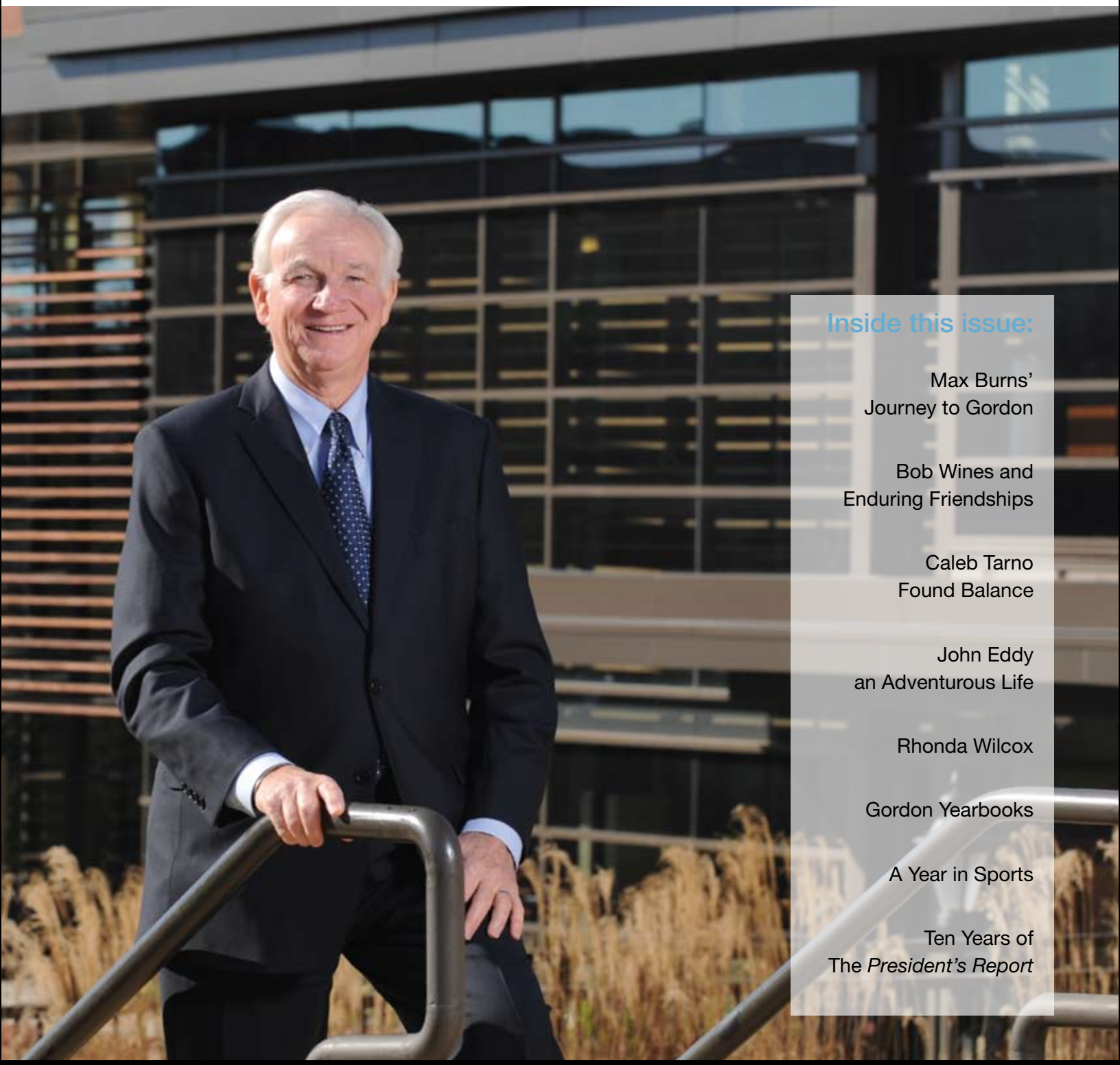
Gordon State College

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

volume 10, number 1

fall 2012



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Ten Years of The *President's Report*

Gordon has a new name and a new president

Judy McConoughey

In the 2008 issue of the *President's Report*, Capt. Bill Branch was featured as one of the College's professors of military science and tactics (PMST) who gave his life in the service of his country.

As part of his story, it became clear that his wife, Judy Branch, had also made a huge impact on the lives of many of Gordon's students. In fact, Porter Caughman, HS '68, had been in touch with Gordon's Advancement Office in search of Judy so he could write her and thank her for being his 6th grade English teacher.

"The moral support I received from you enabled me to grow in self-confidence," he wrote.

Her eldest daughter Jen, who was just a child when her father Bill died in Vietnam, said that "you did not have to be in her class to be taught something by her."

"She was a doer, always laughing, always teaching, and always focusing on others," Jen said. "All my life, I watched her care for people."

At the time Caughman was looking for his former teacher in 2008, she was living in Monck's Corner, S.C., with her husband, Bruce McConoughey. She was already very ill with progressive supra nuclear palsy, something she kept secret from all but her closest family.

"We do not get to choose the path God lays out for us," Judy would tell her daughter. "We only get to choose how we travel."

Judy died almost four years from the date she was interviewed for the *President's Report* – March 15, 2012. At her memorial at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta, Jen ended her eulogy with these words: "My mother traveled well. She brought many of us along for the ride and we, too, are changed. I thank you for being on that road with her, for loving her and for being here today to remember her."

SHE WAS A DOER, ALWAYS LAUGHING, ALWAYS TEACHING, AND ALWAYS FOCUSING ON OTHERS.

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On the Cover: Gordon State College President Max Burns became the College's third president, since Gordon became part of the University System of Georgia in 1972. President Burns was dean of the Mike Cottrell School of Business at North Georgia College and State University before assuming the Gordon presidency.

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Gordon State College President: Max Burns, Ph.D.

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October 23, 2011

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the *President's Report.*

The article you wrote about Bobby Lee Cook was inspiring and reminded me to remain motivated in such a challenging yet rewarding career path.

I would have never known someone as legendary as defense attorney Bobby Lee Cook once graced the Gordon College campus.

Take Care,

Kahla Franklin, Class of 2007

November 15, 2011

Dear Editor,

I've just finished reading the *President's Report*, and I enjoyed it very much. The article about Miss Marion Bush and Maj. Clay Smith brought back many memories. When I was at Gordon (1950 to 1952), Miss Marion was already an institution!

In English literature, when covering some of the more racy (back then) passages in Shakespeare and Chaucer, she would call on a student thus: "Mr. _____, please tell us what you think the writer was saying here, and please choose your words carefully!"

I had Capt. Smith for band at both Mary Persons High School in Forsyth as well as at Gordon. He was a fine person also. I remember many cold winter mornings on the parade ground when the valves on our trumpets would freeze. Then we got out of further practice.

I would like to see someone do a write-up about Prof. Reynolds Bush, my chemistry teacher. His nickname in the Redbone Community, where we both were from, was Jugger. Looking back I believe that he was most influential in my finally choosing a career. I was first introduced to organic chemistry by him, and whereas most students hated it, I liked it.

I went on to the University of Georgia and North Carolina State University and wound up with a Ph.D. in agriculture with a minor in biochemistry. I then taught and conducted research at NCSU for 40 years.

If after going over some point in chemistry several times and a student asked a dumb question, Prof. Bush would answer, "No, no, no. No not no, hell no!"

It was a good learning tool!

You might know my brother, Grover, who lives in Thomaston. His wife, June, taught science at R.E. Lee for many years.

Best Regards,

Doug Worsham

November 13, 2011

Peter,

Awesome *President's Report,* again! I haven't read all of it yet, but the articles and photos on all the people are just so interesting and so well done.

The Triumph 650cc motorcycle John Kelly rides on the Bonneville Salt Flats was Steve McQueen's favorite off-road racing bike. I have always wanted one, but when I think about making contact with a car at 60 mph, I back off.

I am so glad I know you and receive the *President's Report* and all it does to inform us of Gordon's rich history. Memories come flooding back with each issue, and I learn more about so many interesting Gordon alumni that I knew and did not know.

Take care and keep up the wonderful work.

Danks Seel

November 4, 2011

Dear Peter,

Just a few short lines to acknowledge that I received the extra copies of the *President's Report* you sent.

These will go to our daughters and nephew whose dad, Santiago, also went to Gordon for high school.

The article and photo turned out very well. Many, many thanks for dedicating the 2011 issue to David. Gordon was a very important part of his life, and he never forgot it.

Best regards,

Virginia Mari

Spouse of David Mari, Gordon Military College Class of '53

May 1, 2011

Dear Editor,

I thought you all might enjoy seeing this old picture taken in front of the "college building."

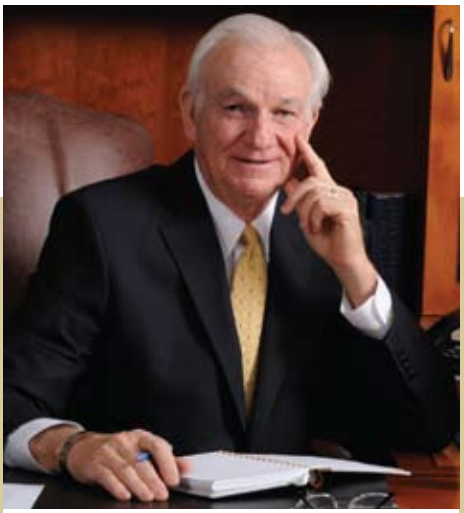
A friend of mine originally from Warrenton, Ga., Nora Clary Bruce, is the daughter of Sarah Guillebeau Clary. Miss Sarah's brother was Col. J.E. Guillebeau, former president of Gordon Military College. In the photo Nora has identified him as "Uncle Joe."

The lady in the picture is Mrs. Glennie Hawks, mother of Barrett Hawks (HS '56).

The man in the overcoat is Dr. J. A. Corry, grandfather of Louise Corry Jackson (HS '55) and Elizabeth Corry Foster (HS '59).

The man on the far right is Maj. George B. Connell, vice president of Gordon, and later becoming the president of Mercer University. The young man on the left is Cadet Lt. Col. W.W. Evans.

Jennie Woodlee



Max Burns
President
Gordon State College

I have heard so many of you talk about the positive impact Gordon has had on your lives. The stories in the *President's Report* say the same thing. This is a great institution and I am humbled to serve as its president.

Dear Friends,

As Gordon State College's new president, I thank you for the warm welcome all of you have given me. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to getting to know those of you I haven't yet met.

I am new, and besides the obvious meaning attached to the word, it makes a good segue into another word. New means change, and Gordon State College today is facing change as great as when it switched from being a private military college to becoming part of the public University System of Georgia.

If you have not already heard you will read in this issue that Gordon College has changed its name to Gordon State College. This name will better reflect the addition of baccalaureate degrees to our mission.

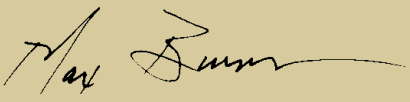
Back in 1972, Gordon Military College was suffering from a drop in revenue. Thankfully, by becoming part of the University System of Georgia, change came to Gordon by way of increases in student enrollment and in funding.

Today in 2012, as we move away from being an institution that primarily serves to transfer students to another institution of higher learning to a destination college for degree completion, we again find ourselves facing financial challenges.

We need your financial support in helping Gordon grow by contributing to the Gordon College Foundation. If all of Gordon's alumni and friends give something, the Foundation would be well-prepared financially to meet the challenges facing Gordon as it grows in uncertain times.

I have heard so many of you talk about the positive impact Gordon has had on your lives. The stories in the *President's Report* say the same thing. This is a great institution and I am humbled to serve as its president. I look forward to your involvement in taking Gordon forward to its future. Please consider investing in the future of Gordon State College.

Sincerely,



President Max Burns with his wife, Lora (far left), daughter-in-law, Rachael, grandson, Luke, and sons Nathan and Andrew. The president's granddaughter, Lily, was born on Aug. 28, 2012.

Making His Way to Gordon

President Max Burns traveled many roads before arriving at Gordon

by Peter Boltz

Although the road between Sylvania and Barnesville, Ga., is not all that long, the route that Gordon State College's new president, Max Burns, took between the two cities is much longer by leagues and leagues. And these travels, both physical and cerebral, are what give him his sense of mission as the College's third president, since the school was assumed into the University System of Georgia in 1972.

"I came from a family with limited resources living in a rural environment in southern Georgia," he said. "My mother was educated; my father was blue collar. We were a two-income family with my mother working as a public health nurse in Screven Co., Ga., and my father driving a bread delivery truck for the Derst Baking Co. of Savannah. But my mother died at age 49 when I was 10, and then we really did have limited resources, because my mother made more money than my father."

"I came from a family with limited resources living in a rural environment in southern Georgia," he said. "My mother was educated; my father was blue collar. We were a two-income family with my mother working as a public health nurse in Screven Co., Ga., and my father driving a bread delivery truck for the Derst Baking Co."

To hear the way he describes his mother and father draws attention to what is perhaps the central value of President Burns' professional life. His mother he describes as educated; his father, as blue collar. His mother, Edith Claire Nix Burns, was a nurse; his father, Othell Maxie Burns, was a delivery truck driver. Both of them firmly committed to education, especially for their children.

Widowed, it was his father who was the driving force behind Burns and his elder sister Barbara to excel in learning and to finish college.

Burns chuckles when he remembers something his father would say.

"You see what I have to do to make a living," his father would "counsel" him. "If you end up like me, I'll jerk a knot on your head."

Despite having only an 11th grade education and coming from a struggling cotton-growing family, Mr. Burns put his two children through college as well as several of his sisters, including one of Max's favorite aunts, his 92-year-old Aunt Louise. And for the record, Max's grandparents, John C. and Daisy Miller Burns of Aiken, S.C., had 12 children.

His sister went to Bob Jones University for a degree in accounting, and Burns went to Georgia Institute of Technology for a degree in industrial engineering. And, perhaps remembering what his father said about jerking a knot on his head, he went on for a master's, then a Ph.D. from Georgia State.

Besides his father, Burns credits his academic success to his sister who is now an accountant for a regional health company in Logan, W.Va. You might call it sibling rivalry

or competition, but however you call it, she set the standard.

"If she got on the honor roll," Burns said, "I did too. If she got A's, I did too."

Burns started his circuitous route to Gordon while enrolled for his baccalaureate at Georgia Tech.

Even though he had help from his father and had earned a scholarship worth two quarters from the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, he still needed money to pay for school, so he signed up for Tech's co-op program. He would go to school for a quarter, then work for a quarter, after landing a job with Pan American World Airways. This job took him from Miami to Atlanta to New York and eventually to Berlin, Germany, in the early '70s when, he likes to say, "Everyone in the city was a spy but me."

He would go to school for a quarter, then work for a quarter, after landing a job with Pan American World Airways. This job took him from Miami to Atlanta to New York and eventually to Berlin, Germany, in the early '70s when, he likes to say, "everyone in the city was a spy but me."

Ironically, when he signed on with Pan Am, he had never flown. Although his first posting was in Miami, he decided not to fly there, instead taking a Greyhound bus.

The first flight of his life was on a Boeing 707, where he was given a seat in the cockpit. Thereafter, he did a lot of flying. He particularly remembers flying on the McDonnell Douglas MD-80 stretch jet, because of its phenomenal behavior during takeoff.

It was called a "stretch jet," because it was so long – its cabin stretched far in front of its wings. Burns liked to sit in the back of the jet, and from that vantage point he could see the cabin bend as the jet strained upwards during takeoff.

His mother had died from cancer, and now, during his years at Tech, cancer began to attack his father. While working in Berlin, his father was diagnosed, and Burns flew home. Although the surgery was successful, his father developed a brain tumor about a year later. At the time, medical science didn't have much to offer as a therapy, and so Mr. Burns chose to leave the tumor be.

By the time Burns had graduated from Tech in March 1973, the tumor had left his father blind, but his tears still worked. Burns said he couldn't remember a time when he had seen his father cry, but when he came home to Sylvania with his degree, he saw his father cry.

Mr. Burns died the following October at age 57.

Burns met his wife of 40 years, Lora, after he completed his last co-op job. They married Christmas 1972. He worked for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in business services, and then in information systems for Oxford Industries in Atlanta, a major manufacturing company at the time, with locations from South Carolina to Mississippi.

Lora and Max Burns were married shortly before Christmas 1972.

Then Congressman Max Burns with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a visit to Israel.

President George W. Bush, Congressman Charlie Norwood and Max Burns.

During this time with Oxford, he earned his master's in business information systems at Georgia State University in 1977, and his son Andrew was born.

Years passed and his second son, Nathan, was born, and Burns earned his Ph.D. in business from Georgia State University.

He still remembers his interview with Georgia Southern University's dean of business, Origen J. James Jr.

"He asked me if I was brilliant," Burns said. "I laughed and said no, but I was a hard worker." Apparently this was a good answer, because Burns was hired.

At this time, 1983, Georgia Southern was about the size of Gordon State College today, about 5,000 students, and it was undergoing a tremendous growth period. It was a great time to learn how to live through and guide such growth, he said, but it's hard to manage if it comes too fast.

When he joined Georgia Southern, he moved his family to his Sylvania farm, which was in reasonable commuting distance to the university. A bit of culture shock was involved in the move, since they were moving from the Alpharetta area north of Atlanta to the very rural southeast of Georgia, but in time, the farm became home in the deepest meaning of the word.

Asked what crops he grows, Burns chuckled and said pine trees. Behind the chuckle is the memory of some of the money he has lost in trying to farm, and some of the hard lessons of farming, as in the time he went to see Willard Roundtree for advice about planting oats.

Roundtree, a long-time friend of his father's, had a lifetime's experience as a farmer and he knew his stuff. "Boy," he said, "you plant oats during the full moon of October."

But it was too late in the year for him to plant in October, so Burns asked if there was another time.

A second time, Roundtree repeated his words.

"You plant oats during the full moon of October."

Burns realized Roundtree's second round of advice came with some additional meaning. He was being told that if he didn't have the time to be a farmer, he shouldn't be one.

"This is good advice in any vocation," Burns said.

So what then does he grow on his 225 acres?

Pine trees, grass and about 35 beef cattle, he said.

He likes that his two sons were young when they moved to Sylvania and were able to grow up on a farm, although not quite the working farm of their grandfather's. In contrast, Burns had farming chores that were tough enough and critical enough to teach him a disciplined work ethic that has sustained him throughout his life.

"By the time I was 6 or 7, I was picking cotton and feeding livestock." Between pigs and cows, Burns said he would choose cows every time. "I've made a deal with God," he said. "If

he doesn't ever make me hungry again, I won't have any more pigs."

During Burns' grade school years, a yellow bus driven by Cliff Potter came to the farm. It was a long bus route, and Potter would often make a stop at Williamson's Store, where the students would often buy candy. Burns said, "Mr. Potter was the kind of guy who would give a child a nickel or a dime if they had no money for candy."

Burns said he got interested in faculty appointments outside of the United States after being at Southern for several years, and in 1989, he was appointed to the University of New South Wales in Australia for the 1990 academic year. He, Lora, Andrew and Nathan found themselves in a two-bedroom flat in Sydney. "With no car, we either walked, rode the bus or rode the train. When we went grocery shopping, we only bought what we could carry."

Lora and Max Burns with a staff member at an Israeli school for repatriating African Jews into Israel.

After his assignment was up, he returned to his duties at Georgia Southern, where he began planning for yet another faculty appointment, this time through the Fulbright Program. He expected his first attempts would be rejected, but wanting to get the ball rolling, he applied without first telling Lora. "That was a mistake," he admits today in boldface understatement.

One day he came home from Southern and met Lora who was standing over a package on the dining room table. When she asked him about it, he explained he had applied for another overseas teaching position but did not expect to be approved; he just wanted to get things going. Just to confirm his assumptions, he opened the package then and there. To his chagrin – but also delight – inside was an offer to teach at the University of Gothenburg and the University of Boras in Sweden.

Once again, the entire family went and had a tremendous experience, not just in living in Gothenburg and Boras, but visiting Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen and London.

And once again, a year passed quickly and they were back in Sylvania. And – you guessed it – once again, Burns sought out an overseas appointment and found one with Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand, for 2001. This time, his sons, both in college, declined to join their parents.

New Zealand marked a new point in Burns's life and not just because of his time at Massey University. Unknown to him, Massey would be his last overseas academic appointment, and 2001 would mark the end of his academic life for several years.

And it happened with a simple phone call not long after he and Lora returned to Sylvania from New Zealand.

"On Mother's Day weekend," Burns said, "a retired highway patrolman friend of mine, Osal Evans, called me and said, 'I want you to run for Congress.'"

Caught off guard, Burns told Evans he was crazy to suggest such a thing, but Evans didn't back off even a little, telling Burns to think about it. By the following Tuesday, he was in the race, winning Georgia's 12th Congressional District, which necessitated his resignation of his tenured professorship at Southern.

"It was exciting," he said. In a relatively short period of time, he went from being a professor of business to being a congressman.

Max Burns (right) with his sons, Nathan and Andrew, and daughter-in-law Rachael during a visit to Hilton Head, S.C., in 2011.

"From November 2002 to January 2005, my life was very different. It was some of the most frustrating and some of the most rewarding work I've ever done," he said.

It was rewarding, he said, because he helped make policy for the good of the country. It was frustrating, because it was difficult to get things done.

And he doesn't resort to partisanship when he talks about this frustration. In his mind, anyone who holds elected office deserves the greatest respect, and this is how he viewed his opponents in Congress. To him, they were "solid citizens with deep convictions" with "the best interests of the nation at heart."

He is proud of his work on the education and transportation committees of the House of Representatives, but he is not grandiose about his contributions. Instead, when he talks about his experiences – like meeting the world leaders in the G8 "all in one day" at their 2004 meeting on Sea Island, Ga. – the experience isn't about him. It's about the greatness of the United States.

"I could not have imagined such opportunities when I was about to graduate from high school," he said. "I want our students to have similar opportunities beyond their imaginations."

He lost a tough election in 2004 and so left Congress in 2005, going to work for a D.C. law firm, Thelen Reid and Priest, as an adviser on energy, transportation and agricultural policy. In 2006, he "fought his last political fight" – a failed re-election bid for the 12th Congressional District seat.

It was during this point in his life, a core value of his family, education, gave him direction. He decided to return to a profession he knew and loved, and in 2007, he joined the faculty of North Georgia College and State University as dean of the Mike Cottrell School of Business.

In 2010, a friend made him aware of Gordon's search for a new president, and he suggested Burns look into it. "I'm glad I took his advice," Burns said.

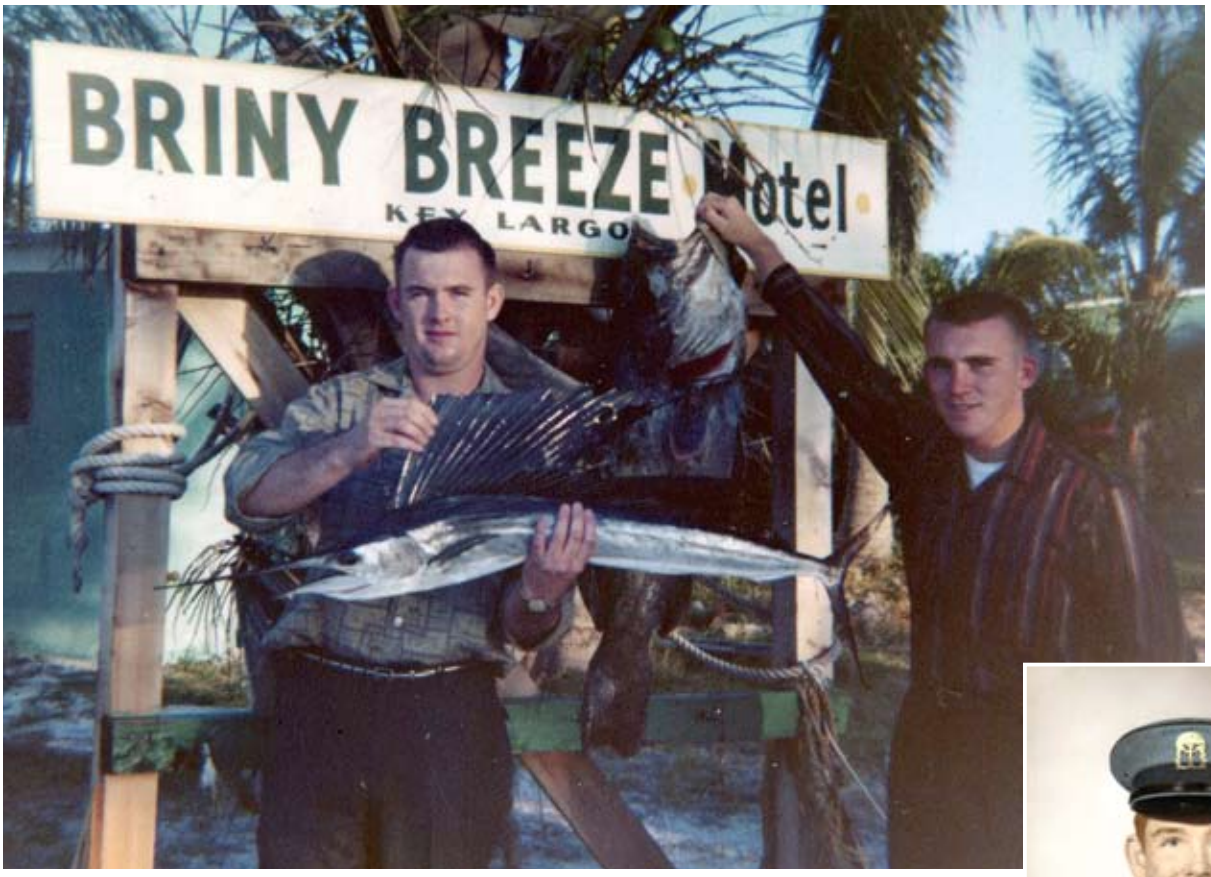
It seems that for him, being president of Gordon State College is yet another one of those opportunities he could never have imagined, and he wants Gordon's students to have a similar experience of the unforeseen and positive.

But unless students are prepared with education and experience, such opportunities as he's experienced will not come, even with outlandish luck.

"It may sound corny and old-fashioned," he said, "but I want to make a difference. At this point in my life, I often wonder why I am here and how long I have to be here. At this time and this place, we can make an enormous positive contribution to the lives of our students."

It seems that for him, being president of Gordon State College is yet another one of those opportunities he could never have imagined, and he wants Gordon's students to have a similar experience of unforeseen, and positive, experience.

Burns with grandson, Luke.



A Friend for Life

For Bob Wines, Gordon is about enduring friendships

by Peter Boltz

One of the things that makes college a wonderful experience is the inevitability of friendships that last a lifetime. With these friendships come experiences that turn into life-shaping stories that guide us, and entertain us, well into our later years.

Take Bobby Wines for example, Gordon Military College class of 1962. He entered as a high school freshman in 1956, so he is one of those rare six-year boarding students. It didn't take him long to figure out "the system," as he will tell you, and this has given him a rich catalog of stories that still excite the humor of this 70-year-old.

He and classmate Frank Pattillo still relish stories about the class they had together with Miss Marion Bush. Recently, when Pattillo came over to Ocala from Cedar Key for a visit, Wines reminded him of his favored status with Miss Marion.

"Remember how she would call on you when the class didn't know an answer?" Wines asked.

Even though Pattillo sat in the back of the class and said little, he seemed to always know what was going on in her class. Miss Marion would ask a question and work her way through one wrong answer after another, until she would say, "Mr. Pattillo, could you please answer the question?" or "Mr. Pattillo, would you mind informing the class of the proper answer to the question?"

And to everyone's chagrin or amazement, Pattillo always knew the answer. Quiet as the Sphinx until Miss Marion addressed him, he always knew the answer. And to this day, it confounds Bobby as to how Frank always knew the answer. It also delights him, and the story in its retelling strengthens their friendship.

Then Paul Cole's name came up between them, because the two of them were going to see him later in the day at a dog show where Cole was showing his Great Dane.

"Remember that guy who worked in the armory, a day student who played football?" Wines asked. "I think he's the one who knocked Paul unconscious one night."

It seems this unnamed cadet broke into storage lockers and cadets' rooms to steal valuables, and this is how Wines and Pattillo explain Cole's weird story of being knocked out in his own bed one night. The robber must have come into Cole's room, they conjecture, Cole awakened, and the robber punched him out.

"After this guy left Gordon," Wines said, "they found the stolen suitcases of cadets in his room."

Bobby Wines grew up in Ocala, Fla., where during the seventh and eighth grades, he and his friend, Curtis Martin, traveled a wide territory on their Cushman Eagles to go hunting, fishing, or swimming at Lake Weir. He lived with his parents on five acres off a dirt road that led into town where his father, also named Bob, ran a successful outboard boat business from 1945 to 1972. "At one time," Mr. Wines said, "I had 13 competitors, but none of them bothered me. They all went out of business."

His parents still live on the property, but the dirt road that once ran through orange groves to their home is now paved and lined with houses. The five acres, once mostly a pasture for a horse his father would ride to go hunting, is now lined with rows of pine trees that create a shaded area camellias love to grow in.

Camellias, originally from China and related to the tea plant, are the livelihood of the Wines family and have been for decades. Mr. Wines started planting the flower as a hobby around 1958 and shortly after started the Ocala Camellia Society with six other men. Mr. Wines was so successful with his hybrids that the owner of Rainbow Springs, now a state park, bought his entire collection to landscape his tourist attraction.

With the money from this sale, his father started another camellia garden. Bobby, by then, was teaching reading to third- to sixth-graders at Belleview Elementary School, but he had reached a burn-out point, and asked for a leave of absence.

The first summer after he was granted his leave, he took on the task of rooting a large number of camellias on his father's property with a friend of his who had come down from Buffalo, N.Y., Buz Paterniti. Starting every day at 7:30 a.m., they cut, prepared and planted 20,000 camellias of different varieties. He was bent on leaving the teaching profession and turning his father's camellia collection into a business.

His plans almost ended in tragedy. That winter, the winter of 1980, Ocala was hit with a record 12-degree freeze. Thousands and thousands of his plantings died, and Wines must have wondered if his business venture had not also died. Yet many plants made it. In fact, as Wines will tell you, all the survivors of that freeze are still thriving on the property. Furthermore, and better yet, the many varieties of his father's collection survived, which meant that Wines had more varieties of camellias than anyone in the entire Southeast. Buyers soon discovered his nursery, and Wines never went back to teaching.

To walk through the nursery, especially when the camellias are most likely to be in bloom (from October to April), is a treat to the eye even if camellias don't have the additional draw of being fragrant. They come in six different shapes and many colors, although reds and whites, and their variegations, seem to dominate. Add to this a variety of pistil shapes, colors and textures, and you have very nearly an endless variety

of camellias, and they all have distinct names, such as Phyllis Hunt and Doris Ellis, Massee Lane and Helen Bower, Villes de Nantes and Wines' Laurie Pearl, Willard Scott and Compari White, and Curtain Call and Hot Flash.

An added attraction to having camellias in the yard is that they bloom in some of the coldest weather. When all the plant world seems to be asleep or dead, the camellia livens up the world.

His choice of the teaching profession came about the time he graduated from Gordon and matriculated to the University of Southern Mississippi. By then, Wines had no desire to go into the military and needed a career. "As a second-year officer, I'd already had enough of military life and had to get away."

He remembers the routine of daily military life to this day. "Up at 6:30, inspection at 7:05, and then we'd line up outside of South Barracks and march to breakfast. Study hall ended the day."

When he is around classmates these days, he likes to quiz them on their knowledge of the military's general orders and quickly rattles off the first two if the classmate hesitates: "To take charge of this post and all government property in view. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert and observing everything that takes place within sight or hearing."

His Ocala friend, Bus Reynolds, seems to have been the catalyst for Wines' desire to go to Gordon. On a trip to Atlanta, Reynolds and his father went through Barnesville, where they saw Gordon. Reynolds, who was failing math at home, asked his father, "Why not send me to that school?"

Reynolds's father inquired, and Gus Witcher came to the Reynolds home for a visit. According to Wines, Reynolds was outside in the backyard pool while his parents and Witcher were talking. In as short a time as being called in from the pool, his father had Reynolds signed up.

Reynolds' father was friends with Wines' father, and after he told Mr. Wines what he had done, Mr. Wines became curious. "I went up there to see Gordon for myself and liked how it looked," he said.

Wines himself remembers that on July 4, 1956, he and his parents visited the Reynolds' at Lake Weir. He remembers seeing a "flashy catalog"

Top: Bobby Wines with father Bob and mother Adean.

Middle: Bobby Wines with sponsor Patti Brown.

Bottom: Sponsors at an Easter Parade.

from the Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, but it was the material from Gordon that caught his eye. "I said, 'Boy, that's a nice place, I'd like to go there for school.'"

So, as Wines put it, they "signed my butt up."

Gordon sent his mother a list of things he would need, like a big trunk, which she filled with the required items for his first year at school.

Labor Day was when he had to sign in, so he, his mother and father drove up and spent the night before in the Barnesville Motor Court. The newness and strangeness of his surroundings made Wines extra-aware, and things stuck in his mind. For example, when he remembers the motor court, he remembers Judy King, "the first girl in Barnesville I ever talked to."

He also remembers the drive to Gordon the next day and seeing South Barracks for the first time and saying, "I don't think I want to go there," and his father replying, "Yes, you do." For some reason, seeing the barracks' windows open and its curtains billowing out gave Wines a sense of foreboding, but his father did not relent. The die had been cast, and on Labor Day, Bobby Wines was enrolled at Gordon Military College.

Sgt. Bobby Wines (standing) explains the operation of a bazooka during a U.S. Army inspection.

"Capt. J.A. Medcalf signed me in, and then we went to see Col. Harris. Everyone had to see Col. Harris," Wines said. "I remember that the hallway entrance to his office had a screen door," which was unusual, but in those days, there was no air conditioning.

Then Wines was passed on to an upper classman, Bud Tillery, who took him to his room where his first roommate, Ray Valdivieso was already situated. After Tillery showed Wines how to fold his clothes and put them in his locker according to regulation, the two new roommates got acquainted.

Wines was quickly impressed with Valdivieso as "very much more mature" than he was himself. He was just a ninth-grader like Wines, but Valdivieso wasn't brought to Gordon in a car driven by his father. No, he traveled alone by bus, all the way from New York City.

He also remembers the drive to Gordon the next day and seeing South Barracks for the first time and saying, "I don't think I want to go there," and his father replying, "Yes, you do."

So, as Wines put it, they "signed my butt up."

To this day, Wines describes Valdivieso as more sophisticated than even the above-average cadet. He dressed impeccably and already had a sense of "tipping the maitre-d," except it was at the Frosty Palace, not Sardi's in New York City. Wines remembers how whenever he and Valdivieso walked into the Frosty Palace, Valdivieso would just make a gesture to the guy at the counter and his order would be on the way, while Wines had yet to place an order.

The two of them still get together, just like Wines gets together with another former roommate, Harry Carson, who just so happens to share a birth date including the same year.

Wines remembers the two of them going to Burnette's grocery store to buy Cheez Whiz to make sandwiches they toasted between two irons, selling them for 50 cents on

Friday and Saturday nights. A third cadet, Johnny Voigt, supplied them with day-old bread from the mess hall.

"Carson said we were going to get rich," Wines said, but soon Benny, the man who ran the canteen in the basement of Lambdin Hall, said he was going to report them. It seems the enterprise was hurting the canteen's business.

His first year at Gordon was pretty tough, especially at the hands of ranking upper classmen. He still recalls how Andy Griggs and Doug Skidmore came to inspect the floor he thought he had cleaned, and spotting the tiniest bit of dust, one of them yelled, "See that bale of cotton? I want that stuff cleaned up!" And so his scrubbing continued.

But Wines settled in and figured things out fairly quickly as evidenced by his promotions throughout his time at Gordon. And despite his initial pleas to his father not to leave him at Gordon, he grew to be part of it. By the time he was a junior in high school, he was a sergeant first class. In his senior year, he was first sergeant in the headquarters company, and by the time he graduated from the college, he was a first lieutenant.

His business sense developed along with his rank, moving from a small change Cheez Whiz sandwich business to a big dollar taxi business.

It's fairly well-known that cadets were not supposed to have cars, but Wines had a red and white '57 Chevy and a friend of his, Jerry Evans, had a green Nash Rambler station wagon hidden away somewhere in Barnesville. When Christmas 1961 drew near, the two of them hatched a plan to use their cars to pay for a deep-sea fishing trip in Key Largo.

Their business plan was simple: stuff as many southbound cadets into their cars as possible for $15 to $20 a head. Wines could hold six in his car, and Evans could hold 9, so they had about $300, plus a Gulf credit card. (Controlling for inflation, that $300 would be worth $2,000 in today's dollars.)

As the two of them drove south in tandem, they would drop cadets off, until it was just the two of them in Key Largo. A Wines family friend, Horace Barber, owned a deep sea fishing outfit called the Briney Breeze, and Wines had reserved a fishing expedition with him. Evans caught a huge grouper and Wines caught, after an hour-long fight, a sailfish. They packed the fish in ice and took them home, and the sailfish now adorns the mantelpiece in his parents' home. The grouper, on the other hand, has long been digested.

On another occasion, his childhood friend and fellow Cushman enthusiast, Curtis Martin, caught the delighted Wines off-guard.

"Curtis lived about a mile away from my house and we had known each other since the fourth grade. He and I were Cub Scouts together, Pack 100," Wines said.

"When I left for Gordon, Curtis had already moved to another town, and I lost contact with him."

And Curtis remained lost to Wines until one day Wines walked into his room only to find him sitting in a chair with his hands in the air.

"I didn't have nothing to do with this," was how Curtis greeted his surprised friend.

In the explanation that followed, Wines learned that Mrs. Martin told President C.T.B. Harris that she would enroll her son only if he roomed with Bobby Wines. This was no problem for Harris, nor a problem for the cadets. They remained roommates for two years.

Wines was introduced to the word bivouac early in his Gordon career, and almost as early, he was introduced to the realities of the word.

One Friday, the cadets geared up to go on bivouac. Wines was to learn what all that stuff in his pack was for and what it was like to schlep 10 pounds of M1 Garand rifle for several miles. They marched through Barnesville and out past the water plant on Highway 36 to a spot in the woods.

Top: Wines on the Cushman Eagle of his teenage years.

Middle: Wines (left), unknown family members and Harry Carson.

Bottom: Unknown cadet, Billy Cox (middle) and an unknown cadet.

Bob Wines with his father Bob and his mother Adean.

Then it started to rain. And it continued to rain. Wines remembers it as one of the most miserable times of his life. Even though the temperature was warm, everything was wet. When he went to bed that night, he didn't even bother to take his boots off. He just pulled his blanket over himself and tried to sleep.

In the morning it was still raining, and it rained on them when they decamped.

"Coming back to town was the worst," Wines said. Packing was a big enough chore with everything dry, but with everything wet, the job grew – and so did the weight of the pack. When they got back to Gordon, getting dry was not the first item on the agenda for the cadets. Before they could do anything else, they had to clean their rifles and turn them into the armory – and woe to the cadet found with less than an immaculate rifle.

During his summers, Wines went home and he typically brought friends from Gordon with him for a week or more at Lake Weir. There they lived in a lake house rented by Wines' father and went out on the lake in a boat, also provided by Wines' father. These were idyllic summers enjoyed by friends like Edwin "Spike" Guilbeau, Jerry Evans and Curtis Martin. They used the boat so much that they kept filled a 40-gallon drum of gas at their boat landing.

Another experience that makes Wines' face light up with amusement was a run-in with Coach Fred Miller that was not so amusing at the time.

One night Ron Kasperoski and Keith Predmore were in Wines and Paul Coles' South Barracks room after *Taps*. Miller had just pulled into his parking spot and heard the four of them and spotted where the light was. Wines said he heard Miller coming, but he didn't know who it was until his door opened and a muscled right arm appeared.

Then they heard Miller growl. "If this room doesn't clear in five seconds, I am going to whip your butts!"

Kasperoski went out the window and down the fire escape to beat Miller to Connell Hall, and Predmore fled down the hall to his room in South Barracks. Wines and Coles, of course, stayed put.

Ironically, despite clearing the room in five seconds, all four of them got the whipping Miller threatened them with the next day. He had them administer "three licks" from a belt to each other, and they didn't slack off for each other. They knew well that if they did, Coach Miller would put his muscled right arm to work.

A more pleasant memory, but also one that makes Wines light up, is his college graduation. At the time he was dating a Barnesville girl named Margaret Voelker whom he introduced to his parents and Aunt Viola who had come up for the ceremony. Wines guesses that Voelker spoke to her mother about the family's visit, because she invited all of them to her house for tea after the graduation.

"The people of Barnesville did things like this all the time for us cadets," Wines said. He remembers it as a totally unexpected act, an act of antebellum Southern grace.

All these experiences, and more, have helped make Bobby Wines the man he is today, but without the people he shared them with, these experiences would be empty, and he knows it and shows it. He was the force that gathered his class together in September 2010 for a reunion and a surprise ceremony to honor their former commandant, Ed Legge. He was once again the driving force of his class reunion in September 2012.

"Four members of the class have passed in the last year," Wines said in a recent interview. "How many more times will we be able to get together? People don't recognize how close we were until they get to a reunion."

This is why he works so hard to find missing classmates, making calls to strangers all over the country and sending out photographs by mass emails. He understands that his time at Gordon was spent not only getting a liberal arts (and military) education, but also spent becoming the man he is today … with a little help from his friends.

Kasperoski went out the window and down the fire escape to beat Miller to Connell Hall, and Predmore fled down the hall to his room in South Barracks. Wines and Coles, of course, stayed put.

The Right Combination

Caleb Tarno found the right balance between work and school

by Peter Boltz

He's a busy man, this Caleb Tarno. You will quickly learn this if you are around him for any length of time, even a short period of time. Either his Blackberry is ringing with a phone call, or it's chiming with a new text message. It is much to his credit that when he is speaking face to face with someone, he leaves the thing unanswered.

Whether he was born this way or he learned it as a communication major, he knows the power of talking to the people who are standing in front of him – and it is this that has helped him become the successful salesman he is today.

"I don't ever want to see you just standing. The best time spent in a feed store is on the aisle reading a label. A label tells you what a product does."

Carol Smith

Akins Feed and Seed Co.

Barnesville, GA

"Relationships build everything," he said during a recent visit to Akins Feed and Seed Company in Barnesville. "Smile, be kind, be courteous. Doing these things has taught me more than anything else."

Then he said something any college loves to hear from its alumni: "I think if I had gone to another school, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Tarno came to Gordon from Mt. Zion High School in Jonesboro, Ga., in the fall of 2003. Like many students, he chose Gordon because it was close to home, "but far enough away." He commuted his first semester, but thereafter until the fall of 2006, he resided in the same room of Melton Hall, "last door on the right, bottom floor."

His father and mother were a music minister and youth minister respectively, so there was no room for extravagances during his time in college. When Tarno drew up the courage to ask his father for spending money, his father told him to get a job. "They weren't going to give me extra money. They expected me to go to school to learn and then come home," he said. "My meals, room and board were paid for, but if I wanted any money to spend, I had to work. I never got an allowance."

While in high school, Tarno cut grass for extra money. He also worked for Sports Authority in the hunting, fishing and camping department, where he discovered that he liked working retail. He also discovered he had a knack for "building relationships."

While his dad told him to get a job if he wanted more money, he didn't say where this job was to be found or how to go about getting it. This he left to his son.

Tarno knew about Akins, because he and his buddies had visited the store a number of times. It seemed a good place to start looking for a job, so he went, met with Carol Smith, one of the owners, and filled out an application.

It wasn't long before he was hired, even getting an afternoon schedule so he could have morning classes.

He started at Akins as a cash register clerk, standing at the counter, ringing people up and sending them on their way. "Over time, customers started to ask me questions, and not knowing the answers, I'd go back to Carol's office and ask her. The customers were often hardworking farmers, and I did not want to give them bad information."

When there was no customer to ring up, Tarno tended to stand and wait behind his register, until one day Carol noticed. And this is when Tarno got some of the best advice he ever got in the seed and feed business.

"I don't ever want to see you just standing," she said. "The best time spent in a feed store is on the aisle reading a label. A label tells you what a product does."

Left: Caleb Tarno with his father Brad Tarno.

Right: Tarno (right) with friends (left) Matt Moore, Matt Craig, Lance Garmon, Jeff Davis, and Meghan Bozaich and Heather Ford.

And so he learned a business while he learned the liberal arts – and made money to boot.

In the mornings he went to class. As soon as his last class was over, he went to Akins and worked the afternoon. When work was over, he went back to campus, studied and wrote papers.

When asked if he had a social life, he said, "Sure." He had his friends in class, and he had his friends at Akins. He had found a balance of work, study and friends that so many other students find impossible to achieve.

Of course maintaining a balance requires effort, and Tarno certainly exerted effort. For example, he worked Saturdays, and when many students took off for Christmas break, Tarno worked right up until Christmas Eve. Luckily, he was allowed to stay in Melton Hall after school let out, so he didn't have far to drive, but staying in the dorm by himself was, as he put it, "weird."

During one of these Christmastimes, an ice/snow storm hit Barnesville, and people were housebound. Bruce Akins, an owner of the store, called him and asked him if he could open the store. Tarno didn't hesitate. He went out, chipped and scraped the ice and snow from his Cavalier, cranked it up, and went to work. This is what finding a balance looks like, what Bruce Akins called facing "the challenges of work with joy."

"Caleb was one of the first Gordon students we tried with this program of hiring students," Akins said. "Out of all of them, he's been the best. He has a strong work ethic instilled in him by his parents, and he does his job with joy."

Tarno left Gordon in the spring of 2006 to pursue his baccalaureate studies at Columbus State University, his mother and father's alma mater and home to both sets of grandparents. Knowing Tarno's work ethic and sense of responsibility, Akins called the manager of Nathan's Feed and Seed Company in Columbus, Jenny Hutto, about a job for Tarno. She just so happened to have a job for an assistant manager, so once again, he was employed in the seed and feed business.

"I walked into a set of keys and a management role," Tarno said. "At Akins, I worked as an employee learning the business. At Nathan's I became a manager of the business. For two years I scheduled employees, made money drops, placed orders and more."

He was also working on a baccalaureate in Spanish at Columbus State, until he grew dissatisfied with the idea of a career in teaching Spanish. Unsure of what degree he wanted instead, Tarno said he walked around campus for a while, somewhat disoriented and concerned, until he ended up in front of the college's communication department. He had liked and done well in the two communication classes he took at Gordon, and he knew he was competent in its practice. Why not go into communication?

So he went into Dr. Richard Baxter's office unannounced, introduced himself and told Baxter what he was wanting to do. Baxter, who was in the middle of several other projects and duties, asked Tarno, "You want me to drop what I'm doing and help you graduate?"

Choosing Family over Corporate

It's the difference between a family and a corporation.

This is how Caleb Tarno explains how he chose to work for Johnston Seed Company instead of choosing another business he was interviewing with about the same time in 2008.

"Johnston's has a family feeling," Tarno said. "They welcomed me like I was part of the family. I am not treated like a nameless salesman, but like one of the sons."

The Johnston Seed Co. was founded by Aubrey Johnston about 35 years ago, a business that literally grew out of the back of his pickup truck. Today, his family-owned business has customers throughout Georgia and a growing number in Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Florida.

When Tarno was hired, he was given a list of clients, many of them who have been doing business with Johnston's for decades. "I was told that it was my job to see each of them every other week, which comes out to about 8 to 10 accounts a day," Tarno said.

Caleb Tarno with Bruce Akins.

Tarno just said, "Yeah," and explained to him that he wasn't a "kook" and that he had his future all mapped out. Baxter was obviously impressed, because he did in fact drop what he was doing to help Tarno become a communication major.

"In one of my communication classes," he said, "we learned how to write and format a resume, which was great because graduation was coming and I was looking for a job." Tarno must have written an effective resume, because the owner of Johnston Seed Co. in Ashburn, Ga., got in touch with Akins Feed and Seed, one of Tarno's references. But instead of calling the Barnesville store where Tarno had worked, Aubrey Johnston called the Griffin store and spoke with the owner there, Jim Matlock.

According to a secondhand source, after Matlock told Johnston that he needed to speak with Bruce Akins, he said, "If you don't hire Caleb, I'm going to."

Tarno graduated from Columbus State on May 10, 2008, and went to work for Johnston Seed Company two days later. Then on June 14, 2008, he married a first-grade teacher he had been dating for two years, Robin Davis. He had his future planned out, and he was following the plan.

Johnston assigned his son J.P. the job of showing Tarno the ropes of doing business the Johnston Seed Co. way. After several weeks of driving the sales territory and meeting customers, Tarno was set loose and the first thing he did was expand his territory with so many new customers, that Johnston hired another salesman to service them.

A typical workday for Tarno involves a lot of driving, about a 1,000 miles a week, since he has customers all over the state. If you were to section Georgia into quarters, Tarno's travel area would cover all but the southeast quarter of the state.

According to a secondhand source, after Matlock told Johnston that he needed to speak with Bruce Akins, he said, "If you don't hire Caleb, I'm going to."

He was also "given" an 18-wheeler and a driver. "I was told to keep his trailer filled with orders and keep his wheels turning," he said. "That is, I needed to keep my trucker employed."

Aubrey's younger son, J.P., developed the sales territory that Tarno now services. He is also the one who took Tarno around the territory the first several weeks of his employment, helping him to get acquainted with customers and learn the Johnston way of doing business.

"We're old-fashioned," J.P. said. "We go to see our customers, whereas many companies have their salespeople call customers by phone." He knows his business is competitive pricewise, and that it is with service that the Johnston Seed Co. rises above the competition. This has been his family's formula for success, and it is a formula Tarno was made for, even before he and the Johnstons ever met.

His job at Akins Feed and Seed Co. in Barnesville during his time at Gordon State College was not only for the sake of making money, but it was also a social outlet for him. He liked meeting people, helping them and learning about them – something that was necessarily face to face and up close, and something Tarno made personal. It was as if he were training for his job at Johnstons while he was training his mind in the liberal arts at Gordon.

Perhaps he was simply a man with a talent for talking with people and building relationships, but it was a talent he developed through time and even study. While at Columbus State, he conducted research in his senior year called "A Qualitative Study of How Communication Strategies Affect the Relationships Between Sales Representatives and Their Customers." It is no surprise that one of the things he learned from his research is that sales representatives want to form friendships with their customers. And while the motive for this desire may be insincere in some, for Tarno it is not.

If it were, he would have chosen corporate over family.

> Caleb's is a truly only-in-America type of success, where a kid knows nothing, gets himself educated at school and educated in a business where he ends up as an adult.
>
> Bruce Akins

His visit to Akins in Barnesville is a model of how he works with his customers, except that his history with the people at Akins makes his visit here a bit more personal. Whoever he sees first he greets, and this visit it is Adrienne, Bruce Akins' daughter, who does the buying for the store. Then he waits for Bruce to finish some business before the two of them walk back to the warehouse where the two of them can talk and Tarno can see what products need to be restocked.

Akins sees Tarno as an example of an American success. "He has gone from being a clerk going to college and learning a business to a college graduate ready to go to work in that business," Akins said. "Caleb's is a truly only-in-America type of success, where a kid knows nothing, gets himself educated at school and educated in a business where he ends up as an adult."

When Tarno is done in the warehouse, he goes back into the store to check his products on the shelves to find out what might need resupply. If something is short on a shelf, he will go back into a storeroom, put price labels on the product and replenish the shelf. Space on a shelf is highly competitive, and he never gives his competitors a chance to move in.

One of his products makes him laugh. It's called the Trophy Rock, and it comes from Redmond, Utah. "I never thought I'd be selling rocks," he said. And then he explains why the rock is such a good product. It is not just a salt lick for the wildlife on a farmer's property, it is full of minerals that support good nutrition. Tarno knows this, because he has read the label and the sales materials that fill his notebook. Since new products come out all the time, his study habits from college are continually being put to use.

While he is moving about the store, he sees someone he knows and calls out, "Cheryl, you been okay?" Then he sees another, someone he knew as a customer when he worked at Akins while going to Gordon. "Hey! Danny!"

Danny doesn't hear him, so he goes over for a chat. "Danny always wears a hat," Tarno said. "A baseball cap in the summer and a felt cowboy hat in the winter. When I left for Columbus, he gave me his felt."

After he's surveyed the store shelves, he goes back to report to Adrienne. While they are talking about dog food, a woman in an office down the hall calls out, "Adrienne, your poultry order has been shipped!" Adrienne makes a mental note of this, then she returns to the matter of dog food. "Does it contain corn?" she asks. Corn is considered to be filler and not good for a dog's digestion, so Tarno is happy to tell her his product has no corn. Once the two of them finish talking, Tarno makes his goodbyes and heads for his truck and a customer in Forsyth.

But before he leaves, he had one more memory to share.

When he worked at Akins, he would miss the dinner hours at Gordon's cafeteria, but he wouldn't miss dinner. "Ms. Sharon would make a plate for me," he said. "It was always more than I could eat, and she left it in the back of the kitchen for me to pick up after work."

When asked how he rated this special treatment, he said, "I knew all the cooks." And then he added, "Relationships build everything."

Robin Davis Tarno and Caleb.

AN ORIGINAL

JOHN EDDY

has led an adventurous life

by Peter Boltz

"To be a Green Beret, you needed a pair of aviator sunglasses, a Gerber knife, and a copy of *The Green Berets* by Robin Moore in your back pocket."

You're kidding, right?

John Eddy just said, "Am I?"

Eddy isn't just some guy sitting outside his front door under a shade tree jabbering about what is more accurately known as the U.S. Army's Special Forces. No, John Eddy is a retired U.S. Army major and is what is popularly known as a Green Beret. He also has a dry sense of humor, which leaves his definition of a Green Beret up to interpretation, although he admits to the sunglasses, the knife and the book in his back pocket.

A native of Vero Beach, Fla., Eddy lives with his wife of 40 years, Judy, in the farm and pastureland that buffers the city. And their house, their barn and their resident horses are hidden away among the oaks and scrub of east central Florida. Sitting underneath one of those oaks in his front yard, a visitor is likely to feel well away from the surrounding frantic urban world. In short, it's peaceful.

A graduate of Gordon Military College in 1958, Eddy came to the school as a high school junior. His father had died, and his uncles sent him to a boarding school in Connecticut, an experiment that failed by Christmastime. Back at home, he took to driving his Model A on the beach, which, at the time, wasn't illegal. But speeding was, and this is what got him noticed by the police, and this in turn got the notice of his mother.

"My mother had read about Gordon somewhere, and she decided I needed to go there, because I was a little wild," he said. And she said, "You're going."

Eddy's first impression of Col. C.T.B. Harris, the president of the school, is still fresh and sounds as if a teenager is speaking. "The first I saw of Gordon is when my mother took me to see Col. Harris. Quite frankly, I was overwhelmed. He was quite a salesman and believed in what he was selling. He felt I needed discipline, which I would get at Gordon, along with a good education."

His introduction to discipline often meant time on the bullring and he freely admits he "wore out his shoes" there. Although he yearned to be back with his friends in Vero Beach, he also felt a curiosity for Gordon. How was it that a military school was coed?

He also made friends at Gordon fairly quickly, with guys who were like him. Larry Hughes was such a guy from Massachusetts. "He was in the same boat as I was, except his family put him on

John Eddy was a member of the Waiters Club. He is sixth from the left.

a train and sent him to Gordon by himself. When he got off the train, the Nancy Hanks, he didn't know where to go."

By the following year, as high school seniors, they awoke to the fact that they were not going anywhere but Gordon, so they made the best of it. "We were still rebellious," he said. "We studied. I enjoyed Faith Porch, a marvelous teacher. The other teacher who made the biggest impression on me was Miss Marion Bush, who instilled a love of books and reading."

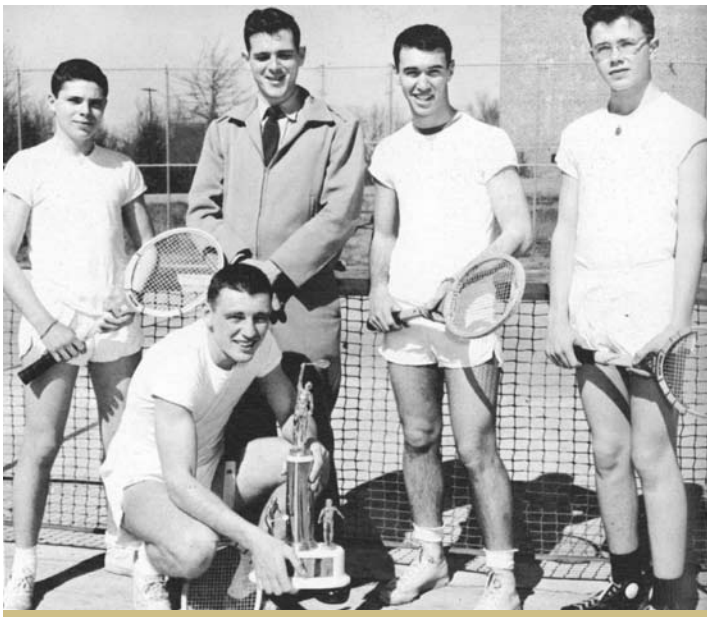
"If not for Gordon and the teachers I had," Eddy said, "I would never have had the career I've had, nor met Judy."

And he also enjoyed life at Gordon, going to the weekend dances at the canteen and then going to the Frosty Palace afterwards. Although it was disallowed, he kept a Ford convertible in town, hidden behind the gas station of a friendly and sympathetic townsman, perhaps a former cadet himself. With this car, he would travel to Atlanta and go down to Macon, or take his girlfriend, Carole Witcher on a date. Witcher was the daughter of Augustus (Gus) Witcher, a Gordon faculty member, as was his wife, Marjorie. On Sunday, when Gordon's mess hall wasn't open for supper, Eddy had a place at the Witcher's dinner table.

"If not for Gordon and the teachers I had," Eddy said, "I would never have had the career I've had."

As seniors, Eddy, Hughes, and another friend, Frank Jones, moved to T-Street Barracks. By the time he graduated from high school, Eddy had decided to stay on for college, and in his last year of college, he and his friends were moved into a house rented by Gordon, situated next to the Presbyterian Church. "We officers (by then he was a first lieutenant) were in charge of the house, about 25 cadets. My bedroom was the kitchen where they had set up bunks." There was a pantry in this kitchen, and one Sunday morning he was caught hiding from church in it. He was busted to second lieutenant.

"Larry, Frank and I took to the military and decided that after graduating from Gordon, we would go into the service together," Eddy said. "On July 1, 1958, we met in Atlanta and raised our right hands. We went to Ft. Jackson, and because of our four years in ROTC, we were enlisted as corporals."



John Eddy (second from right) with his tennis coach and teammates.

Going in as corporals was better than going in as raw recruits, but at the time there were few corporals in the Army. That rank was replaced by something called a specialist 4. While at Ft. Jackson, the three of them started carrying their orders in their pockets, because they were always being stopped by sergeants who didn't believe the Army had any more corporals.

Then they reaped another benefit from their time at Gordon. When they finished their basic and advanced training at Ft. Jackson, they were allowed to go into officer candidate school (OCS) without the Army's enrollment quota applied to them. After six months, they were second lieutenants at Ft. Benning, eager for flight school, but because of a "color deficiency" in his eyesight, Eddy went into jump school.

"After jump school, I went back to Ft. Jackson and hated it," he said. "I was an executive officer for a headquarters company, and all I did was inspect. I hated the job so much I volunteered for Korea and was sent to Munsan-ne, near the Imjin River and Panmunjom" – that is, close to the North Korean army along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas. Or, as Eddy put it, "along the main thoroughfare to Seoul," the capital of South Korea.

At Munsan-ne, Eddy landed the best possible position a first lieutenant could hope for in an infantry battalion, the job of reconnaissance platoon leader. Under his command, he had five jeeps, two personnel carriers and two tanks, which he used to patrol the area south of the nearby DMZ.

When his tour was over, he returned to Ft. Benning to become a tactical officer in OCS, where a friend of his told him he thought the two of them should join the Army's Special Forces. "Why?" Eddy asked. "Because it sounds intriguing," his friend said, and that was that.

"We had instructors who had been in Special Forces for a long time, and they put us through the grinder," Eddy said. "The Special Forces Q Course was probably the best training I ever got, because it taught us to think as individuals, that no one would be looking over our shoulders, that we had a mission, and that we always brought our people back."

He thought the Congo might be his first mission, because he was sent to school in D.C. to learn the Lingala language, but by the time the instruction was finished, they were told to report to Ft. Bragg where they learned the Congo mission was canceled and a new one added – Cuba. Off he went with others to Opa-locka airport north of Miami and waited in the sun and the humidity and the heat. At night they slept under the wings of the C-46s that were to carry them to their drop zone.

"Then we heard about the Bay of Pigs," he said. And so this mission was also canceled, and he returned to Ft. Bragg to be assigned a new mission…, Vietnam.

Cadet Lt. John Eddy (kneeling left) was the commander of Academic Hall.

His training at Eglin Air Force Base, in part, was to be dropped by parachute early in the morning into an area where he and others were met by trainers who gave them a map and told to be "at point A in 24 hours."

Here, Eddy chuckled quietly and said, "There were two ways to get to point A. One way was through the swamp and the other … was through the swamp. For three weeks we stayed wet, but it was a good time, because it allowed us to evaluate who we would choose to be on our teams. It was our choice, as officers, of who to take, so we looked the men over closely."

With his handpicked team of Green Berets, Eddy was sent to the little village of Nam Dong, from where he and his team took long, two- to three-week "walks in the woods" and where he started a farm.

Started a farm? In a village just 15 miles from the Laotian border where Vietcong and North Vietnamese soldiers traveled outside the reach of American forces? A farm?

Well, that's why they were called Special Forces. The Green Berets did things a little bit different from the other soldiers. They went into areas to help the Vietnamese help themselves to not only combat enemy forces but to have better lives. The idea of the Special Forces is that it was a counter insurgency force with roots that go back to Americans being dropped into occupied areas of Europe to help the resistance fight the Nazis.

For the Special Forces, a village was a personal matter, where Americans lived with the Vietnamese, certainly to train them to fight the Vietcong and North Vietnamese, but also to improve their lives. As evidence of this personal relationship between the Green Berets and the villagers, to this day Eddy remembers Nam Dong as "my little village."

In addition to his Vietnamese forces, Eddy had a few Nung Chinese, an ethnic minority in Vietnam, who may have been paid

mercenaries, but their fighting abilities were well-respected by Americans. The son of the Nung's leader was Eddy's personal bodyguard.

In building his "farm," Eddy would have cows and goats brought into Nam Dong by Marines in H-34 helicopters. On one such delivery, a nervous cow broke free of its bonds and went out the side door while the helicopter was still 300 feet off the ground. Eddy said that by the time the chopper landed, his Vietnamese troops already started to butcher the poor creature. Those animals that made the helicopter trip safely were kept in a corral, otherwise tigers and not troopers would eat them.

On another occasion with the Marines, a colonel came into Nam Dong wanting to see how things were done and so was taken on a night patrol. When it was over, the colonel asked if there was anything he could do for them.

"We said, 'Send us steaks,'" and three weeks later, a Marine helicopter flew in so many New York strip steaks, that is all they ate for several days.

A couple of reporters from the *Boston Globe* flew in to interview Eddy's medic, John Shapiro, because Shapiro was a Boston boy, who Eddy remembers as a fine medic who could work on any part of the human body except the cranium. But, as usual, it was 98 to 100 degrees and very humid, the beer was warm, and it was a dangerous place to be in; so after an hour-and-a-half, they returned to Saigon, where it was not so dangerous and the beer was ice cold.

"We said, 'Send us steaks,'" and three weeks later, a Marine helicopter flew in so many New York strip steaks, that is all they ate for several days.

At the end of Eddy's tour in Nam Dong, a former OCS roommate, Roger Donlon, came to replace him, bringing with him a bottle of vodka frozen into a block of ice. Eddy remembers the event as "a great day to get out of there."

A month later, the camp would be nearly overrun by the Vietcong.

After Vietnam, Eddy went to Panama where he went through the Special Forces' scuba training. His diving buddy was an Alaskan Eskimo who was in the air-sea rescue service of the Air Force. "He was shaped like a seal," Eddy remembered. "He couldn't run, but he sure could swim."

The two of them stuck together closely, whether running, diving, or eating, because if they didn't, they weren't acting the way the instructors liked dive buddies to behave – always in sight and reach of each other. Those who didn't follow these instructions were joined together around the necks with a length of rope.

For their qualifying dive, Eddy and his class were taken to the San Blas Islands off the Atlantic Coast of Panama on a LCM-8 Mike boat. This was like a holiday for them, since they had successfully completed their training and were prepared for their dives – and when they weren't diving, they were camping and fishing.

Special Forces ran a jungle warfare training center in Panama, even training Navy SEALs (Sea, Air and Land teams). In a humid-

◀ What the well-dressed tiger hunter wears in 98-degree heat in Vietnam.

▼ An inspection of Nam Dong by Gen. Westmoreland.

I felt compassion for this goat. She was either going to end up as food for the Vietnamese troops or a meal for a tiger.

Parachute training in Korea.

On patrol in the mountains of Vietnam, waiting for a spoter plane to come over and give us a location.

January 1967, Special Forces scuba training in Panama.

ity and heat very similar to that of Vietnam, trainers and trainees would go on 15-mile runs, with the Green Berets pushing the SEALs, and the SEALs pushing the Green Berets. One time, a SEAL lieutenant showed up ill for a run but ran anyway. At the 10-mile point, he had to stop to be sick, while everyone else kept going. But, Eddy said with a touch of admiration, he caught up with the group and finished the run.

It was part of the job of the Special Forces to go to different South American countries to train their soldiers, and so, Eddy found himself in Bogota, Colombia, altitude 8,500 feet. He liked the city, which he found cosmopolitan and filled with good eateries, his favorite being a Russian restaurant.

In a case of mistaken identity, Eddy was marked for assassination in this city he still highly regards. It seems another American officer was operating in Bogota, and this officer was thought to be the reason a FARC agent was arrested. FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) is the rebel army that has been fighting against the Colombian government for decades, and its leaders wanted to even the score by killing the American.

Of course Eddy didn't know any of this, but one night he realized he was being followed, so he went to the intelligence advisers he was working with. Thinking they were working a "hare and hound" on him, he told them he didn't think their boy was doing such a good job, since he had identified him.

Their response was, "What are you talking about?"

Eddy's response was, "I've got a problem."

His advisers told him to go about his business, that they would take care of things, but even so, one day his "hound" got too close, so Eddy took to going into front doors and out the back, until he made it to the safety of the advisers' office. Perhaps a little embarrassed they had let the FARC agent get too close, the advisers picked him up and Eddy was safe.

Eddy's second tour of Vietnam, after his stint in Panama, was not as a Green Beret but as a member of the inspector general's office. His job, among other things, was to check the readiness of Army groups. Despite being away from Nam Dong, the war was still a dangerous place. On a trip to check on some American advisers to a South Vietnamese headquarters unit, his helicopter was shot up. Eddy said he and the others on the helicopter were able to walk out, but the helicopter stayed.

It was 1968 and he was living in Saigon when the North Vietnamese launched their Tet Offensive. His billet was a nine-story hotel three blocks from the presidential palace. Saigon was a place an American could travel without a weapon, and this Eddy did to go out and eat. On one such walk to a nearby restaurant he noticed activity in a 10-story building still under construction. Men, a lot of men, were carrying boxes up to the different floors.

"I didn't think much about it," Eddy said. "Squatters were everywhere in Saigon." But they were not squatters; they were Vietcong, and, as Eddy put it, "Next morning, all hell broke loose."

The Vietcong were targeting the Republic of Korea's embassy, which was between Eddy's hotel and the 10-story building, and the Koreans were taking a beating. To help take some of the pressure off them, a .50 caliber machine gun and "lots of ammunition" were brought to Eddy's building, and from the rooftop, he and others set upon the enemy. One of those "others" wasn't even a soldier, but San Francisco 49-er and Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow. He and other NFL players were in Vietnam to help boost American soldiers' morale, and they had been caught by surprise like everyone else.

Today, John and his wife, Judy, are thousands of miles away from Alaska, from Panama, from Colombia, and from Vietnam. After so much traveling, the two of them returned to Vero Beach where they've been for the last 30 years.

Not long after, Eddy's second tour of Vietnam was at an end, and he was sent back to Ft. Bragg, where he learned he was to finish his college education with a baccalaureate.

"At first they wanted to send me somewhere in Minneapolis, but I saw that it was cold there, so I said I wanted to go to the University of Tampa."

From the experience, he not only earned his bachelor's degree, but he also met Dr. Stephen L. Speronis, a professor of history and political science. Speronis took Eddy and five other military men under his wing, often inviting them to his and his wife's home for a home-cooked meal. This must have reminded Eddy of his time at Gordon, and being fed at the Witcher home.

Ironically, after being at the University of Tampa because he didn't want to be cold in Minneapolis, Eddy was sent by the Army to Ft. Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

"We loved it," Eddy said, speaking for himself and his wife, Judy. "We loved the whole thing." They skied at the nearby Alyeska Resort, and he learned to fly and fish. Even the long nights of winter didn't perturb them – the ski resorts were lit up for night skiing.

His job with the Army was executive officer of a parachute battalion charged with development of combat clothing and equipment for arctic fighting. "We got the chance to do some inventive stuff," he said, and in one case to work with the Israelis.

They were having a problem with keeping their wounded alive in the Golan Heights, which peak at 9,232 feet. It would be so cold, that while waiting for transport, the wounded would die from the cold.

The answer was an "evacuation bag," which is like a sleeping bag, but with a heating unit.

Alaska is where Eddy retired from the Army and began a career as an Alaskan fisherman. His first season was with a doctor "who didn't know how to operate a boat," but Eddy, with his Special Forces training, did. Unfortunately, the boat was a "dog," and it was the worst season ever for halibut. Eddy didn't make a cent.

"When the season wound down," Eddy said, "I went down to Homer and got on a salmon drift net boat." On the crew's worst days, and it was a crew of two, it brought in 1,900 salmon. Eddy said that there were always Japanese buyers on the docks waiting for the boats to come in, paying $10 a fish. Since the fish were flash frozen, they could be flown to Japan as fresh as if eaten right after being caught. Those fishermen who made it to the docks first got the best prices because their catch was the freshest, and so every day, every 12-hour day, was a race.

Today, John and his wife, Judy, are thousands of miles away from Alaska, from Panama, from Colombia, and from Vietnam. After so much traveling, the two of them returned to Vero Beach where they've been for the last 30 years.

At a recent lunch at *Bobby's* in Vero Beach, someone asked him what his highest altitude jump was. Twenty-two thousand feet from a C-130 Hercules, he said. Dressed in leathers and fitted with an oxygen mask, it took him about four minutes to reach 1,500 feet. Only then did his chute open.

It is quite a contrast to see this man affectionately feed one of his horses a piece of apple, and then imagine him hurtling earthward somewhere between 120 and 140 mph.

John Eddy is currently working on a book with the working title, *Smuggle, Smuggle, Toil and Trouble*. He said the story takes place between the Florida Keys and the Maine coast, and is part fiction and part non-fiction. Considering the life Eddy has had, it would be fair to wonder what is fact and what is fiction, but the only answer you will get out of Eddy is "You tell me."

Today, John lives in Vero Beach, Fla.

In Her Own Whedonverse

by Tamara Boatwright

Rhonda Wilcox

WHEN RHONDA WILCOX and her husband Richard were looking for a home to purchase, they had had one requirement to fulfill. Their then very young son said the house simply had to have a fireplace.

"So Santa could get in," Wilcox says with a grin. "So there's Jeff's fireplace."

There are traces of Jeff, now living in New York and working as a guide at the Guggenheim Museum, all over the 1940s bungalow Wilcox shares with her husband, Richard. There's a swing set the couple put up in the backyard for Jeff's sixth birthday that's now serving as an ivy trellis. There's a painting of him peeking from behind an elephant ear leaf that a neighbor did and there's the enormous charcoal sketch he did of his dad, a gift for Father's Day, hanging on the wall.

All are special but looking at the swing causes a wistful look to cross her face. "I can't get rid of that swing set," Wilcox said. "It's a sentimental thing."

This home with the hand-painted tiles in the fireplace front and the cozy kitchen is Wilcox's escape of sorts. Sixty miles from Gordon State College – she describes the commute as "my time, a time when I've come up with my best ideas" – she sits at a comfortable dining room table that serves as a desk, a mug of warm tea nearby. She's working on one of her favorite things, a paper to present at the fifth Biennial Slayage Conference on the Whedonverses.

Wilcox, an English professor at Gordon since 1985, is an internationally known scholar on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and outgoing president of The Whedon Studies Association. Six years ago the second biennial conference was held on the campus of Gordon State College drawing hundreds of international scholars. This year the conference went "international" of sorts and was held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

She started writing about Buffy in 1999, two years after the show premiered on television and seven years after the motion picture *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* was released. She was given the "Mr. Pointy Award" in 2005 for the Best Book in Buffy Studies, *Why Buffy Matters*.

And while she is internationally known for her knowledge of Buffy and the writer who created Buffy, Joss Whedon, she has yet to meet the man.

"Oh, I just don't know what I would do," she said of Whedon. "He's just so big now."

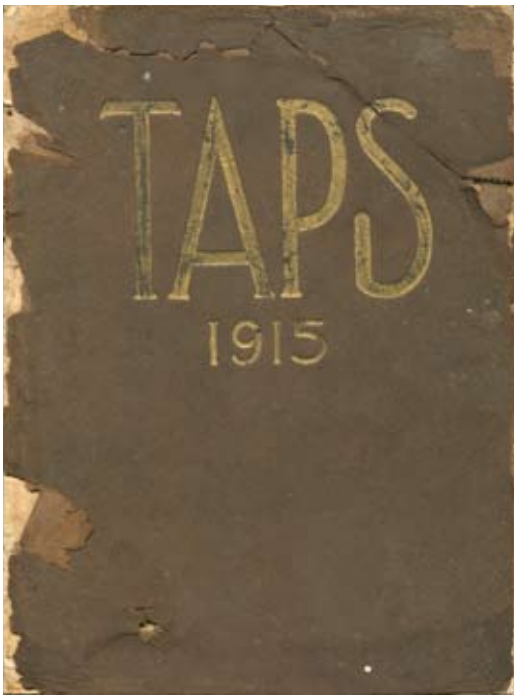
But there's more to her than Buffy and Whedon – both of which play an integral part in her classroom.

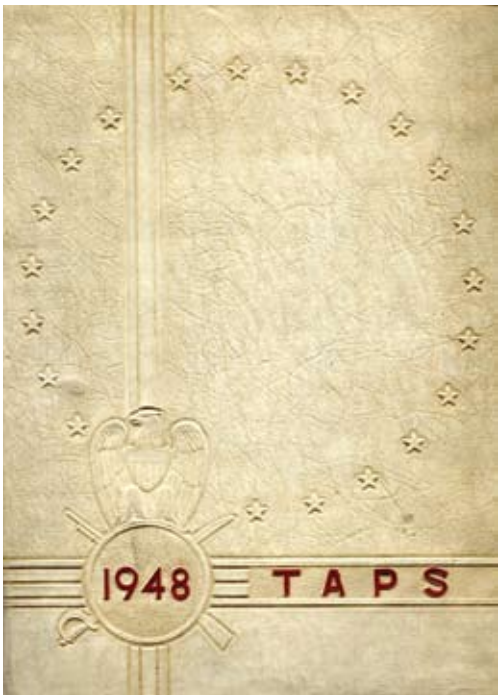
Wilcox opened the year performing the Aretha Franklin classic *Chain of Fools* with her husband's band. He is a librarian at Emory University and a part-time musician. She recently performed with an English colleague of hers David Janssen in Forsyth.

But most of her time is spent either in the classroom where biology major Joseph Nestor says she is "very encouraging" or with her Slayage studies.

"I really like what I do," she said. "It is the busiest time of my life and maybe I'd like it to be a little less insane, but I'd also like to keep doing it – at least 10 more years."

Traveling *Taps*
Gordon Yearbooks Find Their Way Home





THEY HAVE BEEN PACKED AND MOVED FROM HOMES AND DORM ROOMS, FROM CITY TO CITY AND FROM STATE TO STATE. SOME HAVE TRAVELED ACROSS CONTINENTS. SOME HAVE TRAVELED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME HAVE ENDED UP AT ESTATE SALES AND ON EBAY. AND SOME HAVE MADE IT BACK TO GORDON.

If you graduated during the years Gordon produced the *Taps* yearbook, chances are that your copy is now on a bookshelf or stored away someplace safe. It may be well-traveled, or you may be one of the unlucky graduates who lost the annual along the way to some calamity.

For George Wood Jr., class of 1949, his 1948 yearbook disappeared, and he thought he would never see it again. But, in the spring of 2012 the alumni office received a call from a young man in Lynchburg, Va.

"We were cleaning up over at a school we were renovating, and we found this yearbook in the trash. I wondered if maybe somebody there would be interested in having it. I hate to throw it out, because it is in real good shape," he said, and within a few weeks George Wood Jr.'s yearbook traveled to campus and then back to Wood's home in Newport News, Va.

Sometimes, as in the case of a new homeowner who called the College in 2011, the yearbook becomes part of the Gordon collection. The homeowner called to say that he had

purchased a home in Florida to renovate as a rental property and that while cleaning it he found a copy of *Taps* on a shelf in a bedroom closet. Thinking that it might have value to someone he called the school and within a short time period the yearbook arrived, but with no name or traceable owner. That yearbook, along with others like it, is housed in Gordon's Hightower Library or Alumni House for all to enjoy.

One of the most unusual stories of a *Taps* that found its way back to campus came from a call almost 10 years ago from Don Estrin of California.

Estrin called asking if by chance we could copy the 1945 *Taps* for him as his had been lost long ago. The task was assigned to a student worker, who made the copies and put them in the mail to Estrin. Within a few days there was a phone call.

"I received the yearbook copy," Estrin said, "and it is mine!" The *Taps* the student had used to make the copy was Estrin's original yearbook complete with all the personal notes and messages his classmates had written to him so many years ago.

And in case you are wondering, he was happy with the copy and allowed the original to remain in the College's collection for others to enjoy.

Beth Pye, associate professor of library science, is the College's resident expert in the care of historical documents. She evaluates the documents that are donated and carefully protects them so that they can be preserved for future generations.

The best copy of a certain year's *Taps* is placed in special archival paper, boxed and stored. If additional copies of a yearbook are donated, one is placed in the alumni house and another in the advancement office. They become reference books in finding lost alumni and are valuable in the planning of reunions.

"I had a woman call me a couple of weeks ago to ask if we would be interested in two annuals and possibly some school papers that she had inherited from a Gordon Military College alumnus," Pye said. "She wanted to make sure that the items were given to someplace that would appreciate them and give them a proper home."

Pye told the woman that the Hightower Library would love to have her annuals and papers.

If you have a *Taps* or other Gordon memorabilia that you would be interested in donating, please contact Natalie Rischbieter, alumni affairs coordinator, at 678-359-5073 or natalier@gdn.edu. Gordon is especially interested in *Taps* from 1932-1935 and 1937 or any information you may have about whether the yearbooks were published during these years.

Let your *Taps* travel home!

Currently the college has yearbooks from the following years:

v.1 1912	**v. 10 1928**
v.2 1913	**v. 11 1929**
v.3 1915	**v. 12 1930**
v.4 1917	**v. 13 1931**
v.5 1918	**1936**
v.6 1919	**1938**
v.7 1924	**1939-1942**
v.8 1925	**1944-1950**
v.9 1927	**1952-1972**

as well as the following:
Gordon Grammar School
1969-1970 Bullpups annuals.

Volume numbers seem to indicate that no annuals were published in 1914, 1916, 1920-1923 and 1926. Alumni from the years 1943 and 1951 report their graduating classes did not publish annuals.

The College's collection contains no annuals from the years 1932-1935 and 1937, even though there is no reason to believe they were not published. Volume numbers were not used beginning in 1936, which further complicates determining if annuals were produced during these years.

A Winning Year for Gordon Athletes

by Tamara Boatwright

Gordon State College Baseball Head Coach Travis McClanahan said one of the best parts of playing in the JUCO (Junior College) World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., this year was seeing 8- and 9-year-old boys asking his players to sign their baseball gloves.

He also liked entering the tournament as an under-underdog, winning a new fan base and finishing third ahead of a roster of much more seasoned teams.

"We needed our guys to embrace the atmosphere – to really become a part of the Series to loosen up," McClanahan said. "Our guys are accustomed to playing in front of 50 to maybe 75 people, but one night at Grand Junction, there were 9,000 people in the stands. We had a good talk with the team beforehand on how to handle the crowd and not be overwhelmed. The fans treating our guys like they were pros – and to us they are – went a long way."

Gordon's baseball team, the softball team and basketball team all made history by playing their hearts out and making it to national tournaments in 2012.

Basketball Head Coach Israel Ingle calls the time "amazing."

"I just recently watched our game films from the tournament in Kansas," he said. "I got more excited than I was when we were there. I could not be more proud of our team."

The basketball team led the streak to a national tournament by earning a slot in the NJCAA Div. 1 Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., in March. Although the team lost both games, Ingle calls it a great experience for the guys. With three of the top players returning in fall 2012 and great recruits, Ingle has already started rebuilding the team.

"Having this kind of year makes it easy to recruit," Ingle said of the program

Zach Jones with young admirers at the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo.

he restarted six years ago. "I can remember almost having to beg guys to play that first season. Now we are able to pick and choose who plays on our team."

After "Hutch," it was the softball team's turn to represent Gordon on the national scene.

The Lady Highlanders first took the 2012 GCAA Region Championship which paved the way to the NJCAA Div. 1 Women's Softball World Series in St. George, Utah. Alas, there the Ladies lost their first two games in the double elimination tournament but came away stronger, more aware than ever of what it means to be a team and hungry to go back next year.

"It was a challenging season to get them there," said Ally Hattermann, head softball coach. "We played our hearts out and at the same time learned a lot about ourselves and each other."

One form of inspiration to win came from close by.

"Our team watched the basketball team winning and were touched," Hattermann said. "We felt if they could do it, then maybe we could do it. The basketball team led the way for all of us."

In fact the softball team was so supportive of the basketball team they stood along Highlander Way holding up signs of support as the team bus pulled off campus en route for their flight to "Hutch," Kan.

Then the baseball team started its streak to the national tournament.

At the World Series the Baseball Highlanders started strong, advancing steadily across the tournament bracket winning one, then another, then another and then another before being snapped in the jaws of the San Jacinto College Gators.

"We did the best we could, learned a lot and had a good time," said McClanahan. "I think we also left a good impression with folks that we are good players on a good team. That is important."

But when all three coaches look back on their year, they can't help but give props to Gordon Athletic Director Todd Davis.

"He has had a positive impact on athletics at Gordon," McClanahan said. "And during this tournament streak, he took care of things for all of us. We just had to coach our teams, he took care of the details."

Looking Back on Ten Years of the *President's Report*

by Peter Boltz

Peter Boltz

It has been 10 years, but it doesn't seem so.

Ten years ago, Rhonda Toon, then the College's director of advancement, was given the task of reviving and revamping Gordon's alumni magazine. The College's president at the time, Dr. Larry Weill, gave Toon carte blanche except for one thing, the name of the magazine. He wanted it called the *President's Report*.

Toon came to me to help her produce it, because I had been trained as a journalist just as she had, and she knew my style of writing. The two of us became the magazine's core staff – all two of us.

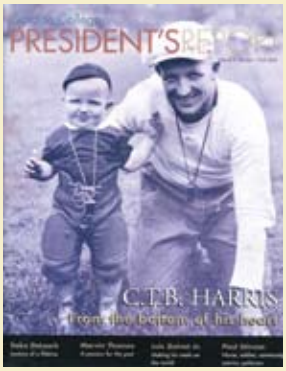
Toon went outside the College for additional help. Neither of us were designers, so we needed a graphic artist. We also needed a photographer.

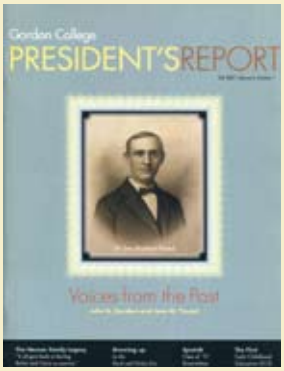
Tonya Beach joined us as our graphic artist, and Gary Meek became our photographer. Even though they were contracted, their professionalism and personality were such that it felt like they worked only for Gordon State College. To this day, I am deeply grateful for the two of them. They have been with the magazine from the first year, and this 10-year anniversary is as much theirs as it is the College's.

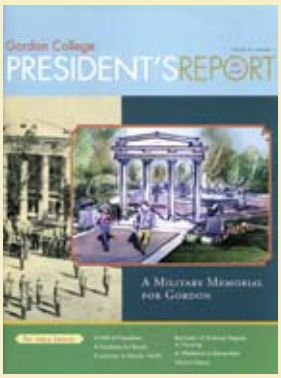
This anniversary is also yours. The *President's Report* would be empty without stories about you and your classmates, and I am honored to have met so many of you to hear your stories. Over the years, readers have told me they appreciate and enjoy the stories I write, but the truth of the matter is that all I've done is record in my notebook what I've heard. So many times, I've found that your stories write themselves – all I do is type them up.

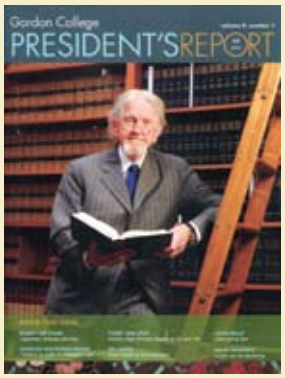
As editor of the *Report*, I get to meet you, listen to you and write about you. Oftentimes you are generous enough to let me photograph and video you. If you think this sounds like work, you'd be wrong. Being your editor and being a communication professor at Gordon is the best job of my life, and you are the best audience.

Gordon State College Alumni, thank you for the opportunity to be your editor. I am grateful for these past 10 years and imagine the next 10 will be even better.









Regents Approve Name Change to
Gordon State College

The Board of Regents approved changing the name of Gordon College to Gordon State College to better recognize its status among the 35 institutions in the University System of Georgia.

The change took place Aug. 8, 2012.

"While Gordon will remain at the core of our identity, being able to include our state college status in our name communicates more clearly the progress we have made. The new name honors the history of Gordon while allowing us to look to the future," said Gordon State College President Max Burns.

During a months-long process Burns sought input from the campus community and members of the greater community through a series of meetings, emails, personal conversations, and an open forum. There was also a portal on the college's website that allowed input on the subject. A special advisory committee made up of representatives from the school's various constituencies was also appointed and voted unanimously to approve the change.

Granted state college status by the University System of Georgia in 2006, Gordon's first four-year program, early childhood education, welcomed its first students in 2007. Since then an additional six four-year degrees – nursing, English, history, mathematics, biology and health services and informatics administration – have been added. Gordon also offers more than 40 additional programs of study which are fully transferable to other USG institutions.

New Health Services and Informatics Degree Offered at Gordon

Gordon State College was granted its seventh bachelor degree after action taken by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in September 2011.

Starting in 2013, Gordon will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Services and Informatics Administration.

"Gordon is answering both a regional and statewide need with the addition of this degree," said Shelley Nickel, who was then Gordon College interim president. "This program will build upon our strong partnerships with the health care industry and our proven academic strength in health related programs, information technology and business."

Health Services and Informatics Administration professionals are specialists in administering information systems, managing medical records, and coding information for reimbursement and research. Graduates are in demand in hospitals, insurance companies, physician practices, government agencies and skilled nursing facilities.

Fishy Waters Opens Theater Season

Guy Davis as Fishy Waters.

Acclaimed blues musician and storyteller Guy Davis will open Gordon State College's 2012-13 theater season on Thursday, Oct. 4, with *The Adventures of Fishy Waters: In Bed with the Blues*.

Through songs and tales, this original one-man show chronicles the adventures and misadventures of the fabled blues traveler Fishy Waters.

Guy Davis is the recipient of the *Keeping the Blues Alive* award for his portrayal of Robert Johnson in the off-Broadway production of *Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil*. He also appeared on Broadway in 2009-2010 in *Finian's Rainbow*, recreating the role made famous by blues icon, Sonny Terry.

The show runs through Oct. 6.

The season continues November 14-18 with the production of the Reduced Shakespeare Company's *The Compleat Wrks of Wilm Shkspr* (Abridged) by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield.

In this hilarious, audience-involving production, three actors attempt to perform all of William Shakespeare's plays.

Nothing is ever quite as it seems in Steven Dietz's *Private Eyes*, slated for Feb. 13-17, 2013.

The Gordon Theatre season closes in April with a production by guest director Laura King. The play, which is yet to be determined, will be presented April 17-21, 2013.

The Gordon State College Recital Series will present several nationally known performers throughout the academic year.

The Series opened on Aug. 29 with the Atlanta Guitar Trio.

Cellist Sophie Shao performs on Oct. 17; tenor Bradley Howard on Feb. 19, 2013 and on March 20, a concert will feature Richard Harris on the trombone and Brandon Ridenour on the trumpet.

All shows are presented on the stage of the Gordon State College Theatre. Weekday performances are at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday performances at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets for all performances are available at the door of the Fine Arts Theatre and are $7 for adults, $6 for senior citizens and $4 each for groups of 10 or more.

Gordon Nursing Students Score Perfect, Again

The May 2012 graduates of the Gordon State College School of Nursing and Health Sciences nursing program will soon learn their national exam scores.

They have tough acts to follow.

The May 2010, December 2010 and May 2011 classes passed their national exams with a 100 percent rate. The December 2011 class followed very closely with a 96 percent pass rate.

"We strongly suspect that the May 2012 class has a 100 percent pass rate but we will not know officially until October," said Faith Garrett, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. "We have a history of scoring very high on the NCLEX and producing very excellent nurses."

The NCLEX or National Council Licensure Examination is the exam required for nurses to obtain their license to practice.

The nursing program is the most popular degree program offered at Gordon State College. Launched in 1972, the same year Gordon joined the University System of Georgia, approximately 2,400 students have graduated the program.

The program has expanded and Gordon graduated its second class of nurses to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in May 2012.

The program also moved to a school organization in 2012 which recognizes the growth in baccalaureate programming supported by the nursing faculty.

Gordon Receives Much Needed Funding from the General Assembly

Gordon's share of $72.5 million in new funds from Georgia's General Assembly will come to about $940,000. Gov. Nathan Deal and the General Assembly fully funded the University System's enrollment formula, putting financial muscle behind the state's Complete College Georgia Initiative.

This initiative seeks to further college completion rates, increase job market credentials, and help underrepresented populations earn college degrees.

The money will allow the College to hire two academic advisers, increase the number of its "first-year experience" course sections, reduce dependence on part-time instructors, create a testing center, create a center for teaching and learning and improve and expand distance learning.

The two academic advisers will each be assigned about 300 new students whom they will help shepherd into their second year of study. They will also implement a robust intervention in the academic lives of students at risk of dropping or failing out of Gordon.

Increasing the number of "first-year experience" sections is an important part of the College's plan for the additional money, because the course improves students' motivation and study skills, therefore increasing their chances of graduation.

National data shows that overreliance on part-time instructors in classrooms affects student success. To this end Gordon will hire personnel in several key areas including health services and informatics administration, biology, English, history, mathematics, nursing and philosophy.

The creation of a testing center will help those Gordon students with learning disabilities who require testing in special, controlled environments.

Faculty will have a new resource in Gordon's planned Center for Teaching and Learning. The purpose of this center will be to support faculty designing new courses and strategies for its growing population of adult students and part-time students.

Coupled with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning will be new efforts to improve and expand courses offered in an online environment, since adult students and part-time students find that online courses are an important tool for timely completion of degrees.

Gordon Names 2012 Outstanding Scholar

Jenny Lea Brooks

Jenny Lea Brooks is the Gordon State College Outstanding Scholar for 2012.

Brooks was one of 35 students in the University System of Georgia to be honored by the Georgia General Assembly during its 2012 Academic Recognition Day.

In a letter to Brooks, USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby wrote, "Education is more than simply preparing for a career. It really is about gaining the values needed to be truly successful in life, whether in your career, or in service to your community and state."

Brooks is a nontraditional student. She attended Georgia Tech about 10 years ago, but as she puts it, "Things changed in my life." Now a wife and mother of an 8-year-old daughter, she decided it was time to fulfill her dream of becoming a naturopathic physician. Gordon's new biology program fit the bill.

She graduated in May as a member of the first cohort of students in Gordon's history to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

In his letter nominating Brooks for the academic honor, Ed Wheeler, vice president for academic affairs, noted that Brooks is a perfect example for the Complete College Georgia initiative.

"She is an adult student who had a brief experience with college in the mid-90s, dropped out, and returned to Gordon State College in 2010 to matriculate in the new baccalaureate program in biology," Wheeler said. "She has made no grade lower than an A in 15 courses, most of the courses being difficult junior-senior level science courses. It is worth noting that she completed this work while being a spouse and a mother and working a part-time job. We are very proud of this young woman."

On being a nontraditional student, Brooks said things are smoother this time around.

Jenny Lea Brooks and Ed Wheeler

"It hasn't always been a picnic, but it is a little easier to focus and concentrate," she said. "Sure I have a home life and part-time job, but I am able to manage all of that better, because I am more mature."

She also notes the tremendous assistance she received from the "very caring and approachable" professors at Gordon.

Her plans call for assisting her husband in the development of the company he just took over, and then packing up the family and heading west to attend a naturopathic school in Arizona.

And her return to college has had an unexpected benefit.

"My daughter has been very supportive," Brooks said. "She is so excited for me and can't wait to go to college herself."

> "She has made no grade lower than an A in 15 courses, most of the courses being difficult junior-senior level science courses. It is worth noting that she completed this work while being a spouse and a mother and working a part-time job.
>
> **ED WHEELER,**
> **vice president for academic affairs**

New Nursing Dean Comes Aboard

Faith Garrett
Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences

FAITH GARRETT has been named Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Gordon State College.

Garrett comes to Gordon from the University of West Georgia where, since 2009, she was assistant professor for nursing for the RN to BSN and generic baccalaureate program. Prior to her position at UWG, she was associate degree nursing chair at Bainbridge College.

Garrett, who has a doctorate in education, will be the founding dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences which was created to recognize the growth in baccalaureate programming supported by the nursing faculty.

Gordon is moving to a school/department organization in which there will be more focused academic units, some of which will have responsibility for delivering specific baccalaureate majors and other degrees.

The creation of a School of Nursing and Health Sciences responsible for delivering the ASN degree, the RN to BSN baccalaureate degree, and the Bachelor of Health Sciences with a major in Health Services and Informatics Administration is a first step in creating that new organization.

"Gordon has excellent nursing programs that can only get stronger with these changes," Garrett said. "I see the potential for a generic baccalaureate degree in nursing, and I am excited about the increased use of technology in teaching which will help to prepare our nursing and allied health students for a health field that is ever evolving."

Nursing professor Laura Patton begins the nursing pinning ceremony by lighting a candle on May 11 in Alumni Memorial Hall as nursing graduate Klayton Albritton looks on. Gordon's nursing school holds a separate ceremony for its graduates after the general graduation on Lambdin Green.

Graduation 2012

With near perfect weather as a backdrop and family and friends gathered around, approximately 300 students took part in graduation exercises Friday, May 11, on the campus of Gordon State College.

Guest speaker and Gordon State College Foundation Trustee Ed Mitchell told the graduates that "success without happiness is pretty much meaningless" and advised them to "follow the golden rule and take intelligent risks."

Among the graduates was Trey Varner, who was awarded a Bachelor of Science in early childhood education.

"I have had a great time here and have received an excellent education," Varner said. "I'm ready to begin my career."

The day's events included a pinning ceremony for graduates of the nursing program as well as the Bell and Book ceremony for graduates of the early childhood education program.

The day also marked a milestone for Gordon State College as 13 students were awarded Bachelor of Science in biology degrees, the first in the College's 160 years.

The Economic Impact of Gordon State College Continues to Increase

The economic contribution that Gordon State College makes to the regional economy continues to grow, increasing $18 million during Fiscal Year 2011 to $154 million, according to a report by the University System of Georgia.

Spending by Gordon State College students also increased during FY11. Up from $81 million in FY10, student spending accounted for $90 million of the total $154 million contributed to the area economy.

The Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business analyzed financial and enrollment data from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, to estimate the economic impact that each of Georgia's 35 public colleges and universities makes to the economy of the area where it is located.

Reports show that Gordon's economic impact on the region has increased steadily since FY07 when it topped $92 million. In FY08 the impact totaled $102 million; FY09, $109 million and FY10 $136 million.

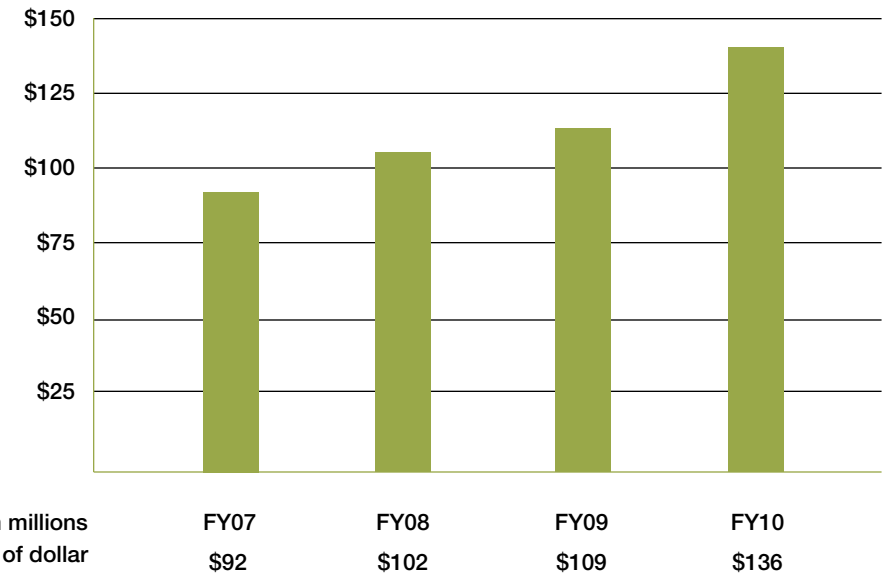
"These numbers make it clear that Gordon State College continues to be an economic powerhouse in the region while providing a quality education to students who also have a major impact on the region's economy," said Max Burns, Gordon State College president.

The report also showed that Gordon State College provided 1,504 jobs during FY11, an increase of 193 jobs over FY10. Of those jobs, 353 were on campus while 1,151 of those jobs existed off-campus due to institution-related spending.

Systemwide, the study shows that between FY07 and FY11, total spending by all 35 institutions and their students rose by 30 percent, and the number of jobs that owe their existence to that spending rose by 24 percent – from 106,267 jobs to 131,990 jobs.

"That job growth is quite impressive given that the state's total employment declined by 7 percent during this period," said study author Jeffrey M. Humphreys, director of the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth in the Terry College of Business. "Without exception, each college or university is an economic lynchpin of its host community."

The study, "The Economic Impact of University System of Georgia Institutions on their Regional Economies in FY 2011" may be found at www.usg.edu/economic_development /documents/PS-USGImpact2011.pdf.



Smith Hall Rededicated

Mike Mahan (left), Max Burns, Byron Smith, Joe Smith, Rebecca Smith and Trey Varner.

The "new" Smith Hall on the campus of Gordon State College was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting April 20, 2012.

Participating in the ceremony were Gordon President Max Burns, education division chair Mike Mahan, Byron Smith, Joe Smith, Rebecca Graham (all descendants of W.B. Smith for whom the building is named), and Trey Varner, a senior early childhood education major.

Byron Smith told the crowd of about 100 people that his grandfather, W.B. Smith, was quite a businessman who at different times owned a newspaper, a mortuary and a bank as well as other business ventures. The family is most known for the Barnesville Buggy Works which was, during its day, the largest in the South.

Smith is among a long list of Gordon graduates. His parents, both sets of grandparents and he all graduated from the school.

"He loved this school as much as anyone has," Smith said of his grandfather.

Smith Hall, built in 1939 as a Works Progress Administration project, now houses the division of teacher education.

"We are thrilled to offer our education students a state-of-the-art learning environment that, at the same time, acknowledges Gordon's history," said Mike Mahan, chair of the division.

From 1972 until April 2011, Smith Hall was the home of Gordon's nursing program. When the nursing program moved into the new Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Building, plans got underway to renovate Smith to accommodate the growing education division – Gordon's first four-year degree program.

Administrative offices are on the first floor with four classrooms and a computer lab on the second floor. Two of the rooms will be set up to simulate actual classrooms – one for the elementary program and another for the middle/secondary program.

Classes began in Smith Hall in the 2012 summer semester.

Gordon Military College's Premier Nurse

Charlene Johnston Hall gives an approving look at a display honoring her grandmother Garnett W. Quillian. Nurse Quillian ran the military college's infirmary from 1939 to 1969. The display features one of the original blankets from the infirmary and pages from a "guest book" that cadets used to record their experiences under Quillian's care. Hall donated these and more items which are on display in the College's Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Building.

Gordon Professor Builds Bigger Big MO

Neil Boumpani, associate professor of music and Clay Lovejoy.

Neil Boumpani, Gordon's associate professor of music, has completed what may come to be one of his greatest – if not his loudest and largest – piece of work.

Built from scratch for the University of Missouri, the drum will replace the current Big MO, the beat-to-death and slightly smaller bass drum which has been a sideline staple of Mizzou home football games since 1981.

At 9-feet and weighing an estimated 800 pounds, the new Big MO is the world's largest marching band bass drum, according to Boumpani.

Boumpani, the sole proprietor of Boumpani Music, was offered the job of building the new Big MO after other larger companies turned it down.

"I will take on jobs that others do not believe are possible," he said as the finishing touches were put on Big MO before it was shipped out last spring.

With the assistance of Clay Lovejoy, who plays saxophone in the Gordon State College Community Band which Boumpani conducts, the drum was assembled in the corner of a local manufacturing company.

Lovejoy laughs when he explains that Boumpani originally planned to assemble the drum in his own garage.

"That all changed when the shell was delivered," Lovejoy said. "No way was that going to work."

Boumpani purchased the custom drum shell from a company in Alabama, had it painted at a local auto shop and had to construct not only a nest for the drum to rest on while it was being built, but also an internal support to keep the massive shell in round.

Meanwhile, Lovejoy machined 32 special lugs which hold the rims and heads on the shell and allow for the drum's sound to be adjusted. Lovejoy also added a special touch, engraving each lug with Boumpani's company name and logo – a treble and alto cleft joined together to resemble a script B.

The new Big MO made its official debut in fall 2012.

Check it out
www.youtube.com/GordonCollegeGA

Alumnus Returns to Gordon as an Author

Gordon State College Alumnus Fredrick Bailey was honored to return to his alma mater for a signing event to promote his newly published book.

Bailey, class of '09, wrote *Waiting on the Rain*, an emotional account of his poverty-stricken childhood.

"I want to share my story in hopes that it can motivate people to not let their bad environment define their life," Bailey said.

The book's title comes from what Bailey had to go through just to bathe and wash his clothes.

Derious Brown, vice president of the Student African American Brotherhood, made sure he purchased a book and had it signed. Bailey was a member of SAAB as well as president of the Student Government Association while a Gordon student.

"I want to make sure Mr. Bailey knows that SAAB members support him and that we appreciate the message he is delivering through his book," Brown said.

Fredrick Bailey and Derious Brown.

Bailey is continuing his studies and also embarking on a career as a motivational speaker.

An Idea Helps Student Attend Gordon State College

In 2009 when Gordon State College installed a historical marker to commemorate President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's historic 1938 visit to Barnesville, attendee Dan White got an idea.

"After attending that event, I thought of the possibility of creating an endowed scholarship in FDR's memory to further commemorate his historic visit here," said White, director of program services for the Rural Library Project, Inc.

Exactly 73 years to the day, and a few steps away from where Roosevelt addressed a crowd estimated at nearly 50,000 to dedicate the first Rural Electric Cooperative in Georgia, the scholarship that White endowed, the "Franklin Delano Roosevelt Scholarship," was awarded to its first recipient, Isaac Fenwick.

"I am proud to play a small part in honoring our 32nd president and in so doing strengthen the link of Gordon State College to his legacy," White said during a ceremony in Gordon's Hightower Library. "While no Roosevelt scholar, I feel certain that FDR would be immensely proud of Gordon State College and of all the improvements that have occurred in his beloved Georgia."

Fenwick said he "almost passed out" when he received the letter announcing that he was being awarded the scholarship. He thanked two of his professors, Bethany Johnson and David Janssen, for their support as well as his family for believing in him and White for establishing the scholarship.

Fenwick plans to attend medical school with the hopes of becoming a pediatrician. He was part of the first class of students to earn a biology degree this year.

"What I plan to do after I finish college is save lives," Fenwick said. "I know that the journey may be tough and long and agonizing, but in the end it will be worth it."

Those attending the event also heard from Abit Massey, chairman of the FDR Warm Springs Memorial Advisory Commission who read a letter from Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR's granddaughter, who wrote, "Gordon State College is quite clearly an educational institution that talks boldly about its commitment to diversity and community. Our grandfather never shirked voicing his vision for America and the world, one where four essential freedoms characterized the lives of people everywhere in the world. Freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of worship, and freedom of speech are inherent in the vision and mission of Gordon State College extending and preserving Franklin D. Roosevelt's legacy here in central Georgia. As your students leave this campus with their degrees they will carry this legacy with them, and make their contribution to that world of freedom and fairness for all."

Melton Johnson (left), Carolyn Wynn Blalock, Sarah Wynn, Fenwick Johnson and Dan White.

Also part of the ceremony was a presentation by Carolyn Wynn Blalock, on behalf of the Wynn family, of a copy of the diploma her mother, Evelyn Wilson Wynn, earned as a member of the Sixth District A&M Class of 1922.

The Sixth District A&M, which closed in the 1930s, was located on what is now the campus of Gordon State College.

"She received her teacher preparation at A&M and then taught in a one-room school house in Lovejoy where she met and married my father, James H. Wynn," Blalock said during the ceremony. "Learning that the college had in its archives no diplomas from the A&M years, we are very pleased to give the college a copy of my mother's 1922 diploma and a copy of her graduation picture. I am certain she would be both pleased and honored to add her contribution to Gordon State College as it continues to guide its students into the future, building on its strong foundations of the past."

Blalock and her niece, Sarah Wynn, also acknowledged the donation of a print of FDR. The print, a copy of the famous "unfinished portrait" which was being painted when Roosevelt died while at the Little White House in 1945, was given to Gordon State College by White, Wynn's partner in the Rural Library Project, Inc.

All the items are on display in the Hightower Library on the Gordon campus.

THELMA RICHIE

A story from Gordon's first class of nursing graduates

"I WAS 44 WHEN I GRADUATED FROM GORDON, AND I AM 83 NOW," said Thelma Richie of Dunnellon, Fla. "I will tell you that it was the best, the very best decision I ever made in my life. Gordon changed my life completely."

Richie was a mother and a grandmother working in a textile mill in Griffin, Ga., when Gordon began its nursing program. More than anything, she had wanted to work as a public health nurse, but a GED was the extent of her education.

Even after becoming a licensed practical nurse, her dream was still beyond her grasp. When she approached the county health department, she was told that she could only work behind the scenes in the labs, when what she wanted to do was to be a spokesperson for health.

She wanted to be a public health nurse and this meant she needed to be a registered nurse.

"I looked at going to Atlanta, but I was afraid of driving up there, and then I knew they might put me in another place in that area for clinicals—the city scared me. I thought I would probably get lost. And I wanted time with the grandkids," she said.

So, she continued at the mill.

And then Gordon began its nursing program in 1973. "I was there in the first class (graduating in 1975). I did not have a scholarship, but Gordon was affordable so my husband sponsored me. I quit my job, and he supported the family and me. He believed in me and supported me every step of the way."

When her grandchildren would come over to play, her husband served as timekeeper. He had set aside a study area for her in the back of the house, and after the children had enjoyed the attention of their grandmother for a while, he would tell them that it was time for her to study.

At other times, even late into the night, when she had been studying for an extended time and was growing frustrated with her ability to comprehend the information presented, her husband would tell her they needed to go for a walk. He would walk alongside her while the tears fell, and then she would go back home and back to the books.

"He wanted a return on his investment," she joked. "He did not want to pay for a course twice, so he made sure I passed."

Her friend Betty Wilson was in the first class alongside her, which she says also helped a great deal. "Betty went back to school on the GI Bill after serving in the Navy. She made all A's. I will just say that I passed everything—I did not fail a course, but I did not match her record."

"The difference between me and some of the students was more than age. The reason I passed and others struggled was that they did not accept the fact that you had to spend your weekends with the books. They thought the weekends were theirs for play. We had a lot of outside readings and that is how I spent my weekends."

Richie said her faith had always been a strong part of her life and she relied on it while a student. "I remember telling my pastor at that time that I prayed every day, but every night I studied like the devil. He laughed and told me that was how most people did it. I knew he was lifting my name in prayer and that meant a lot to me."

Richie was the first person in her family to graduate from college and the changes in her became evident to everyone around her, especially her family.

"A few years after getting her degree from Gordon, she helped my mother Carla Evans out when she decided to go to Gordon as a single parent with two kids at home," said Tim Evans, Richie's grandson who currently serves as human resources director at the Georgia Department of Labor. "She also helped me out when I went to college. She is now helping her great-granddaughter, Kayle Evans, who is currently enrolled as a student at Gordon. In essence, four generations of our family attended Gordon. Two got degrees, one is currently enrolled and I was a 5-year-old mascot in my grandmother's nursing class."

"It might not be this way for my family if I had not started the ball rolling. Truly, Gordon changed my family's life," said Richie. "I credit my being an example to other members of my family as to why they chose to go to college. It started something, and I believe it will continue. If it had not been Gordon and the nursing program, I believe I would have kept working at the mill, but you know the mill went away. I was making good money when I was there, but I wanted more."

Her grandson Tim is convinced that his grandmother's degree gave her more than just a job, but a new outlook on life. "Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to my grandmother for being such an inspiration to each of us," he said.

Even before Richie received her Gordon diploma she went back to the county health department and told them of her plans. "I told them to keep me in mind and before the year was up I was a public health nurse."

Richie had found her calling long before she had the credentials to do the job, and the job was everything she hoped that it would be. "I loved being a public health nurse. I loved going into the schools. I felt like I had been successful, and I was so happy. A lot of the other nurses could do everything, but their knees would buckle if they had to stand up in front of a group and talk. Not me. I love to talk, and I loved that part of the work," she said.

Her husband of more than 48 years died of cancer in 1995. Two years before his death her sister had died. Richie says that her brother-in-law and she remained friends and in 1997 he began to regularly make the 5 1/2 hour drive from his home in Florida to her home in Griffin.

"On one of those trips he put a ring on my finger," she said.

When she moved to Florida she said she knew what to expect from her life married to a fire chief because "sisters talk, you know."

"At the age of 83 I have realized that I put myself last my whole life, so I said, 'Kid, if you do not put yourself first now you won't ever be first,' so I joined a lot of things—really, just any group or club or organization someone asked me to join. I kept my memberships in those that I loved and let go of the ones I did not."

Among her many activities is exercise. She spends three afternoons a week focusing on her exercise routine. When she was married at the age of 17 she weighed 128 pounds and at 83 she still maintains a weight of 128 pounds. "Oh I was fat at one time in my life, but I determined to take that weight off, and I did, and I kept it off," she said.

Determination seems to be a common theme in Richie's life, but she is quick to give credit to her faith and to her Gordon experience for many of her accomplishments. "I was blessed. I have always been blessed. Opportunities just dropped in my lap that I would have never had if it had not been for Gordon College."

Asked what she would say to a student considering Gordon for their education, she is quick to respond "First, I would recommend Gordon to anyone. I would tell them not to expect it to be easy. It is not. Don't expect time for play. You can't play and be successful. It will take determination and time with your books. It can change your life. It completely changed mine."

Alumni Weekend 2012

by Peter Boltz

It's always difficult to sum up Alumni Weekend, even in a magazine article, but for the sake of trying, what if the words patriotic, academic, delicious and reminiscent were used?

It was patriotic, because that is what the alumni of Gordon Military College are.

It was academic, because it honored professors of today's Gordon who had earned tenure and promotion.

It was delicious, because delicious menus were planned for every event.

It was reminiscent, because four former cadets once again marched the colors before review.

And, what else? There must be another word.

Oh yes, and perhaps it's the most important word of all. Fun. If there is one thing Gordon alumni are good at, it's having fun.

Once again, the weekend began with registration at 9 a.m. on a Friday, which was April 20 this year, but unlike last year, a big event was planned before the usual faculty and staff reception. This year's alumni weekend coincided with the completion of the renovation of Smith Hall, and so faculty, staff and alumni gathered there for a ribbon cutting.

The building was named Smith Hall in honor of Walter B. Smith Sr., an 1882 graduate of Gordon Institute and a member of Gordon's Board of Trustees from 1896 to 1933. Present in the audience were his grandson Jim Graham and Graham's mother, Rebecca Smith Graham. Education senior James Paul Varner III, known as Trey, opened the ceremony with a short welcome speech and an introduction of Gordon State College President Max Burns.

"I am so delighted to be here for this fantastic occasion," Burns said. "It is my first ribbon cutting

as Gordon's president, to reopen this classic building." And not just to reopen it, but to recognize it as the new home of Gordon's education department and its early childhood education baccalaureate program.

The president marveled at how, in 1939, the city of Barnesville and Gordon joined forces to equip the building with a biology lab, a chemistry lab, and all the furniture for a library, classrooms and offices for just $10,000. And this money also included the technological marvels of the day, projectors and typewriters.

"They brought this building to life," Burns said, "the Smith family in particular. We are honored to have many of the Smith family with us here today." Furthermore, he said, Trey Varner, would be awarded his bachelor's degree in early childhood education at Gordon's graduation in precisely three weeks.

Byron Smith, one of Walter B. Smith's grandsons, was next to speak, amusing the audience with stories that reflected the character and personality of his grandfather. "Once," he said, "someone wrote a story in the paper that he didn't like, so he bought the paper." The funeral home was another business that fell out of his favor also – so he bought it too and took up embalming.

Then Byron turned his attention to someone who is not a Smith. "One other person I'd like to acknowledge," he said, "is Peter Banks. If not for Peter's stamina, Gordon would not be here." Byron was referring to Banks' role in making Gordon a member of the University System of Georgia.

Once the ribbon across the entrance was cut, the audience was invited to tour the building, and have, as Burns put it, a look into the future.

Continued on page 44

For a video of the rededication speeches, type "Gordon College Smith Hall Rededication" into the search box of **www.youtube.com**

"We still need $260,000," he said, of the memorial's $350,000 cost. "Please think about this."

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While Smith was being rededicated as the new education department's building, Alumni House's courtyard was being prepared for the reception where alumni mingled with faculty, staff and Gordon retirees. This event is a good time for Gordon's past to socialize with Gordon's present, and it was a good time for President Burns to honor those faculty who have been promoted or granted tenure.

It was not a white tablecloth affair, but the roasted red pepper hummus, Texas caviar and pineapple chipotle meatballs had many going back for seconds and thirds. And even though the weather reports kept threatening rain, and the sky kept threatening rain, it just didn't happen.

Registration the following morning in Alumni House was both a time for alumni to check in and a time for socializing. People coming through the front door often ran into old friends before they could reach the registration table. Eventually, they would make it to the table and then get coffee and a pastry and move into the piano room, the living room or the deck. Max and Lora Burns joined the socializing awhile before heading up to Russell Hall for the weekend's opening ceremony.

Arthur Ayers, Edwin Chapman, Peyton Keaton and Paul Kilpatrick, all HS-'57, made up the color guard, and while they were a little out of practice, the audience lauded them with applause.

First introducing his wife, Lora, President Burns was next on the program, and he spent a short while giving a state-of-the-College address. He said he realized Gordon had gone through many changes since many in the audience had attended. But, he said, it was to be expected, because the College was in the business of changing lives.

"I hope your special friends are here and that you can reconnect," he said. "If you laugh a little, share some memories, make some memories, it will be a good weekend."

Rick Hahn was then introduced.

Hahn's aunt, Peggy Tyus O'Dell (HS-'39, C-'41), was in the audience with her classmate William Webster (HS-'39, C-'41). Hahn was there to honor O'Dell's husband, William, a highly decorated Marine who fought at Guadalcanal during the fiercest moments of that battle. Webster, also a highly decorated World War II and Korean War Marine, was one of the few people William O'Dell confided in after the war.

"He was a lance corporal who commanded an antitank gun crew," Hahn said. O'Dell was with the 1st Marine Division, known as "The Old Breed," which is the "oldest, largest, and most decorated division in the United States Marine Corps, with nine Presidential Unit Citations," according to the division's official

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A Friend in Need… Is a Friend Indeed

After many trips to two different hospitals, emergency rooms and doctors, and after new problems piling up day after day, Linda Hanner, alone in a hospital waiting room, had finally reached her breaking point.

She had just left her husband Bob's room for the waiting room down the hall at Emory in Atlanta, where she sat down and started sobbing after the doctor informed her that he still had an infection and that the medication was causing problems with his kidneys. Compounding this bad news was news that her 97-year-old father was ill, and he lived an hour away in Barnesville.

To say the least, she was torn, emotionally and geographically.

"I just couldn't take more," she said. "The tears had to flow."

So she sat in the waiting room, crying and praying for a friend, even as strangers walked by her with their morning coffees.

"I knew Bob would start wondering where I was, so I got up and walked to the waiting room door, just as a lady was about to enter," Hanner said. When she saw the woman smile at her, she was overcome again. She turned back into the room, sat down, hung her head and cried.

"Through my tears," Hanner said, "I saw that someone was standing in front of me, and then I heard the sweetest voice say, 'Is there anything I can do for you?'"

"No," Hanner said. "I'm just upset because my husband has been here for two weeks, and now my 97-year-old daddy in Barnesville is sick."

"Barnesville?" the other woman said, "I'm from Barnesville."

In disbelief, Hanner asked, "Who are you?"

When Hanner heard the name Paquita Mansour, she jumped up and started hugging the woman, and while laughing through her tears, she said, "I'm Linda Ann."

This time it was Mansour's turn for disbelief. She had known "Linda Ann" for years, but did not recognize her. As Hanner explained, she and Mansour knew each other as girls in Barnesville, but it had been years since the two of them had seen each other. Even so, the two of them often had phone conversations. Hanner worked with Mansour's former classmate Kathy Matthews, and so when Mansour would call for Kathy, she often ended up speaking with Linda Ann.

Because Mansour's mother was being treated on the same floor as Hanner's husband, the two women had been unknowingly crossing each others' paths for three days. Only after Hanner prayed for a friendly face did Mansour appear.

"So, next time you smile at someone," Hanner said, "at our age, Class of '64, you never know who might be smiling at you and opening a big blessing."

Midgie Coddington, Paquita Mansour, Linda Ann Hanner, and Bob Hanner on the patio of the alumni house during Alumni Weekend.

Make a Date for Next Year
Join Us for Gordon State College's Alumni Weekend April 19-21, 2013

Come join us for a weekend of renewing friendships, making new friends, reminiscing, good food and drink, and fun.

Have a idea for an event at next year's reunion? Have a question about lodging, travel or plans?

Contact Natalie Rischbieter at natalier@gdn.edu or call her at 678-359-5073.

We can also be reached via the U.S. Postal Service: Gordon State College, Alumni Relations Office, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.

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website. He never spoke of his war experiences that Hahn knew of, but his three Purple Hearts said a lot.

Hahn asked Peggy where all her husband's medals were, and she told him that her husband had put them away in a box in a drawer. "I asked her if I could do something with them, something to honor her husband, herself and her family," he said. And then he held a shadowbox display of William's medals, silently for the audience to see.

The audience erupted in applause. In the shadowbox were his Purple Hearts, the Marine Commendation Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation ribbon.

Once everyone settled down, Hahn made an impassioned plea for contributions for Gordon's proposed military memorial.

Those who wish to contribute toward the memorial can give any amount, or they can join the "350," that is, someone who has contributed or pledged to give $1,000. These donors get special recognition in the *President's Report*, get to wear a red ribbon on their Alumni Weekend name badges, and will have their names inscribed on a plaque on the site. More information can be found at http://www2.gdn.edu/militarymemorial/ or call Rhonda Toon, vice president for advancement, at 678-359-5124.

Organizers tried something new for the Saturday lunch: the different classes in attendance were separated into different rooms in Russell Hall and Smith Hall. This allowed the different classes to discuss their plans for future reunions or to just socialize with classmates. This proved to be a successful innovation, especially since there was a large number of alumni representing classes all the way from 1939 to present.

After lunch, alumni had a variety of activities they could attend like the women's softball team vs. East Georgia College or a campus tour, or they could make their own activities.

The alumni barbeque that night proved, once again, to be a very popular event of Alumni Weekend, with the courtyard and parking lot of Alumni House filled with people. And why wouldn't the event be popular considering the menu: BBQ chicken with pineapple and cilantro, traditional BBQ chicken, peach BBQ pulled pork, and peach cobbler tartlets, just to mention some of the choices. And for those who wished, there was a bar serving wine, beer and mixed drinks.

Jim Graham, performing with his band, *Junkshun*, took a moment when the band was on break, to speak as the chair of the Gordon State College Alumni Advisory Board. Straining to control the emotion he felt for those who have served or were serving in the military, Graham appealed to his audience to contribute to Gordon's military memorial.

Class Reunion 101

Involve Gordon's Alumni Relations Office

Planning your class reunion can be easy, but it does require advance planning.

Tradition holds that your class president and officers lead the planning effort, although it is not unusual for the president to hand the job over to others. Whether your class officers are directly involved in planning or not, it is wise to keep them informed and to ask their advice.

Form a dedicated reunion committee, so as many viewpoints as possible are included. There are many decisions to be made, and input from a committee will ensure your reunion will be enjoyed by many and not just a few.

For example, do you want a formal event or casual event? As a reunion committee chair, you may think the best way to go is formal, when in fact, the best way to go is informal. The opinions of other committee members would save you from a wrong decision.

Another critical decision to be made is when to hold your reunion.

Many classes choose to have their gathering in conjunction with alumni weekend, which is typically held the third weekend of April. This weekend has proven to be successful over the years for many classes. The weather has always been good at this time of year – warm to hot during the day, and cool during the evenings.

Another benefit of holding your reunion during alumni weekend is that you have an opportunity to visit with not only your classmates, but also with alumni from other years.

Many of you had friends in classes other than your own. If your reunion is during alumni weekend, there is a good chance you will see them.

But don't worry that you may not have time with just your classmates. Alumni weekend stretches from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning, and you and your committee can plan "private time" any time during the weekend. Some classes choose to have a formal dinner Friday night after the faculty reception on Friday afternoon. Another option is to have a luncheon for just your class on Saturday, and then join other classes for the Saturday night band and barbecue.

Some classes have chosen to have their reunion in May on the exact date of their graduation ceremony. Others have chosen to plan their event around Barnesville Buggy Days, but this is not recommended. Research conducted by Gordon's Alumni Office has found that local residents prefer that reunions not be scheduled during Buggy Days. Many cite family obligations or involvement in the festival itself that prohibit their participation. Furthermore, lodging is more difficult to find during Buggy Days.

A last bit of advice for reunion planners – involve Gordon's Office of Alumni Affairs early in your planning. Natalie Rischbieter, the College's coordinator of Alumni Affairs, can provide you with assistance using Gordon's database of names as well as with the design and mailing of "save-the-date" cards, registrations and other necessary parts of the process. The college can also provide registration via credit cards online or by check via the mail. No deposits are required when holding your reunion on campus and the Alumni Office will help you stay within the parameters of your budget.

Another benefit is that the alumni coordinator works closely with the College's catering company, Sodexo. Food is an important element of any reunion, and Sodexo has gotten very good reviews from alumni over the years. As part of your planning, Sodexo will provide possible menus and prices, so you and your committee can come up with an appropriate attendance fee. You will find that our food service can provide a wide range of menus to fit any occasion or dietary restriction – and you decide what the costs will be ahead of time.

Whatever your class chooses, the Gordon Alumni Affairs Office seeks to serve you. Email Natalie Rischbieter at natalier@gdn.edu or call her at 678-359-5073.

1940s

Lt. Col. William J. Webster '41 retired in 1965 from the United States Marine Corps after 24 years. Webster flew F8 Crusader jets during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Lorie Mangham '44 lives in Barnesville and works at the Deer Trail Country Club as the golf pro.

1950s

Duane Eilola '52 relocated to Barnesville, Ga., in summer 2009 from San Diego, Calif. He has volunteered at the alumni affairs office and helped with 2012 Alumni Weekend.

David Cherry '55 recently retired for the third time. He continues outdoor activities, skiing, hiking, sea kayaking and traveling. "It's a good life," he said.

John Boesch '57 will be one of the newest members to be elected to the Gordon State College Alumni Association Board for 2013-2014. Boesch resides in Pinehurst, N.C., with his wife, Lydia.

Lee Otis Butler '57 retired from the Air National Guard. He is enjoying his retirement and is living in Sparta, Tenn.

Nancy Willis Joiner '57 retired from Camden County Board of Education as the office manager and bookkeeper. She and her husband are enjoying retirement and spend lots of time with their family. "We are enjoying the lake life and have made lots of new friends through our church and the country club," she said. Their family resides in Milledgeville, Ga.

Peyton H. Keaton III '57 is a retired realtor. He and his wife Kaye Keaton have lived in Orlando, Fla., for 40 years. He has two children and two granddaughters. He and his wife are enjoying their grandchildren, retirement and traveling. He looks forward to coming back in five years for his 60th class reunion.

Ronald P. (Paul) Kilpatrick "Killer" Jr. '59 retired as an airline professional for Eastern and FedEx airlines. He also worked as an academic-industry adviser at Purdue University and Indiana State University. Paul is the father of Sean and Peepa, and he has three grandchildren. He lives in Indianapolis, Ind.

1960s

Alan Giles '60 worked 37 years for the U.S. Postal Service, starting as a letter carrier and ending as manager of marketing for the Atlanta District. He retired in 2006 and his wife, Angela, retired from her job as a stockbroker in 2011. Their travels to date have included trips to Mexico, Alaska and in August a two week riverboat cruise down the Danube River. His long-range plans include sitting in a nursing home, sucking oatmeal though a straw, and wondering what day it is and how his son can afford a new Corvette.

Lilla Jane Green '63 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Green is a retired teacher from Gordon State College.

Bob Hanner '63 recently retired after 37 years from the Georgia House of Representatives. He resides in Parrot, Ga., with his wife Linda.

James "Virgil" Herndon '63 is a retired counselor from Roswell High School, who now lives in Roswell with his wife, Carolyn, of 43 years. He was an educator for 38 years serving as a biology teacher for one year and then as a high school counselor for 37 years. He's a member of the Daylily Society of Greater Atlanta and the American Daylily Society.

John Webster '64 retired after 36 years at the Florida Division of Forestry as the deputy chief of field operations. He and his wife Maureen Brown Webster moved to Milner, Ga., where they currently reside. Webster was recently appointed chairman of the Foundation Board for the Barnesville Rotary Chapter.

Maureen Brown Webster '67 retired after 35 years from First National Bank of Florida in Milton, Fla., as the vice president of commercial lending. Webster was recently appointed as treasurer of Azalea Garden Club of Barnesville, Ga. She is the grandmother of a new little girl.

Lynn McSwain Wilson '67 has worked for Loreal USA as the district manager since 1994. Lynn and Randy have been married for 42 years. They have two children who have been very successful in their careers. They have three grandchildren as well. "Randy and I love to travel and enjoy outside activities," she said.

Michael Mallory '68 is making plans to move from Florida to a converted cotton mill on the banks of the Yellow River in Porterdale, Ga. – about 42 miles from the Gordon State College campus. Mallory will be working on the Sprint IDEN decommission project on the East Coast as well as his writing. He says he is working on a book, *Bomb Disposal for Dummies – Don't Cut the Blue…* and longs to be the next Lewis Grizzard.

Mike Barron '69 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Barron and his wife Bonnie reside in Macon, Ga.

Cathy Crawford Sims '69 is proud to announce her daughter Catherine H. Sims and John D. McKay were married on May 12, 2012, in Dallas, Texas. The couple are employed by MedStar Ambulance service of Tarrant County and live in Red Oak, Texas.

Gail Penninton Taylor '69 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Taylor and her husband Bob reside in Barnesville, Ga.

1970s

Don Neuner '70 is the newest member of the Gordon State College Foundation Board. Don is owner of Synergy Solutions Group. He and his wife Karen live in Fayetteville, Ga.

Lt. Col. William J. Webster, class of '41, is a retired Marine pilot. He was recently presented with a painting commissioned in his honor. The painting by retired Marine pilot, Lt. Col. Ed Cathcart, depicts Webster piloting an F8 Crusader past the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, N.C. Webster fought in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Dave Maskell of Barnesville, Ga., (right), a retired Navy fighter pilot, arranged the surprise. Webster's son, two of his daughters and three grandchildren were present at the unveiling.

Bob Hanner, class of '63, recently retired from the Georgia House of Representatives after 37 years, but his government service is not over yet. Gov. Nathan Deal has appointed Hanner as the executive manager of Water Policy for Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Hanner resides in Parrott, Ga., with his wife Linda.

Chuck Bennett '71 attended Gordon two periods in time, fall of 1965 to summer of 1967 eventually graduating in the summer of 1971. Bennett has renovated hundreds of older and historic homes in the past 26 years. Bennett and his wife of 40 years, Fran, reside in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

George Butler '71 served as the chairman of the Gordon College Foundation for 2011-2012.

Norman Prevatte '71 has worked for the Department of Justice in Virginia for the last 38 years. He retired from the Army in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel. He was awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, five Army Commendation Medals, and the Army Achievement Medal for his years of service

Truman Boyle '73 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Boyle is employed by the Georgia State Patrol.

Debra Lasseter Cone '74 and Scott Cone '74 have been married for 38 years and returned to Barnesville six years ago after raising their two daughters in Atlanta. They have three grandchildren. Scott is employed with Honeywell Corp. in Norcross, and Debbie is the coordinator of the Gordon State College Welcome Center.

Tony Chastain '74 graduated from Georgia Southwestern in '76. Chastain has worked in the textile industry for more than 30 years and is currently employed by 1888 Mills in Griffin, Ga. He and his wife, Dianne, have three children, one of which is employed at Gordon State College as controller. Chastain and his wife reside in Thomaston, Ga., and have four grandchildren.

1980s

Britt Lifsey '83 participated in the 2011 Leadership Lamar program sponsored by the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce.

Mike Dillon '85 attended Mercer University for his undergraduate degree and then went on to law school where he graduated in 1992. Dillon's daughter Alexandra Dillon was married in St. Germaine la Ville, France, on July 7, 2012. Dillon and his wife Angela reside in Forsyth, Ga.

Ginger Turner Lifsey '85 recently transferred from the operating room to the post anesthesia care unit at Spalding Regional Medical Center. Ginger and her family dog Gabby participated in the Canine Good Citizen program hosted by the Community Education Department at Gordon State College.

1990s

William Sands '90 recently completed a 12 month deployment in support of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force Mission in Afghanistan where he received a second Bronze Star and two Air Medals for combat action.

Kellie Roquemore Sappington '97 is a third generation Gordon alumna. She received her A.S. in mathematics and then transferred to the University of Georgia for a B.S. in mathematics and a B.S. in physics. She works as a study expert in math, physics and statistics at Study Edge in Athens, Ga.

Courtney Toon McDaniel '98 began a new position as director of Children with Special Needs Programs for District 4 Public Health in March of 2012. McDaniel will oversee four programs that serve a 12-county public health district in West Central Georgia.

Erin Green Ison '99 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Ison is a teacher at Pike County High School.

Rebecca Jackson '99 a registered nurse at Sylvan Grove Hospital, is the first winner of the DAISY award at the hospital. The award recognizes the outstanding work nurses do every day, and comes with a certificate, pin, and the Healer's Touch sculpture designed by the Diseases Attacking the Immune System (DAISY) Foundation.

2000s

Kelly Hayes Adamson '00 graduated from Mercer University in 2002. Adamson taught at Futral Road Elementary school in Griffin, Ga., for two years and will begin her 8th year at Lamar County Elementary School as a 5th grade math teacher. Adamson and her husband Al reside in Barnesville, Ga., and have three children.

Class of '68 Mike Sweat Wins Gold

Mike Sweat (right), now known as George Scott, threw a 16.01 lb. shot 33 feet and 4 inches for a gold medal at the 2011 Georgia Golden Olympics.

Amanda Foster '02 was recently promoted to the director of the intensive care unit at Spalding Regional Medical Center in Griffin, Ga. Foster has worked at Spalding Regional since her graduation from Gordon State College in '02.

Elizabeth Lott Rainey '03 moved to Stockbridge, Ga., after graduating from Gordon's nursing program and was placed in the neonatal intensive care unit department at Henry Medical Center. From there, she and her husband moved to North Carolina where she worked at Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital in the NICU. Now they are back in Georgia where she was recently hired as a registered nurse for Pediatria Home Health for Kids. They have a son, 3, and enjoy spending time together as a family and traveling.

Amanda Sullivan Cates '06 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Cates is a nurse at Atlanta Medical Center.

Holly Slagle '06 was recently nominated to serve on the 2012-2013 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Slagle resides in Atlanta, and works at Atlanta Medical Center as a labor and delivery nurse.

Beverly Dyche '08 left her position as community education program coordinator at Gordon last May to relocate to Dahlonega, Ga., where she serves as the office administrator for the continuing education department at North Georgia College and State University. While she misses her Gordon family, she loves mountain life with her fiancé, Sig, and their yellow lab, Bailey.

Fredrick Bailey '09 returned to his alma mater for a signing event to promote his newly published book, *Waiting on the Rain*. He was a member of SAAB as well as president of the Student Government Association while a Gordon student.

Blake Parrot '09 received his AACC in Education from Gordon State College. He recently returned to Gordon State College as the assistant baseball coach, helping to lead the team to win the NJCAA East Central District Championship as well as a trip to the 2012 JUCO World Series in Colorado. Parrot was also nominated to the Gordon State College Alumni Association Board for the 2012-2013 term.

Autumn Schaffer '09 has return to Gordon State College to work in the instructional technology department as an instructional technologist.

Rondricus Fletcher '11 was nominated to serve on the 2012-2013 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Fletcher is employed at Lamar County Schools.

Marcia Proud '11 was nominated to serve on the 2013-2014 Alumni Association Board at Gordon State College. Proud is a teacher at Lamar County Primary.

Camilo Caballero '12 after receiving an A.S. in business administration has been selected for a fall 2012 internship with the Department of State to work in the public affairs office at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain.

Joshua Franklin Maddox '12 of Butts County was among a panel of questioners in a political forum hosted by Butts County Partners for Smart Growth.

Joseph Rosenbaum '12 after receiving an A.A. in communication has married his classmate from Gordon State College, Jennifer Holcomb. Holcomb graduated in 2012 with an education degree. The Rosenbaum's now reside in McDonough, Ga.

James (Trey) Varner '12 is a graduate of the 2012 early childhood education program. Varner, while attending, was a 2010 and 2011 scholarship recipient.

What's New with You?

The *President's Report* would like to know.

We would like to stay informed about what's new in your personal and professional activities so we can share your news in next year's magazine. Please send your items to Natalie Rischbieter, Alumni Relations Office,
Gordon State College
419 College Drive
Barnesville, Ga., 30204
natalier@gdn.edu
678-359-5073
fax: 770-359-5738

We want to know your news!

Chuck Bennett, Class of '71

Launched his contracting business in Charleston, S.C., in 1986 with $1,500 and a worn-out pickup truck. Today, Chuck Bennett Contracting, Inc., is one of the most successful and respected companies that restore and renovate old and historic homes in Charleston.

Bennett (right) started at Gordon in the fall of '65 but interrupted his education in '67 to serve in the Navy. Bennett is still looking for a lost roommate, Jim Helms of Plant City, Fla.

Donor Roll

The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. In preparing this document every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If a mistake was made in the way a donor is identified or if a donor's name was omitted from a gift list, we sincerely apologize. Please report any corrections to the Office of Advancement at 678-359-5124 or rhondat@gdn.edu. **THANK YOU.**

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John M. Burress, Jr.
Andy B. Bush
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Dawn Byous
Sean and Kristi Cain
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Curtis Carter
Ally Carter-Hattermann
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Sharon Ellis
Beverly Eskridge
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Dr. Cristina Fermin-Ennis

Cabaniss 415 UDC Chapter Donates Collection to Gordon

Members of the Cabaniss 415 Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and representatives of the Hightower Library look on as President Doveen Bowdoin signs a memorandum of understanding with Gordon State College President Max Burns.

The Chapter donated a collection of historical documents to Gordon collected by members dating back to when the Chapter was formed in 1899.

"This is a way to archive and preserve these important documents and share them with not only our Chapter members but with the community as well," Bowdoin said.

Gordon President Max Burns thanked the group for trusting the College with the task. "We're so glad you are sharing these documents with us. They give a valuable historical perspective of the community," he said. "I know the information will be useful to our students and fascinating to community members who are welcome to visit our campus and view the collection."

The collection, once archived, will be housed in the Special Collections section of the Hightower Library.

Sophomore college class sponsored "car smash," fall 1967.

Photo Collection Donated to the Hightower Library

In April 2012, Dianne Foster Perry, Gordon HS '66 and Gordon State College '68, donated a collection of 42 black and white, and color photographs to the College's Hightower Library archives. Here are two photographs from that collection.

Rick Marsh (left), Linda McCard Reems and Bobby Sands, May 1963

Edwin D. Foshee, Jr.
Pamela Fuentes
Lucinda Dallas Gamble
Walter and Laura Geiger
Dr. John C. George
Joanna Gibson
Dr. Susan G. Glenn
Irwin F. (Brooklyn) Goodman
Dr. Henry A. Gore
Marc Gray
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Gregory
Todd Griffin
Gay Grubbs
Reggie Hamm
William Hamrick, Jr.
Derrick Hargrove
Kevin Harpe
James S. W. Harris
Diane Hayden
Jeff and Kristi Hayes
Laura Hayes
Mark Hayes
Ann J. Haygood
Ashley Helvig
Dr. Kristina Henderson
Dr. Lydia Herndon
Rori Herriage
Raymond Hieber
Dr. Anna Higgins
Hines Prescription Shop
Alan Hittepole
Joe Holmes
Ann Howard
Mrs. Fred (Marguerite) Huff
Diane Hunter
Jeff Ivey
Annette Jackson
Dr. Beike Jia
Bethany Johnson
Jeramey Jones
Dr. Prathibha Joshi
Joseph Kalista
Dr. Satyajit Karmakar
Dr. Jeff Knighton
Dr. John F. Leonard
Mr. and Mrs. Derrick R. Lewis
Sara Louise Pittman Lewis
Anne Marie Lombardo
Pauline Lorden
Allison Malautea
Ollie Collins Manry
Jeff Mason
Robert and Cindy McCard
Dr. Karen McCarron
Travis McClanahan
Margaret McIlwain
Thurston McLeran, Jr.
Dr. Kelly McMurray
Shirley Meeks
Lisa Millican
Carol Morgan
Rebecca Morgan
Frederick W. Mount, Jr.
Maya Mukherjee
Dr. Marc Muneal
Dusty Murray
Robert M. Newsom
Alice Nicholson
Dr. Houng Park
Bonnie Parker
Dr. Gail Pat Parsons
Laura Patton
Medora Pelt
Gay Pilcher
Dian Pitts
Sandra E. Potts
Dr. Jeremy Richards
Thelma Moore Richie
Andrew C. Rogers
Joseph and Jennifer Rosenbaum
Cheryl Sanders
Howard T. Scott
Danks and Renee Seel
Laura Shadrick
Robert F. Sharp
Gary and Gwen Sharpe
Belinda Shaw
Rhonda Shehee
Hugh Shepard
Christy Skinner
Betty B. Smith
Edward A. Smith, Jr.
Tabitha Smith
M. Allen and Jessica Statham
Shirley L. Steele
Patricia M. Stewart
Karen Stigura
Troy Stout
Kathy Strickland
Grady Sullivan
Stephen Sullivan
Daniel Swetman
Lucian L. Tatum, III
Adrienne Geri Taylor
Lynn Tyler
Connie Wade
Whitney S. Walker
Dr. Elizabeth Watts-Warren
John H. Welborn
Ken White
Justin White
Mrs. Betsy White
Dr. Rhonda V. Wilcox
Anne J. Williams
Joanne D. Williams
Mary B. Williams
Nicole Williams
Teresia Williams
Willie D. Williams
Kelly Gresham Wilson
Dr. Mike Womack
Ann Wright
Marguerite E. Wright
Lynn Yates
Dr. Marwan Zabdawi

Gifts were given in memory of

Basil J. (Monk) Antonio
Ellen Gordy Askew
Elizabeth Thomas Atkinson
Richard J. Baker
Maj. Jeff Barber, US Army Special Forces, Retired
Kathleen Baskin-Ball
J. Ed Bell
Bess M. Bland
Wayne Bloodworth
Maj. Thomas F. Boltz, USA, Ret'd.
Richard (Dick) T. Bridges
William (Billy) H. Brown
Dr. C.R.D. Burns and Rita Fancher Burns, R.N.
Hugh W. Bush
Miss Marion Bush
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Capt. Lawrence C. Hughes '56
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Clarence J. Rutherford
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David Sutter
Richard Sutter
Dr. Richard C. Tsou
Charles E. Walker
Parks R. Warnock
Estelle P. Webster
Marion Lewis White, Jr.
1st Sgt. Jesse D. Woodward

Girfts were given in honor of

Terry Betkowski
Ray W. Brinkley
Mrs. Pat Haynie Brown
Berry Jean Burress
Richard S. Davis
Lula Mae Dortch
James (Jim) O. Graham
Jeff Hayes
Laura Hayes
Kyle Johnson
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Kathy and Jimmy Matthews '62
Georgia Monnerat
Shelley C. Nickel
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Rhonda Toon
Dr. Richard C. Tsou
Becky Watts
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Class of 1957 Scholarship
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Jones-Story Student Assistance Fund
Jennifer Kressaty Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Lamar County Sheriff's Office Scholarship
W. Pierce May Memorial Scholarship
Memorial Tree Fund
Gordon State College Military Tribute Fund
Cy Neuner Faculty/Staff Enrichment Fund

Former Gordon Military College President's Scrapbook Donated

Mrs. Frances Bray, wife of the late Joseph Bray, donated a digital copy of a scrapbook of her husband's to Gordon State College in October 2011. Joseph Bray was the last president of Gordon when it was a private military school, and he saw it through the transition into the University System of Georgia.

President Bray, left, and Alex M. Hunter, a Gordon trustee at the time, meet with Gov. Jimmy Carter, in Atlanta in 1970.

Dr. Alan Peterson Memorial Fund
Dr. James and Mr. Joey Pharo Scholarship
Regents' Award Scholarship
Jesse E. Rogers, Sr. Memorial/ West Central Georgia Bank Scholarship
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Scholarship
Mary Jean Ivey Simmons Fine Arts Scholarship
Softball National Championship Fund
Dr. Richard C. Tsou Memorial Fund
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Gifts given in support of the 350 Project to build a Gordon military memorial

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Plant-A-Tree, Reflective Space Projects

The Gordon State College campus is well-known for its beautiful landscaping and peaceful grounds.

The College community treasures the canopy of different trees growing all over campus, well knowing how refreshing a quiet place for reflection can be in a hurried life.

In its continuing desire to add to the beauty of the campus, the Gordon State College Foundation offers the Plant-A-Tree and Reflective Space projects.

The care and upkeep of Gordon's grounds are supported through these projects which allow a donor to sponsor the planting of a tree on campus or to sponsor the placement of a bench on campus to honor or memorialize someone.

Donations for a tree range from $450 to $600 depending on the specimen and location. Benches start at $2,500. A portion of the donation is used to inscribe a bronze marker which is placed on a natural stone at the base of the tree or to place an attractive marker on the bench.

By walking across campus, or sitting quietly and enjoying the beautiful grounds, you can easily see the names of people who have either themselves supported these projects or are being honored or memorialized by others' support.

For more information on these and other memorial projects contact Institutional Advancement at 678-359-5739.

Class of '61

Starting from top left,

Row 1: **Sue Rainey Whitley, Hugh Guthrie, Anson Ramsey, Becky Osborne Bumgarner, Owen Zellner,**

Row 2: **Legrande Hyde, Charles Kendrick-Holmes,**

Row 3: **Jimmy Matthews, Horace Pippin, Barry Vandigriff, Howard Bush,**

Row 4: **Kathy Matthews, Larry Oldknow, Linda Slade Gibbons,**

Row 5: **Hugh Anderson, David Smith, Anita Johnston,**

Row 6: **Jim Robinson, James Brewton,**

Row 7: **Eddie Hooks and Danks Seel.**

The *President's Report* Is for All Gordon Alumni

Even if you attended Gordon for only a semester, you could be receiving a free copy of the *President's Report.* Let us know who you are, and we'll start your subscription. If you know of an alumnus who is not receiving a copy, let us know who he or she is. Contact Natalie Rischbieter at natalier@gdn.edu or call her at 678-359-5073. You may also fax your contact information to 770-359-5738. We want you on our roll of alumni. Gordon State College, Advancement Office, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.