

SBUlife

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Fall 2012



Ed & Theo Clark
University
Success Center
10th Anniversary

INSIDE: **Homecoming 2012 Recap**

When writing the State of the University Address for the fall Board of Trustees meeting, I began to reflect upon what factors truly determine the state of the University. Based on my sixteen years as president, I believe there are four key sources of data that must be analyzed to determine the state of the University: enrollment data and trends, financial benchmarks, fundraising ability and accreditation.

As an enrollment-driven institution, a good enrollment is vital to the state of the University. This fall semester we have a record enrollment of 3,864 students. The Bolivar campus undergraduate enrollment grew from 1,571 last fall to 1,607 students this fall. For the third time, we have a record number of freshmen, with 459 freshmen again this year. Graduate school enrollment also has had significant growth with 855 graduate students enrolled. The growth in the physical therapy doctoral program and two new graduate programs (an Ed.D in educational leadership and a master's of science degree in nursing) are responsible for this increase. Enrollment on our three satellite campuses is stable. Dual credit enrollment increased significantly this fall.

Several financial benchmarks should be studied to determine the state of the University. Positive annual audits, net assets and balanced budgets are key indicators of financial health. SBU has been blessed with clean audits for the past several years, and our net assets have grown to \$70,700,000. We have been able to successfully balance our annual operating budgets for six out of the last seven years.

The ability to raise funds is crucial to our University. Recently, we have successfully raised funds for the renovation of Mabee Chapel and for the purchase of a new Steinway Grand Piano. We are currently in a campaign to raise \$1,500,000 for synthetic turf on the football field, renovation of the track, press box and the Plaster Athletic Center. We also are raising funds for an academic chair in history honoring United States Senator, former SBU president and alum, Roy Blunt.

The fourth measure of university success is accreditation, including overall university accreditation and discipline-specific accreditation. Accreditation verifies to the public that the University is offering quality programs. The accreditation process also challenges the University to develop an environment of continuous improvement. We had four successful accreditation visits last spring and two accreditation visits scheduled this year. Accreditation is important as we continually strive to offer a rigorous academic program to adequately prepare our students for servant leadership in a global society.

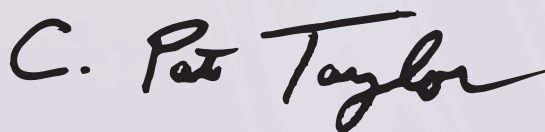
Two additional factors that I believe are just as important to remain a healthy University are people and mission. SBU is blessed with outstanding faculty and staff who are committed to the mission of this University and who are dedicated to helping students. No institution is any better than its people, and SBU is a great University because we have great people. The University must be a mission-driven institution that ensures all decisions and actions are congruent with the mission statement. For one hundred and thirty-four years, SBU has been successful in staying true to its mission.

In Habakkuk 2:1-3, the prophet states, "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the Lord answered me and said, 'Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail.'"

Like the prophet Habakkuk, we must be on our guard and listen to what the Lord has to say to us. We must continue to write our vision where everyone can see it and know that SBU is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. Because of our commitment to our mission and because of our people at SBU, I can confidently say that the state of our University is healthy and strong.

C. Pat Taylor

President





Volume 97 Issue 4
USPS 507-500

PRESIDENT

Dr. C. Pat Taylor

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Stephanie Miller '80

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dr. Stephanie Miller '80

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Lindsay Lewis Schindler '04, M.B.A. '09

DESIGNER

Rollie Skinner '06

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kris Collins; Jessica (Oliver) Drews '09;
Aline Lopes '08, MS '11; Jeff Weseloh '09

PHOTOGRAPHERS

P.S. Dooley; Kellie Harris, Class of 2013;
Sesha Shannon-Smith; Rollie Skinner '06;
Mark Stephens; Grace Weseloh '11;
Jeff Weseloh '09

ADDRESS CHANGE

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
SBU 1600 University Avenue,
Bolivar, MO 65613-2597

HOW TO REACH US:

Phone: (417) 328-1803
Fax: (417) 328-1808
Web: www.sbuniv.edu
Email: smiller@sbuniv.edu
Mail: 1600 University Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613-2597

SBUlife (USPS 507-500) is published in February, April, July, and November. It is distributed free for alumni, parents and friends of Southwest Baptist University by the Office of Marketing & Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. Periodical postage paid at Bolivar, Mo., and additional mailing offices.

SBUlife highlights the University's mission: to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, marital status or disability. Any person having inquiries regarding this may contact Ron Maupin (417) 328-1511.



Ed & Theo Clark University Success Center 10th Anniversary

FEATURES

Cross Country Record Setting Year 12

Homecoming Recap 18

DEPARTMENTS

SBU News 2
Sports Focus 12
Sports News 14
Alumni Focus 15
Alumni Relations 20
Keeping in Touch 22



BY JESSICA DREWS '09

SBU enrollment hits new record

Welcome Week 2012 Student Processional

Enrollment at Southwest Baptist University reached a new record this year, according to President Dr. C. Pat Taylor.

During a quarterly President's Breakfast Friday, Sept. 14, Taylor said a preliminary headcount of 3,812 students will exceed the previous record by at least 96 students.

Undergraduate programs

Preliminary undergraduate enrollment shows a 4.8-percent increase over last year, Taylor said.

"This looks wonderful, and it is wonderful, but maybe it's not quite as wonderful as it looks," Taylor said.

The increase is due, in part, to a growing number of high-school students enrolling in dual credit classes. Taylor said the program has been growing during the last three or four years and this year has 381 students enrolled. This is a 51.8-percent increase over last year's enrollment of 251 students.

"What is happening is that high school students are realizing this is a great oppor-

tunity to get a head start on college," Taylor said. "It is an opportunity for students to get very inexpensive credit while still in high school."

Two years ago, SBU had 306 students enrolled in the dual credit program. That is the highest enrollment until this year. Dual enrollment classes through SBU are available at a variety of high schools in the area, and even places such as Rolla High School and at a high school in Anchorage, Alaska.

This year, there are 1,607 undergraduate students on the Bolivar campus, an



Grad Ed Department Chair, Dr. Jim Truelove



Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences



SBU Physical Therapy Student

increase of 36 students over last year. According to Taylor, this number is this year's most important enrollment statistic, beating a record number of students from 2009.

"We have blown our record enrollment out of the water," Taylor said. "By far, this will be the largest number of students we've ever had."

Freshmen enrollment is 459 students this year, meeting the all-time freshmen enrollment records from 2006 and 2009. There are a total of 602 new students on campus this year, according to Taylor. On-campus housing welcomed eight more students this year, with a total of 1,003 students calling the Bolivar campus home.

Off-campus programs

Off-campus programs recorded a small decrease in students. The Salem campus gained five students (from 228 to 233), however. At the Springfield campus, enrollment was down 29 students, from 1,050 to 1,021. This is due, in part, to a record number of nursing students failing a pharmacology class, Taylor said. Those students will be able to re-enroll in the spring.

"We have the second-largest nursing program in Missouri," Taylor said. "A few years ago, St. Louis University had the second largest, but the last three years, we have graduated

more RNs than SLU. Our partnership with Mercy is a wonderful partnership for us and I think a wonderful partnership for them as well."

Enrollment at the Mountain View campus is down 13 students, from 154 to 141. This is due to competition in the area from Missouri State University-West Plains, Mineral Area Community College and Three Rivers Community College, Taylor said.

Graduate programs

Enrollment in SBU's graduate programs is up 42 students to 803, Taylor said, although students can still enroll so numbers may continue to increase. Total headcount in the business administration program is down 17 students this year because SBU is working on a two-year phaseout of the program.

"The MBA program has been a challenge for us since we started it in 2001," Taylor said. "We've never been able to carve out a market niche. Everybody has an MBA program. Many of them are online.

"We have a policy here at SBU that all graduate and off-campus programs have to be self-sustaining; they have to pay for themselves because we don't want any graduate program or off-campus program draining the Bolivar campus program because that is our primary purpose."

Taylor said the university began to ana-

lyze the MBA program three years ago and said the school is losing money on it.

"Right now, indicators tell us it's a program that we probably need to let go," Taylor said.

Enrollment continues to grow in the education programs, with 52 enrolled for the doctorate program in educational administration. Taylor said the university expected 32 to enroll.

The university received 700 applications this year for 80 spots in the physical therapy program. Taylor said accrediting agencies will cap the enrollment at 80 students per year. Also, the school does not have enough faculty and clinical space to admit more students.

"We'll be admitting 80 a year from this point on," Taylor said. "Getting this program has really been a blessing to this university, and it is a great program."

Total headcount

Total headcount of SBU's programs is 3,812 students and counting, according to Taylor. This exceeds its largest enrollment of 3,716 in 2009.

Copyright Bolivar Herald-Free Press. Republished with permission.



2012 Convocation

From left to right: Provost Bill Brown, Donald Denton, Dwight Haun, President C. Pat Taylor

Southwest Baptist University recently began its official academic year with a formal convocation in Pike Auditorium on the Bolivar main campus. The annual convocation address was presented by Dr. Dwight Haun '81, associate professor of education, and recipient of the 2012 Orient B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award.

The Distinguished Teacher Award is chosen by the current and three previous graduating classes and is presented annually to a faculty member for "outstanding teaching ability and personal guidance."

Dr. Donald Denton, associate professor of theology, was recognized for receiving the 2012 Parkway Distinguished Professor Award. The Christian College Education Committee of Parkway Baptist Church in Saint Louis awards this honor annually to faculty members from each of the four Missouri Baptist colleges who have made outstanding contributions to Christian education.

Dr. Dwight Haun 2012 Orient B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher

Dr. Dwight Haun joined the SBU faculty in 1998 as assistant professor of teacher education. Currently, Dr. Haun is the director of teacher

education, chair of the department of education, and associate professor of teacher education. He served a term as president of the SBU Faculty Senate, is a double recipient of the Orient B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award for 2005 and 2012, a Faculty Life Beautiful Award recipient, and he has received the SBU Faculty Newcomer of the Year Award.

An alumnus of Southwest Baptist University, Dr. Haun earned his Bachelor of Science in mathematics and physical education in 1981. He earned a Master of Science in secondary education and mathematics from Southwest Missouri State University and in 1990 a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Haun is a member of the National Middle School Association, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. In 1995, he was awarded the Master Teacher Award for the Bolivar R-I Schools.

Dr. Haun and his wife, Verna, also a graduate of SBU, reside in Bolivar and have two sons, Kendall, who is married to Leigh Anne, and Grant. The Haun family attends First Baptist Church in Bolivar.

Dr. Donald Denton 2012 Parkway Distinguished Professor

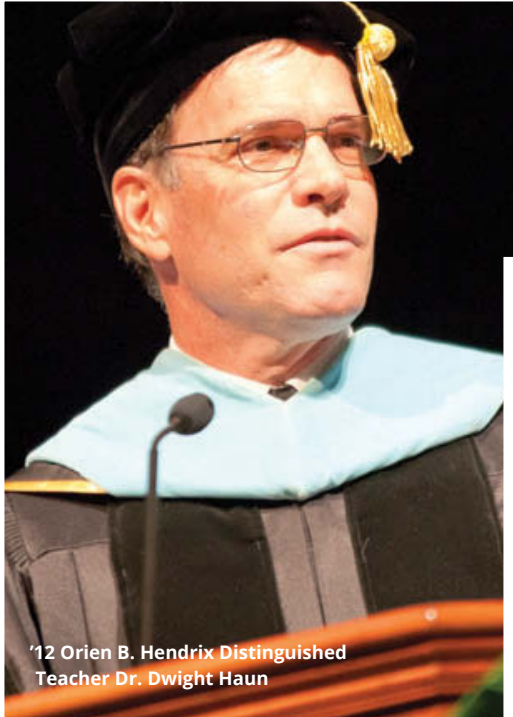
Dr. Donald Denton joined the faculty of Southwest Baptist University in 2003. Dr. Denton has made significant contributions to his discipline. His dissertation was published by the prestigious T. & T. Clark Publishers and was recently included in the digital Logos Library for scholars. He has presented research papers to national and international meetings of biblical and theological scholars. He has contributed several articles to top-level referred journals. He also has submitted his research to a book of essays produced by international scholars. In short, Dr. Denton is a recognized scholar in gospel studies, cited often in major books and journals of biblical scholarship.

An invaluable member of The Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry faculty, he was instrumental in developing a new academic major in the Redford College. Recently, he established a new chapter of the national honor society for theology students, Theta Alpha Kappa.

Dr. Denton received his Bachelor of Arts from Southeastern Louisiana University, a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of



'12 Parkway Distinguished Teacher
Dr. Donald Denton



'12 Orien B. Hendrix Distinguished
Teacher Dr. Dwight Haun



'12 Staff Newcomer of
the Year David Marsch



'12 Faculty Newcomer of the Year Bethany Messersmith

Philosophy from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Dr. Denton and his wife, Diane, have one son, Joshua. The Denton family is active at their church, serving their community by participating in mission trips, service organizations, and ministries to women and children. In addition, Dr. Denton leads Bible studies at home and preaches for churches in southwest Missouri.

The faculty and staff Newcomer of the Year awards also were introduced during the formal convocation.

The 2012 Faculty Newcomer of the Year is Bethany Messersmith

Messersmith has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Millersville University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts degree in Journalism, and Master of Science degree in Library Science from Indiana University. She

currently serves as an assistant professor of library services on the Bolivar campus.

Prior to coming to SBU in June of 2011, she was a library assistant at Ephrata Public Library in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, an office assistant at R.E. Sutton & Associates in Brownsburg, Indiana, and an intern in the University Libraries and Communication Department at Indiana University.

Her dean, Mr. Edward Walton, said the following about her: “She has been an inspiring member of the University Libraries faculty—bringing enthusiasm, energy, and professionalism to every project she undertakes. She has a passion for information literacy—enabling students to be lifelong learners. She has revitalized the University Libraries’ information literacy program. She has worked closely with the University Success Center in developing a stronger information literacy program to help students critically evaluate information and transfer

information literacy skills to other courses.”

She has a deep desire to mentor young women. When the request for Small Group Leaders for the Community Life and Worship was announced, she immediately responded. In each semester since, she has mentored a group of students. She is an active member of First Evangelical Free Church in Springfield where she serves on a women’s ministry team, a greeter team, and in the nursery.

The 2012 Staff Newcomer of the Year is David Marsch

Marsch graduated from SBU in 1997 with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in secondary education, and received his master’s degree in elementary education from SBU in 2008. He is currently a help desk technician. Prior to working at SBU he was employed by the Bolivar school district as an elementary teacher at the Exceptional Pupil Cooperative Alternative School.



SBU's new faculty for 2012-13
 From left to right, back row: Dr. Jennifer Fox '07, Dr. Becky Schoenberg '08, Dr. Bev McNeal and Bethany Woods
 From left to right, front row: Dr. Nathan Wright '05, Rebecca Carlson, Jane Berg, Karlae Callahan, Dr. Tao Wei.
 Not pictured: Kevin Day, Rebecca (Koe) Godsey.

2012 CONVOCATION STORY
 CONTINUED

He came to SBU highly trained in repairing computer devices. Since he is an SBU graduate, he knows our campus and was able to help employees from day one. He provides exceptional computer support with kindness and grace. If he does not know the answer, he will go out of his way to find a solution. He is known by his colleagues to exemplify the University mission statement.

He attends First Baptist Church of Bolivar. He is married to Charlotte, the editor of the Bolivar Herald-Free Press, and has two daughters: Rachel, who is in first grade; and Gloria, who is 3 years old.

New Faculty for 2012-13

The following new faculty members also were introduced during the formal convocation:

Dr. Nathan Wright, is the new assistant professor of economics. Dr. Wright holds a B.A. from Southwest Baptist University

and a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Jennifer Fox, joins SBU as instructor of education. Fox holds a B.S. from Southwest Baptist University, an M.A. from Dominican University and an Ed.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Mr. Kevin Day, is the new instructor of exercise science & athletic training. He has a B.S. from Southwest Baptist University, and an M.S. from University of Central Missouri.

Jane Berg, joins SBU as assistant professor of music. Berg holds a B.M. from Louisiana State University, and an M.M. from Manhattan School of Music.

Rebecca (Koe) Godsey, is the new instructor of communication arts. She has a B.A. from Southwest Baptist University, and an M.A. from Missouri State University

Dr. Bev McNeal, is the new associate professor of physical therapy. She holds a B.S. from Baylor University, an M.S. from

Texas Woman's University, and a D.P.T. from Southwest Baptist University.

Dr. Becky Schoeneberg joins SBU as assistant professor of physical therapy. Dr. Schoeneberg, has a B.S. from Hannibal-LaGrange University, and a D.P.T. from Southwest Baptist University.

Dr. Tao Wei, is the new associate professor of biology. Dr. Wei holds an M.D. from Henan Medical University, and a Ph.D. from Uppsala University.

Karlae Callahan is the new health professions coordinator (Salem). Callahan holds a A.S. from Columbia College, a B.S. from Barnes School of Nursing, and an M.S. from Sinclair School of Nursing.

Ms. Bethany Woods, assistant professor for Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Rebecca Carlson joins SBU as assistant professor (Springfield). Carlson holds a B.S. from Concordia University, and an M.L.S. from University of North Carolina.

SBU's Rob Harris is Promoted to Vice President for Student Development



SBU announced that Dr. Rob Harris has earned a promotion upon successfully defending his dissertation for a Doctor of Education from Northcentral University. Dr. Harris' study is titled, "The Role of E-Mentoring in Helping College Sophomores Persist and Stay Enrolled." The study has implications for improving retention at universities like SBU.

President Pat Taylor said in the announcement to the SBU family: "Rob's title is changing from Dean of Students to Vice President for Student Development. Rob is doing great work with our students, and I appreciate all he does to help our students succeed. He is an asset to our University."

Dr. Harris began his employment at SBU in the summer of 1988. He started as the assistant director of admissions and worked his way through the ranks by becoming the director of admissions in 1996. His time spent recruiting and admitting future SBU students was built upon a personal conviction that Christian higher education provides an extra

dimension that enables students to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

In 2004, he transitioned to the dean of students' position where he has served the University, its students, and other institutional constituents in an effort to help fulfill the University's mission. Overall, he enjoys helping students to think critically, consider new ideas, solve problems, and depend on the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Harris enrolled as a student at SBU in the fall of 1984 and was a member of SBU's football, baseball and Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) teams. He graduated in 1988 with his Bachelor of Science in business administration. He went on to earn his Master of Science in education from SBU in 1996.

Dr. Harris said he and his wife, Lorie, met in their first week of classes of their freshman year, united in matrimony three years later, and just celebrated their 25th anniversary on July 4. Dr. Harris, Lorie, and their three children are active members of First Baptist Church of Bolivar, Mo.

SBU Announces New Vice President for University Relations



Southwest Baptist University President Dr. C. Pat Taylor has announced that Dr. Brad Johnson, Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, has accepted the position of Vice President for University Relations at SBU.

BIOGRAPHY for Brad S. Johnson, Ed.D.

Originally from Lazbuddie, Texas, Dr. Johnson spent his growing up years on the family farm where he enjoyed working with his dad and granddad.

Upon high school graduation he attended Baylor University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in education. He earned two masters' degrees, a Master of Arts in religious education and Master of Arts in marriage and family counseling, from a dual-degree program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 2005, he earned a Doctor of Education from Baylor University. He is licensed by the state of Texas as a professional counselor.

Dr. Johnson has worked in financial aid and

admissions at Howard Payne, McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, and Hardin Simmons University. In 2003, he returned to Howard Payne as Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. In 2010, he was promoted to Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Among his hobbies, Dr. Johnson enjoys reading, outdoor activities, and traveling. However, Dr. Johnson most enjoys spending time with his wife, Laura, six year-old son Evan, and four-year old daughter Elle.

Dr. Johnson and his family have been members of the First Baptist Church in Brownwood where he has served as a Sunday school teacher and chairman of the deacon body. Something unique about Dr. Johnson is that he enjoys collecting toy tractors.

Dr. Taylor said, "I have known Brad for approximately ten years, and I am very pleased that he has chosen to join the SBU family."

ED & THEO CLARK

University Success Center

10th Anniversary

BY DR. STEPHANIE MILLER '80

The success of an institution and the success of its students are intrinsically tied together. One of the institutional performance indicators that measures whether an institution is meeting goals related to student satisfaction and success is the retention rate. The freshmen retention rate is defined as the number of students that enter a college in the fall and return to the next fall. Higher education historically has gauged the success of an institution by factors such as the quality of teaching, research, faculty/student interaction, and/or the physical environment of the school; however, the new indicators of success also include the institution's retention and graduation rates. Retention is not only the result of academic success but is usually considered a measure of student growth and learning, the effectiveness by the institution of meeting student needs, and the extent to which students feel valued and respected.

History

Beginning in the early 1990's, the SBU freshmen retention rate was averaging 64%. With the national average for comparable universities at 72%, SBU administrators recognized the significance that an increase in the freshmen retention rate could have on the overall enrollment. Additionally, the very nature of the mission and purpose of SBU necessitated an environment that produced high levels of student satisfaction and success. With the support of President C. Pat Taylor and Dr. Gordon Dutile (former University Provost), SBU developed and implemented a program called the University Success Center beginning in the fall of 2002.

Given the potential of this program, SBU allocated resources, established policies, and provided services that contributed to an effective Success Center. The program was designed

to be student-centered and allowed for the collaborative involvement of several campus departments. This collaboration would include academics, student services, and administrators working together to define mutual objectives, establish implementation strategies, and design proper evaluations.

The Success Center started with four faculty: Judy Dutile, Sherrie Bayer, Beth Gudmenstad, and Dr. Janet Juhlin, who also served as the director. Each faculty member taught the general education courses of University Seminar and Critical Thinking. Additionally, all entering first year students were advised in the Success Center. In 2011 the Success Center was renamed the Ed & Theo Clark University Success Center in honor of Dr. Ed Clark and the late Mrs. Theo Clark. Dr. Clark is a retired SBU professor who served as the chair of the Accounting Department and Mrs. Clark was Dean of Women at SBU. Today, the Success Center faculty still teach the two general education courses and advise 450 first year students. The faculty today include Dana Steward, who also serves as the director, Dr. Allison Langford, Sherrie Bayer, Ted Bachman, and Jodi Meadows.

The Clark University Success Center program is characterized by a structure that provides intrusive contact with students, collaboration with other campus programs, strategies for student engagement, qualified faculty, and a focus on affective and cognitive needs. The goal is to increase the retention rate, and resulting student success, by helping students get started on the path to success during the first year of college. The systematic support through orientation, advising, and carefully designed introductory courses has increased the freshmen retention rate from 64% to 72%.



Ed & Theo Clark University Success Center faculty and staff
 (left to right) Back Row: Jodi Meadows, Dr. Allison Langford, Dr. Stephanie Miller, Ted Bachman, Susan Powers.
 Front Row: Pam Ferguson, Sherrie Bayer, Dana Steward.

Developed with Research

The Success Center program was developed with the mindset that students enter college with many educational and personal issues. In order to help students succeed and persist, the university must provide services that integrate the complex personal, spiritual, social, and academic skills that are needed to maneuver the higher education environment.

Freshmen success programs should bring together both the academic and student development components of an institution. Helping students persist and succeed at an institution starts with anticipating and meeting transition and adjustment issues. Freshmen need intrusive, proactive strategies that provide for success before they are faced with failure, disappointment, and confusion.

The Success Center program, and the resulting

college student development, is a composite of broad and complex tactics.

- Academic integration refers to the student's ability to establish contact with faculty members, demonstrate appropriate study skills, and conclude that they can persist to graduation. The majority of first-year students are not prepared for the expectations of the average college professor and enter college with an inappropriate mindset about the rigor and demands of collegiate study.
- Social integration refers to the student's ability to develop a social life at college, make close friends, and establish relationships with faculty and staff. Additionally, students need information concerning the institution's values, behavioral norms, and support services.
- Identity formation is thought to be one of the crucial developmental issues faced by students

during the college years. It is during this time that students reflect upon their current life situation and their goals for the future in order to make decisions regarding life after college. Some students may not have strong educational self-concepts and identities. Some students are not fully prepared for higher education, resulting in anxiety, distress, and the absence of a maturity required for effective academic performance.

- Spiritual development is important for students to make career decisions and long-term commitments about service to others, family life, and community involvement. Additionally, it is important to recognize that spiritual development, and particularly faith, in college students is often the support needed through one of the most difficult and uncertain times in their lives. Spiritual development involves deriving meaning, purpose and direction in one's life.

To make this freshmen connection, the student must have direct contact with the institutional resources that are most effective in promoting personal, social, and academic adjustment. Institutions should put their strongest, most student-centered people, programs, and services in the freshmen year. The freshmen retention program at SBU includes the following:

Orientation Programs

Orientation programs help students make a

successful transition to college and become acclimated to the process of higher learning. . Pre-admission programs include informing prospective students and their families about the institution through campus visits, written material, and information programs. After prospective students have applied and been admitted, they participate in pre-enrollment programs which include academic advising, registration, and orientation to the campus. Welcome Week, conducted just before the start of classes during the first year, includes

academic integration, spiritual, social and interpersonal development, transition issues, and logistical concerns.

The integration of freshmen into the academic setting is a critical component of the orientation process. Students also need to develop realistic expectations of the amount and type of work required for academic success. Learning what it takes to be successful academically includes inventing a rhythm for studying and prioritizing tasks and assignments. Orientation



Jodi Meadows

Instructor of University Success Center; Gordon & Judy Dutile Honors Program Support Faculty

"The aspect of working in the Success Center that is most meaningful to me is the collegiality and professionalism of my co-workers. Every faculty member in the Success Center is truly committed to integrity in advising and excellence in teaching. I appreciate the time we spend each semester collecting data and evaluating the impact of our practices on student learning and retention. Although we have autonomy in our methods, we approach the entire process as a team effort which enriches our work environment, as well as strengthens our interaction with students."



Sherrie Bayer, M.S. '92

Instructor of University Success Center; Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator; Upperclassman At-risk Coordinator

"I love working with freshmen at this pivotal time in their lives when they are deciding their major, adapting to college life, and becoming independent. I get to be a part of that process by encouraging students, empowering them with skills that will help them be successful, and challenging them to seek God's will for their lives."



Dana Steward

Instructor of University Success Center; University Success Center Director

"I truly enjoy working with first-year students. I love building relationships with them and providing support and guidance as they begin their college experience. The first year of college is an important time of growth for students and it's an honor for me to walk beside students as they mature and pursue the life that God has planned for them."

activities provide opportunities to meet current students, other incoming students, staff, and faculty. Institutions should take advantage of the positive effect that campus activities have on students' social integration

Higher Education Integration

Orientation programs also provide an opportunity for incoming students to become better acquainted with higher education procedures and expectations. Informational items related to academic programs should include grading policies, graduation requirements, academic honesty, registration for courses, drop-add policies, and academic structure. General information and logistical concerns included in orientation sessions are descriptions of services available, campus traditions, purchasing books, financial aid/business matters, registering a car, using the library, who to call for help, and campus locations.

Another critical component of developing freshmen success is the orientation programs for the student's family. Orientation provides a programmatic intervention that helps educate both the family members and the students about the transition process. Understanding appropriate behaviors related to transition to college can result in the ability for students to function independently while still maintaining an important emotional connection to their families.

Seminar and Critical Thinking

University Seminar and Critical Thinking are two general education classes that set the tone for a student to be successful in college. The University Seminar course is designed to acclimate students to campus life and to the mission of SBU. A major component of the course involves students learning about their strengths and weaknesses as a learner and in regard to how they study. Critical Thinking is designed to promote an awareness of a personal value system as well as to promote the use of

critical thinking skills in the study of issues in today's society.

Advising

The advisors in the Success Center do not just prescribe courses by following a predetermined plan. Instead, the Success Center faculty uses a developmental approach to advising. For the individual student, the advisors consider the student's interests, goals, and strengths when creating academic and career plans. Developmental advising is built on relationships.

Through its design, implementation, and continued collaboration with other departments, the Success Center has been instrumental in increasing the retention rates of first-year students. This improvement reflects the Success Center's role in preparing students to be successful academically and in providing the support students need throughout their first-year experience at SBU.



Ted Bachman

Instructor of University Success Center; Freshman At-risk Coordinator

"I started working for Dr. Stephanie Miller in the Success Center 6 years ago. I moved to Bolivar after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary. My wife, whose familiarity with Bolivar was primarily a product of my storytelling, enthusiastically agreed to return with me to my alum. My experiences at SBU as a student were transformational and so it was natural for me to embrace the prospect of sharing in the instruction and guidance that takes place here at SBU. I am thankful to Dr. Miller and the Success Center for the instructional opportunity to encourage first year students to maintain, the sometimes difficult, but rewarding path. Dr. Miller, thank you for all your work while I was a student, and thank you for your continued commitment to all students at SBU. Specifically, I want to offer my gratitude on behalf of those students who, ordinarily, might not have a chance for success if it were not for your hard work and dedication."



Dr. Allison Langford

Assistant Professor of University Success Center; Associate Provost of Teaching and Learning; Gordon & Judy Dutile Honors Program Director

"What I enjoy most about working in the Success Center is the people. Our students are enthusiastic and eager, and they are willing to accept the challenge to consider why they are in college, to explore who they are and how they can grow, and to evaluate and improve how they learn and how they think. My colleagues are also incredible professionals, individuals, and Christians. Coming to work is simply a joy, an extension of life and family, not a "job." I am blessed to be a part of the first-year experience."



Phillip Miller



Ashley Wolkomir



Trenton Morris



Krenda McClure

SBU Cross Country has record setting year

BY JEFF WESELOH '09

The 2012 cross country season marks one of the best seasons in the history of SBU cross country. Both the men's and women's teams placed 2nd at the MIAA Cross Country Championships, marking the highest conference finish for the women in the history of the program. Two weeks later the men's team qualified for the NCAA National Championship for only the second time in school history.

The Bearcats used a strong base from the summer, key workouts during the season, and a good balance of races throughout the year to help perform at a high standard during conference and regional competition. During the regular season, the Bearcats put together some of the strongest individual performances SBU cross country has ever seen. At the Jackling Jocks Invite, Ashley Wolkomir ran the fastest women's 5,000 meter time

in school history (17:53.12), while Phillip Miller followed her performance up by running the fastest men's 8,000 meter time in school history (24:33.13). During the season, Wolkomir claimed two MIAA Athlete of the Week awards while Phillip Miller and Cody Troy Smith each earned the honor once.

The Bearcats rounded out their 2012 season with strong performances at both the MIAA Championships and the NCAA Central Regional Championships. At the 2012 MIAA Championships, Ashley Wolkomir tied for the highest individual finish of any women's runner in the history of the program when she placed 3rd in the women's 6,000 meter race. The women's team had two All-MIAA performers in Wolkomir and Krenda McClure helping them to tie their highest conference finish in the history of SBU women's cross

country. On the men's side, the Bearcats also had two All-MIAA performers in Phillip Miller and Trenton Morris. Miller finished 2nd overall during the 8,000 meter race, while Morris took 8th place, helping lead the Bearcats to a 2nd place team finish. "I was very proud of the effort both teams displayed at conference," head coach Corey McElhanehy stated about his teams. "We ran some great races, but came up a little short of an MIAA Championship. This was the closest, most competitive conference meet we have had in several years. I was very proud of how both teams reacted at crunch time."

The Bearcats looked to use the momentum and confidence they had gained from 2nd place finishes at conference to propel them to qualify for the NCAA National Championships. The women's team ran a tough race at the



(from left to right)

Back Row: Mandy Brady, Briana Watson, Ashley Lawson, Corey McElhaney, Christina Owensby, Katherine Sitzes

Front Row: Emily Cumpton, Alexis Lindemann, Karissa Fisher, Ashley Wolkomir, Krenda McClure



(from left to right)

Back Row: Derek Lee, Trenton Morris, Phillip Miller, Corey McElhaney

Front Row: Luke Karamitros, Drew Cargill, Josh Inman, Cody Troy Smith

2012 NCAA Central Regional Championships, but came up just short from qualifying for Nationals. The Bearcats finished 6th as a team, with five teams advancing to Nationals, but recorded the highest team finish in the history of the program. The women's team also had two individuals earn All-Region status for the first time in program history in Ashley Wolkomir and Krenda McClure.

At the 2012 NCAA Central Regional Championships the men's team qualified for the NCAA National Championships for only

the second time in school history. The team was once again led by Phillip Miller who placed 4th overall, the second highest Regional finish in school history, to help lead them to a 4th place team finish. The Bearcats also had the most single season All-Region runners in the history of SBU men's cross country with Phillip Miller, Trenton Morris, and Cody Troy Smith all earning the prestigious honor. "Today our men ran lights out," Coach McElhaney stated after the regional race. "I truly could not have asked too much more out of them. I am so proud of how they ran today."

The future looks bright for both the men's and women's cross country teams. The SBU men's cross country team will look to be the most successful team in school history when they take to the course again on November 17 at the 2012 NCAA National Championships. The Bearcats will look have the highest national finish in school history. On the women's side, the Bearcats have the potential to return every runner in their top seven, and will look to make their first NCAA National Championships appearance in 2013.

NCAA Infractions Report

Southwest Baptist University's head men's basketball coach committed recruiting violations and failed to promote an atmosphere for compliance, according to findings by the NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions. Penalties include one year of probation, multiple recruiting limitations, scholarship reductions and a suspension for the head coach for two conference games.

Penalties include:

- Public reprimand and censure.
- One year of probation from May 23, 2012 through May 22, 2013.
- A coaching suspension for the first two conference games of the 2012-13 men's basketball season for the head coach.
- Removal of texting privileges from the head coach's phone during the 2011-12 academic year (self-imposed by the university).
- Participation by the head coach in ethics training within 60 days of the release of the infractions report and an NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.
- Reduction of allowable men's basketball scholarships from 10 to eight scholarships for the 2012-13 year.
- Prohibition from any on-campus recruiting activities for a 12-week period and elimination of off-campus recruiting activities for six months, beginning August 1, 2011, for all men's basketball coaching staff. (self-imposed by the university)
- Suspension of all official visits for the 2011-12 academic year (self-imposed by the university).
- The men's basketball staff may not send or respond to any text messages during the one-year probation.

2012-13 Winter Sports Preview

BY JEFF WESELOH '09

The SBU winter sports are shaping up to have a very successful 2012-13 season. The men's basketball team is coming off of their eighth consecutive MIAA post-season appearance, the women's basketball team is in their second year under head coach Todd Voss, and the indoor track and field team is coming off of a record setting year.

Last season head coach Jeff Guiot led the men's basketball team to an SBU record eighth straight MIAA post-season tournament appearance as well as becoming the winningest coach in SBU history. The Bearcats only return three players from last year's squad, Kyle Sloan, Ricky Odige, and Preston Guiot, but Coach Guiot is looking for significant contribution from these three players on this year's team.

Preston Guiot was the second leading scorer on the Bearcats last season, averaging 12.7 points per game and 5.1 assists per game, while Kyle Sloan gave SBU 12.0 points per game while pulling down 3.4 rebounds per game. To compliment the two starters returning from last season, Coach Guiot has returning senior Ricky Odige and has brought in four junior college transfers and seven freshman to fill out his squad. A major strength of the men's team coming into the season will be their athleticism and ability to shoot the three. The Bearcats will once again find themselves contending for an MIAA championship with the strong team Coach Guiot has brought in.

On the women's side head coach Todd Voss is in his second year of shaping the program and returning women's basketball back to the strong tradition of winning. Coach Voss' team made significant strides last season, and bring back five players from last year's team, including four starters.

Two of the players Coach Voss will look toward to guide this squad will be his two seniors, Brittney Dukes and Chasity Prince. Dukes was the leading scorer on last year's team, averaging 13.6 points per game while Prince led SBU in field goal percentage (51.4%), three point field goal percentage (49.0%), and averaged 9.4 points per game.

A big key to a successful 2012-13 season for the women's team will be the health of the team. Last season the Bearcats struggled through injuries, with key members of the squad not able to play the full 26 game schedule last year. However, Coach Voss believes this team is strong and is coming into the season fully healthy. The women's team has a strong work ethic, culture, and excellent team chemistry that is necessary to be successful in the MIAA.

The final sport of the 2012-13 winter season is the men's and women's indoor track and field team. Last season the indoor track and field team broke eight school records, and are returning two-time outdoor track and field All-American Emma Shell for her junior year. The Bearcats also return Corie Chuning, a national provisional qualifying runner in the 100 meter dash, and their distance medley relay team which also had a national provisional qualifying time last season.

On the men's side, SBU returns Deneko Brown who was a national provisional qualifier in the 60 meter dash, Bill Shell who was All-MIAA performer in 400 meter dash, and the entire Distance Medley Relay team which earned All-MIAA status last season.

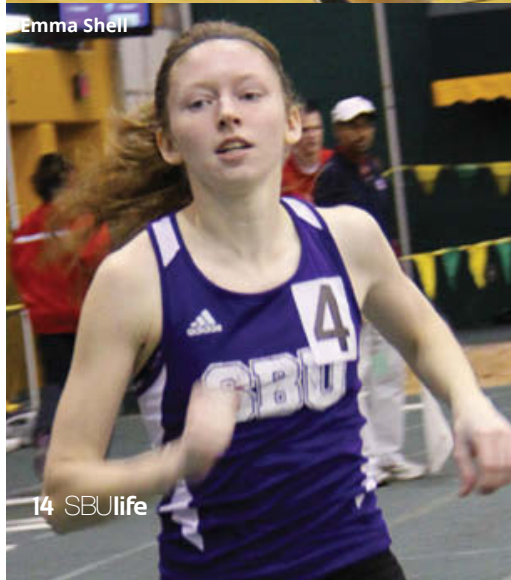
The Bearcats are set to have another strong winter sports season as each team is looking toward claiming MIAA team championships.



Brittney Dukes



Kyle Sloan



Emma Shell

Wren Hall '95



**Springfield Business Journal
2012 Most Influential Women
Honoree: Wren Hall
Citizens Memorial Healthcare**

by Kris Collins

In her role as director of community relations at Citizens Memorial Healthcare, Wren Hall has ample opportunities to help others, primarily through community events and connections to health organizations and schools in the health system's mostly rural service area.

"I get to connect people together so they can really make an impact in the lives of those around them," Hall says, noting she serves on health committees in several counties. "When CMH made it a strategic goal, with very specific actions, to change the health and wellness behavior of our community, I was able to connect with area business leaders and health departments to not only make this a priority at CMH but in all areas and corners of our service area."

The Southwest Baptist University graduate worked for Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home, Ark., as director of marketing for seven years and was an independent health care marketing consultant for two years before landing in her current role at CMH. Among her accomplishments at the health system, Hall points to changing outreach and efforts to educate area patients about health and wellness and CMH services.

"Before I came to the organization, we did a few big events a year that may have had a lot of attendance, but made little impact on creating a change in behavior," Hall says. She uses annual market research to pinpoint the top health-related topics of interest and organizes free monthly lunch-and-learn sessions limited to 50 attendees and hosted by CMH staff experts.

Another annual event, the Mother-Tween Daughter Girls Night, focuses on girls ages 9 years to 12 years, educating them about emotions, body changes, friendships and nutrition.

She also is a member of the board of directors of Polk County Community Connections.

"The group brings all aspects of our community together – government, health, education, civic, et cetera – to learn what is happening in our community and what the needs are," Hall says. She's also on the Mayor's Council on Health and Wellness Committee.

"Recent projects include working with the Polk County Health Department on the Live Well program with area restaurants, nutrition programs in the school district, Bolivar Farmer's Market, sidewalks and bike-friendly streets," Hall says.

Copyright Springfield Business Journal. Republished with permission.

Influential Information

Married for 17 years, Wren Hall and her husband Ellis have two daughters – MacKenzie, 12, and Emme, 9 – and a son, Ryder, 7. Though she has many mentors, Hall says her parents are the most influential. "They are examples of faith, values, dedication, truth and patience," Hall says.

Words to Live By: "To whom much is given, much is expected." –Luke 12:48. "My dad always said this to us growing up. And, of course it was followed by much eye rolling by me. Guess what now hangs over my front door to inspire my family every day? This scripture."

Just for Fun: If you wrote a book or starred in a movie, what would it be about and why? "If I starred in a movie, I would want to be given a role that is just completely out of character for me. Maybe I could be a secret agent in a foreign country. Lots of fire, guns, stunts and fast cars."



Dr. Linda Wooderson '78

**Springfield Business Journal
2012 Most Influential Women
Honoree: Linda Wooderson, Ed.D.
Southwest Baptist University**

by Kris Collins

Empowering the people she works with is a key component of leadership for Linda Wooderson.

“I truly believe that when given the right materials and contacts all things can be done,” says Wooderson, dean of the college of education and social sciences at Southwest Baptist University. “By empowering my academic chairs with the freedom to explore possibilities and encouraging vision within their future academic needs, I can assist them in reaching their goals as I take their desires and fruits of labor through administrative channels.”

Wooderson also is a professor of kinesiology at SBU. “I am a teaching dean, both in the classroom and online,” she says. “I have the same experiences (faculty members) do, and we work together to make things better.”

Wooderson says her proudest moments come from seeing visions or ideas come to fruition, as was the case with the college of education and social sciences.

“This college just developed, from the ground level, two degrees – one undergrad and one graduate,” Wooderson says. “The graduate degree took more than six years to fully develop, survey and secure accreditation with glowing remarks. ... Both degrees are full with waiting lists.”

While Wooderson considers becoming a female dean at the private university a “huge benchmark,” she’s also proud of her role as president of the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, of which every two- and four-year public and private institution in Missouri is a member.

Wooderson says her job as president is to make sure all MACTE participants are up-to-date on educational guidelines, statutes and the actions of the state board of education and the legislature in relation to teacher education.

“Developing committees to speak with our legislature to enhance their working knowledge of teacher education or to persuade (legislators) of the desires of teachers or the future of teaching is a monumental task,” Wooderson says.

Wooderson also has a direct impact on the success of her students, sometimes by helping them secure internships or job interviews.

No matter which role she’s in, Wooderson sticks with a tried-and-true approach.

“Working side by side, pulling my own weight, doing the research and rolling up my sleeves to dig in a little further have been traits I try to exhibit in every situation,” she says.

*Copyright Springfield Business Journal.
Republished with permission.*

Influential Information

Linda Wooderson has been married for 40 years to Dwight Wooderson, construction supervisor at SBU. They have two sons. Joe, who is married with two daughters, is worship pastor at First Baptist Church in Bolivar, and Jason, who is married with a daughter and a son, works as a large-animal veterinarian in Bolivar. Among her mentors, Wooderson points to Louise Wimberly and Norma Bishop. “Both ladies have lived their lives honoring God and serving people unselfishly,” she says.

Words to Live By: “Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.” —Romans 12:11

Just for Fun: If you wrote a book or starred in a movie, what would it be about and why?

“Humor in all situations. I love the line in the movie, ‘Angels in the Outfield,’ saying: ‘It could happen.’ I think all things can happen – we just need to look from different angles, think a little harder, change our perspective or experiment with the possibilities.”



Gil Trout '87

Springfield Business Journal
2012 Men of the Year Honoree: Gil Trout
UMB Bank

Gil Trout is a banker with a keen sense of balance – and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Trout, chairman and CEO of Kansas City-based UMB Bank's Greater Missouri Region, is an active community advocate, with roles including serving as chairman of the Springfield Workshop Foundation, which supports Springfield Workshop Inc., a private, not-for-profit corporation that employs people with disabilities.

He also serves on the board of directors for CoxHealth and is vice president of the board for the CoxHealth Foundation.

"A Welsh proverb states that 'A leader must also be a bridge,'" Trout says. "I take time in my daily life to bridge and blend my life in such a way that I make time for job duties [and] community involvement and ground myself in faith and family."

Trout, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southwest Baptist University and a Master of Business Administration from Avila University, joined UMB in 1988.

"Guiding a productive segment of a well-respected financial institution demonstrates my tangible leadership qualities such as vision, focus and the ability to activate people toward a common goal," Trout says. "The key roles I play in our community – and with individuals – are the true

demonstration of my leadership. My leadership style is founded on being present in the moment with people [and] maintaining compassion and perspective in easy and challenging times."

Trout's current community engagements also include serving as a board member of the Missouri Colleges Fund and as a business advisory board member of the Students in Free Enterprise chapter at SBU. He also serves as a mentor with Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield and is a forum moderator for the Ozarks Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization.

No matter which hat he's wearing, Trout says developing others is rewarding for him.

"I am energized by assisting people in discovering their strengths, opportunities and abilities," says Trout, who's also a volunteer youth tennis coach and vice president of the U.S. Tennis Association's Missouri District.

At UMB, Trout meets regularly with associates, helping them find new avenues for professional growth.

"I provide them with opportunities to build their talents into success (and) have mentored several individuals as they have grown into new leadership roles," he adds. "I understand the processes people must take to achieve their goals and find a quiet sense of inner gratification when they meet those goals."

Copyright Springfield Business Journal. Republished with permission.

Motivating Factors

Family

I am married to my wife Julie, and we recently celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. We have one child, Nate, 11, who is a fifth-grader at Sequoia Elementary.

Words to live by

The quote that sits by my desk is one from St. Augustine: "Patience is the companion to wisdom."

Childhood career dreams

I wanted to be either a tennis professional or a news anchor.

SBU



SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Homecoming '12



2012 Life Service Award Recipients
Left to right: Ch(Col) Jeff Houston; Brian Walker, President of Alumni Board; Dorothy Johnson Laverentz;
Beth Toppass Snowden; Dr. C. Pat Taylor, Dr. Stan Smith, and Jacquelyn Bateman Thorn





Mark your calendar and make plans now to join us for

**Homecoming 2013
October 4 & 5!**

2012 Life Service Award Recipients

DOROTHY JOHNSON LAVERENTZ '53



- AA from SWBC in 1953; BA in education from the University of Missouri Kansas City
- Worked at La Petite Academy
- Attends Northgate Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO
- 10 years of service with Meals on Wheels
- Married to Raymond with one daughter Debbie Howe and husband Kelly. Three grandchildren: Derek, Patrick and Breanna

JACQUYLN BATEMAN THORN '59



- AA from SWBC in 1959; BS in Education from the University of Central Missouri (formerly CMSU) in 1963; MS in Education from the University of Central Missouri in 1973
- Public school teacher for 34 years, retired in 1994
- Member of Hamilton Baptist Church in Hamilton, MO since 1966, serves as church librarian
- Married to Gordon Thorn with two stepchildren: Julie Condit and her husband Eldon of Colorado, and the late Thomas Thorn and wife Mindy of Iowa; one granddaughter, Heather and husband Barry Houk, and one great grandson, Landynn Thomas Houk.

DR. STAN SMITH '71



- BA from SWBC in 1971; M. Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1975; D.Min. from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993
- Serves as the Associate Executive Director and State Director of Missions (28 years) for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey
- Attends East Shore Baptist Church in Harrisburg, PA and serves on the missions committee
- Married to Lynda with 2 children: Stanley Smith, Jr. and his wife, Mirna Kenovich, and their son, Luka Andrew; and Elizabeth Doherty and her husband Ryan Doherty.

CH (COL) JEFF HOUSTON '75



- BA in Religion and Music from SWBC in 1975; M. Div. from Golden Gate Seminary in 1989; Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2012
- Chaplain Colonel in the U.S. Army, 23 years of Active Duty service; four combat tours in Iraq
- Ordained Southern Baptist Chaplain endorsed by the North American Mission Board
- Married to Lisa for 39 years with three daughters: Amy Ashley, Sara Price and Karen Phipps

2012 Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient



BETH TOPPASS SNOWDEN '51

- AA from SWBC in 1951; BS in Education from the University of Central Missouri (formerly CMSU) in 1959; Master of Science in Education from the University of Central Missouri in 1975
- Retired school teacher and counselor; 28 ½ years of service
- Charter member of Susquehanna Baptist Church; teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir
- Married to the late Clay Snowden with four children: Carol Hensley and husband Nelson, the late Jonathan Snowden and wife Diana; Lyndell Snowden and wife Mary, and Glenn Snowden

1964

Mary Jane (Tash) Landreth's fifth book for Barbour Publishing has just been released. She is teaching writing classes for Neosho County Community College in Chanute, KS along with having a writing career. Mary and her husband Jack '66, reside at 421 W. Oak St., Chanute, Kansas 66720. jlandreth445@att.net

1976

Stan Sullinger and Greg Morrow traveled and taught together at the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary located just outside L'viv, Ukraine. Leadership and Homiletics were taught as part of the 20/20 effort of the Future Leadership Foundation to strengthen and expand the church in the Ukraine.

1977

Deborah (McAllister), and husband Dana Brown have three wonderful grandchildren, Kainan, 4; Mikaela, 1; and Joel, 3 months. Deborah and Dana are the proprietors of Deb B's Transport Service. They provide non-emergency Medicaid medical transportation. 805 E 13th St, Mountain Grove, MO 65711.

1978

Michael Rorie recently moved to Westmont, Ill. from Fort Hood, Texas. This was a military move; he will be senior chaplain assistant for 416th Engineer Command in Darien, Ill., an Army Reserve Command.

1989

Mark Sneed has recently moved from Arizona back to Colorado where he has taken a position as Business Development Manager for a small energy company. Mark is looking to reconnect with old SBU friends living in the Denver area. 9741 Saybrook St., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126. marksneed@hotmail.com.

After living in Slater, Mo., for four years **Robin Fry** returned to his hometown of Marceline, Mo., to be closer to his family. He substitutes at several area school districts, writes, and keeps busy with volunteer activities. Last year, he adopted Shiloh, a Min-Pin mix dog who has been a welcome companion. "She's made such a difference in my life that I now advocate pet adoption as well as other issues of the No Kill animal advocacy movement."

Brad Conley accepted a new position as an Actuarial Assistant at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City in March. Brad and wife Carol have two children, Bethany, 2; and Lyndsey, 9. The Conleys reside at 6104 NW 70th St. Apt 108, Kansas City, MO 64151. Bradconley@juno.com.

1986

Wayne Wall has been called as the new Director of Missions for Northeastern Baptist Association in Grove, Okla. He has been a pastor for 29 years. Wayne lives with his wife Lisa at 1621 C NE, Miami, OK 74354. W6wall@reagan.com.



Jim Seward

1990

Jim Seward has successfully defended his final doctoral dissertation, titled "A Collaborative Problem Solving and Youth Residential Counselors' Workplace Stress" Jim who is now the Executive Director of Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa, Inc. (YSC), Ft. Dodge, Iowa, has presented a doctorate of Psychology Counseling Education (Ed.D) by Argosy University during its 2012 commencement exercises on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012 during diploma ceremonies for the Graduate School of College of Psychology and Behavioral Science, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Seward, who earned his M.S. Ed. degree in Counseling Education from Western Illinois University and his undergraduate B.A. in Psychology and Religious Education from Southwest Baptist University has been in the Human Service vocation for over 20 years in a variety of vocations; military, ministry, law

enforcement, and clinical mental health therapy. He has guided others as a military officer, youth pastor, police officer, therapist, and administrator.

2001

Christopher Breshears is the new Director of Communications at the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota. He would love to hear from local alums and Bearcat friends. 14909 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55245. kitbreshears@gmail.com

2004

Jaime Hodson graduated in May 2012 with a Master of Arts in Communications from the University of Oklahoma - Norman. She has worked for three years at Chesapeake Energy Corporation in the Corporate Development department as Coordinator of Government Relations. jaimelhodson@gmail.com.

John Adams and wife Amber will be serving with New Tribes Mission as teachers in Papua New Guinea. They are currently raising support and plan to arrive in PNG in June 2013 to begin teaching missionary children at Numonohi Christian Academy. Updates can be found at ntm.org/john-adams. 9800 Oakley Ave, Kansas City, MO 64137. John_adams@ntm.org.

Future Bearcats

Carrie (Knapp) '01, and husband **Ben Kendall '96** are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Dillon Charles Kendall on February 22, 2012. Dillon has an older brother, Isaac "James" Kendall, 4. "With God nothing is impossible!" Luke 1:37. 116 N. College Ave., Republic, MO 65738. Carsy1219@yahoo.com.

Katie (Lowrance) '02 and Yvan Jean-Louis, would like to announce the birth of their son Benjamin Clency Jean-Louis on May 2, 2012.

Benjamin Brennecke '03 and wife **Melissa (Evans) '03** would like to introduce their new child Evan Curtis Brennecke. He was born August 1, 2011. Evan has an older brother, Lucas, 5. 630 Green Tree Meadows Drive, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367. Thebrenneckes03@yahoo.com.



Breon Family

Daniel Breon '98 and wife **April (Hissink)'99** would like to announce the birth of **Emily Rose**. She was born on October 17, 2011. Emily joins siblings Benjamin, 7; and Cassie, 3. Daniel and

April have moved to Sparta in 2011, having bought their first house. "Daniel is currently holding two jobs, and April stays home with the little ones." April is opening a piano studio in Sparta in November. 440 Sunset St, Sparta, MO 65753. breonfam@yahoo.com. Picture in File!

Elizabeth (Lueker) '04 and husband **David Latall** would like to announce the birth of their daughter **Jayna Lea** born on February 4, 2012. She joins proud big brother **Josiah 4**.

Sarah (McDaniel) '08 and husband **Andy Bryant** would like to announce the birth of their daughter **Lily Marita** on August 25, 2012. She weighted 5lbs 5oz, and was 18.5 inches long.

Anthony '04 and **Lindsay (Lewis) '04 Schindler** welcomed **Luke Anthony Schindler** to their family on October 21, 2012. He was 7 lbs 14 oz, and 22 inches long. Lindsay is the Director of

Alumni Relations for SBU and Anthony is the pastor of First Baptist Church, Osceola, MO.

In Memory

Eva Lou (Hendrickson) Farnham '56 passed away February 19, 2012. She leaves behind husband **Neil '54**, son **David '87**, and four grandchildren. Eva Lou was the organist at **Maplewood Baptist Church** in St. Louis for over 40 years.

Beverly Ricketts Green '50 of Independence, Mo. passed away May 9, 2012. Beverly graduated from **Southwest Baptist College** with an Associate's degree in English.

Please note that alumni updates are published in *SBU Life* in the order they are received, depending on the space available in each issue. Therefore, it may take several months for Keeping in Touch submissions to be printed. Also, we will be happy to list your weddings and babies, but it is our policy not to list engagements or little expectations.



Let's Keep in Touch!

Alumni News: _____

Name: _____ Class of: _____ Degree: _____
(please include maiden name if applicable) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

of Children: _____ Employment: _____

Spouse: _____ Class of: _____ Degree: _____
(please include maiden name if applicable) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

Please do not publish my address Please do not publish my email address

Return to: Southwest Baptist University • Office of Alumni Relations • 1600 University Avenue • Bolivar, MO 65613
You can also complete this form online at www.SBUniv.edu/alumni if it's more convenient.

For more SBU News, visit www.sbuniv.edu/news. Did you know SBU has an RSS news feed? Check it out online!



Dear friends,

What a joy it has been to meet so many of you during this, my first fall at SBU! My wife, Laura, and I are thrilled to be a part of the SBU family. Together, with our children Evan and Elle, we look forward to making Bolivar “home.” You have made us feel so welcome, and for that we are deeply grateful. For those of you, whom we have not yet had the opportunity to meet, we look forward to getting to know you and hearing your stories of SWBC and SBU.

Our work in Christian higher education is fueled by a desire to help students shine brightly in every aspect of their lives and in each endeavor to which they put their hands. Scripture tells us in Matthew 5:15 that we are to “let our light shine before men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven.” Equipping students to know God more deeply, understanding their calling and faithfully serving Him in their life’s work is not only rewarding but also a spiritual responsibility we take seriously. I believe one of our most important roles as leaders in Christian higher education is to prepare students to face the challenges of our world and equip them to be leaders so they can, in turn, be a beacon of light in a world that so desperately needs the love of Christ.

During my time here, I have found SBU to be a mission-focused University where Christ is honored; a place that is caring and compassionate; a place where students are challenged to grow intellectually and a place where students are equipped for lives of service. In a society where much is said about being mission-minded and mission-driven, it is refreshing to find a University that is intentional about working out its mission in very visible and viable ways.

As we prepare to carry the mission of SBU into the future, we are eager to partner with you to secure this unique SBU opportunity for generations of students to come. One significant way to do this is by growing the SBU endowment. While there are many ways of helping the University, growing the endowment may be one of the most strategic means of ensuring that SBU remains strong. The SBU endowment, comprised of funding generously given to the University by alumni and friends, serves as a perpetual support for SBU programs, scholarships and other University functions. These funds allow the University to more easily negotiate economic uncertainties while continuing to fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

In the coming months, you will hear us talk more about growing the SBU endowment and why we believe this effort warrants our attention. If you would like to know more about how you can help in this effort, I will be glad to share with you how the endowment works and answer any questions you might have.

As the Christmas season approaches and we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we wish for you an abundance of joy and peace. May His light shine more brightly through us with each passing year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad Johnson
Vice President for University Relations



Building Bearcat Pride

Twenty-seven years ago, the generosity of Robert W. Plaster, the Plaster family, along with numerous other friends of SBU, funded the construction of Plaster Stadium and the Plaster Athletic Center leaving a legacy that has benefited countless SBU students, fans and community members. We look back and thank those who had the foresight to give us a first-class facility that has been the site of so many memories.

Looking forward, we, the beneficiaries of the past, have an exciting opportunity to come together once again to build SBU pride. You can help establish a new legacy by donating to the Track and Turf Campaign for the Plaster Stadium Complex. Our goal is to raise money to help fund the replacement of the stadium's grass field with safer, all-weather synthetic turf for the football and soccer programs as well as a state-of-the-art competition track—a much needed renovation that will benefit SBU students, our secondary education partners and the community for years to come. Additionally, the Stadium press box is being renovated and new lockers are being added to the Plaster Athletic Center. The cost of these projects is approximately \$1,500,000 and will be financed over a period of time. All donations are tax-deductible.

Contact the Office of
University Relations for
more information

417-328-1805
bjohnson@sbuniv.edu

SBUlife

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613

A life of direction
starts at Southwest

Visit SBU
**Monday @
Southwest**

Jan. 21 or Feb. 18

www.SBUniv.edu/visit

Paper Made from 100%
Post Consumer Waste
PLEASE RECYCLE