smith Cook of McKinney, TX died July 26, 2015.

Bill Dulin of Abilene, TX died June 26, 2015.

Ike Johnson of Plainview, TX died April 23, 2015.

Raymond McDaniel of Abilene, TX died April 18, 2015.

Doris McMurry Neie of Amarillo, TX died June 2015.

William Roach died March 16, 2015.

Jill Scifres died March 22, 2015.

Joe Sharp of Colleyville, TX died March 9, 2015.

Carmen Stecher died March 2, 2015.

Sara Thompson Hardt Queen died April 14, 2015.

Adelle Hopkins Todd died August 18, 2015.

James Bruce "Jim" Waterfield, III of Canadian, TX died July 28, 2015.

Mark Wilcox of Abilene, TX died July 14, 2015.

PLANNING for the FUTURE

Like many other McMurry graduates and current students, Scott Larson '95 believes in giving back to the institution that helped propel his success and mold his understanding to prepare for his path in life.

Making the decision to donate to the University was an easy one. "I choose to give back to McMurry because I had an exceptional undergraduate experience and was given great opportunities," said Scott.

After considering the many giving options, Scott decided the best way for him to give back was through a planned gift to the University.

Scott is an attorney at Dawson Parrish, P.C. in Midland, Texas, but it wasn't too long ago the lawyer was a student at McMurry University studying political science and history.

"McMurry provided me with numerous leadership opportunities. Being a small liberal arts school, I left with experience in different backgrounds that helped me go on to continue my education."

"McMurry has wonderful resources and scholarships that I utilized while I was a student. These resources and scholarships are available to students today. I benefited from those scholarships, and by giving back I get a chance to help someone else have a great experience like I did."

Larson graduated Magna Cum Laude with a double major in political science and history. Larson credits the well-rounded liberal arts



"McMurry provided me with numerous leadership opportunities."

education for giving him the strong writing background that helped him get accepted into law school.

After graduating from McMurry, Scott went on to receive his Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration from Texas Tech University School of Law.

"McMurry is a great institution and we rely on each other's generosity to continue that greatness," explained Scott. "It's a good return on your investment because you're contributing to a great place that provides a solid educational foundation to students."

Many students today are like Scott once was; experiencing life-shaping journeys at McMurry, building a future for themselves and one day being able to provide for future students through a planned gift to the institution that positively impacted them.

They will grow up to be well-rounded and determined adults who wish to continue the circle of gratitude that they received. These donations help McMurry continue to grow and flourish, while providing new and current students with opportunities and scholarships.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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allow McMurry to provide extraordinary opportunities for scholarship and support. Your gifts help every student who has financial need, provide academic and institutional support, and enrich the entire student experience.

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