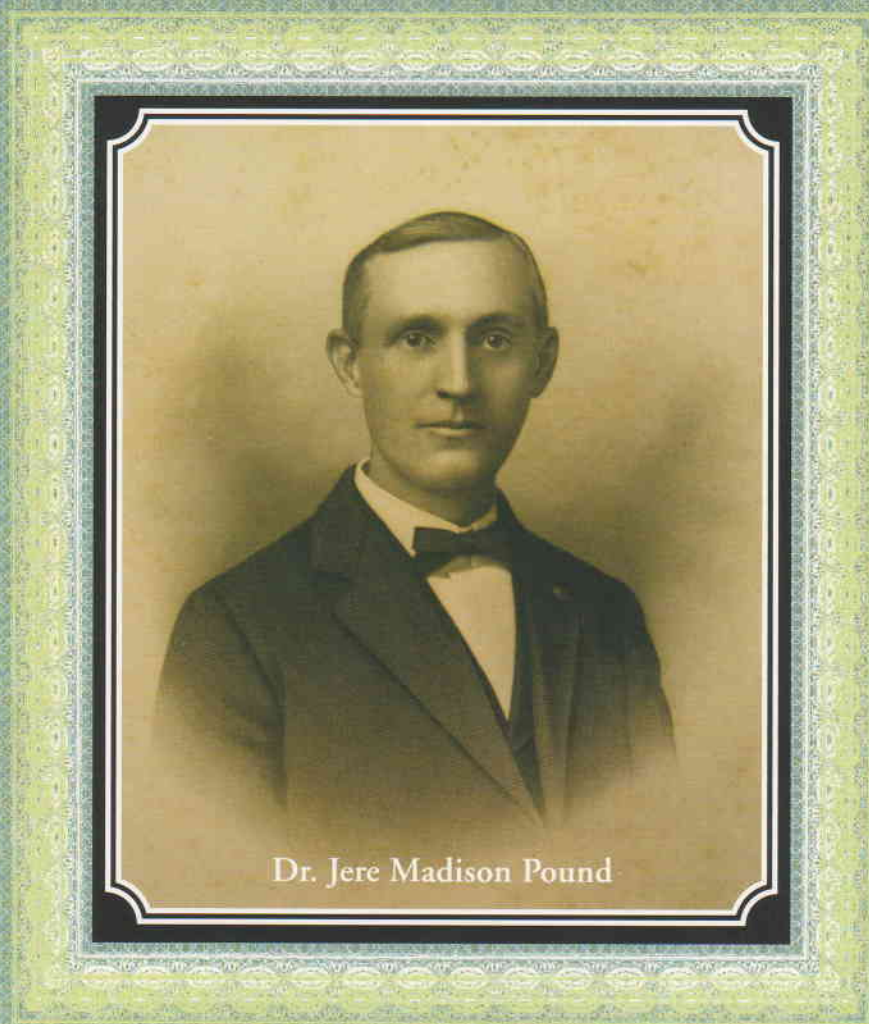


Gordon College

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2007, Volume 5, Number 1



Dr. Jere Madison Pound

Voices from the Past

John B. Gordon and Jere M. Pound

The Neuner Family Legacy

"It all gets back to having
Kebie and Cyrus as parents."

Growing up

in the
Buck and Eloise Era

Sputnik

Class of '57
Remembers

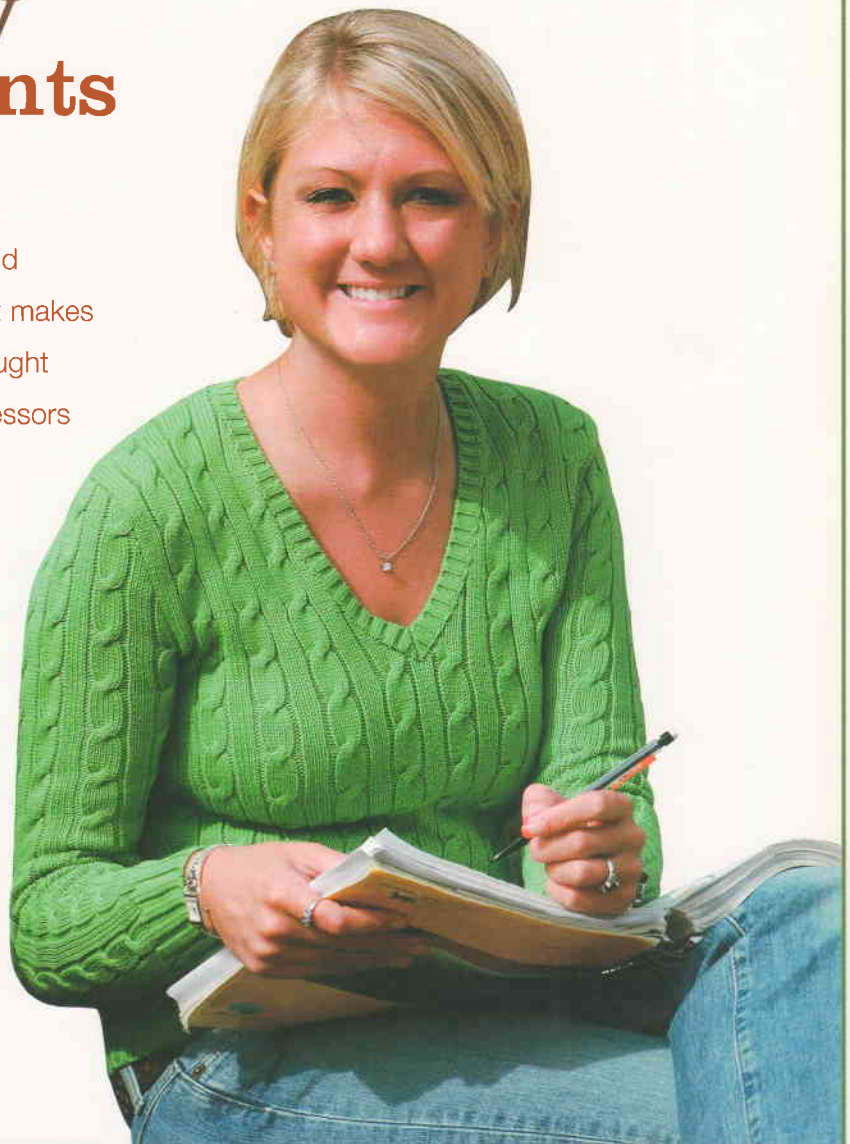
The First

Early Childhood
Education (ECE)

Where every student counts

"The teachers here interact with us and relate to us as people, and I think that makes it easier to learn. My classes aren't taught straight out of the textbook. The professors make the classes interesting and fun. I've found that I really look forward to going to class. Because the material is presented in an interesting way, I pay more attention, and I know I make better grades."

Jessica DIXON
Nursing Major



At Gordon College we care about our students,
and we help them succeed in a friendly, close-knit atmosphere
where classes are small and personal attention is a priority.



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About the cover: Jere Madison Pound served three terms as president of Gordon College, then known as Gordon Institute. As one friend remembered him, "If one could have read the heart of Pound, he would have read one word – Education. He loved it; he worked for it; he gave his life to it."



Gordon College PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2007, Volume 5, Number 1

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Dedication

In 1969, when I walked into Lambdin Hall I was a scared high school freshman. The year before I was an upper classman as an eighth grader at Gordon Grammar School, but now I was starting over at the bottom of the pecking order.

For the first time since I started school I had a locker combination to remember and strangers in my classes. I had spent the previous eight years with the same kids year after year, but now my classes included boys from across the state, other states, and outside the United States.

In line to get my tray in the mess hall, a tall woman with a straight pencil skirt and pearls at her neck took my money and my name. It was Faith Porch. She looked me up and down before saying, "Do you belong to one of the Brinkley twins?"

"Yes ma'am," I said.

"Which one?" she asked. Before I could answer that my father was Ray, she assured me it really did not matter. "I caught on to them," she said. "When one got in trouble in my room I punished both to make sure they weren't pulling another one of their pranks on me."

I had grown accustomed to teachers asking me if my older cousin who was ahead of me in school by several years was a sister, but I had never met a teacher who had taught one of my parents. On that day I realized just how deeply intertwined the history of Gordon Military College was in the life of this community and in my life personally. And I soon learned that Faith Porch had high expectations for all of us.

"This book is simply a study
of the things that ordinary people
with a purpose have done,
thought and dreamed."

~ Faith Porch



Historian and author of *The History of Gordon Military College in the Heart of the Deep South*
FAITH PORCH

In 2002, when Larry Weill hired me and I returned to Gordon College, Faith Porch was long gone, but her words were not. I began to rely on the little history book that she penned, *The History of Gordon Military College in the Heart of the Deep South*. It is only 70 pages long, but I keep a copy near my desk and often use it to check a date or a name.

On the opening pages of the book is a sentence that I especially appreciate: "This book is simply a study of the things that ordinary people with a purpose have done, thought and dreamed." When Faith Porch wrote those words, Gordon College was 113 years into its purpose and far from being the place that it is today. She said that the school could best find its future by not forgetting its past – advice President Weill is committed to following.

In this very historic year when we have junior-level college students walking this soil for the first time in the more than 155 years that Gordon has existed, I can not help but think of Faith Porch.

In the pages of this magazine you will read about some of Gordon's "ordinary people with a purpose" – Jere Pound, Buck Dorsey and Joan Cranford to name a few – and discover they are rather extraordinary people who share the common purpose of making the world a better place starting right here in Barnesville, Georgia.

So this year we dedicate the magazine to Faith Porch, a woman who by her example taught us much, and who with her words left us a valuable recollection of Gordon's past and encouragement for its future.

Rhonda Toon

Gordon Military High School freshman, 1970

From the President

Dear Friends,

My first grandchild, Elias Rex Nathaniel Weill, was born May 29, 2007. I still find myself marveling that a mere 6 pound, 7 ounce infant has so immediately and dramatically changed my life and the life of all my family.

One thing Elias has made me realize is that I have been thinking a lot about the future, and in more ways than just the future of my family. I find myself reflecting on my last five years here at Gordon and the years ahead for the College.

The Gordon College community is very much like a family. At the heart of this place are people – the people who are here today and those who have gone before us – who celebrate together our growth and success.

When I arrived at Gordon I was deeply bothered by its lack of engagement with the people of its community and its past. Today we have an alumni office with an organized alumni association advisory board and this magazine to assist in our preserving and sharing the history of Gordon College. We are growing our alumni base every year with increasing numbers of students acquiring their degrees and soon those degrees will include baccalaureates.

In this volume you will read about the Neuner, Pound, and Dorsey families and their impact on the students of Gordon College. Have a look at the back cover of this year's *Report* and what do you see? The 50th reunion of the Class of 1956. Inside the magazine you will find a story about the reunion of graduates of Gordon's nursing school and another story about a group of Gordon buddies holding a reunion in Perry, Georgia.

Gordon is its people, and so I invite all of Gordon, from the oldest alumni to the youngest, to come visit and meet each other. Come to one of our theater productions, a recital, an art exhibit, or to one of the upcoming Southern Culture events. Take one of our on-campus or on-line Community Education courses.

And please plan to join us in celebrating the grand opening of our Alumni House during "Gordon Days" in April 2008. Over the weekend of April 11-13, 2008, events will take place on campus to reconnect alumni with their classmates. There will be athletic games between different alumni groups, barbecues, luncheons, and concerts. You will want to be a part of it and we want you here.



Elias Rex Nathaniel Weill

Lawrence V. Weill

President



Frankie Lifsey (right) and an unknown guitarist.



American Legion Post 25, Barnesville, Georgia.



Back row from left: Tommy Ogletree, Billy Morris, Sam Alford, Lee Otis Butler, Jimmy Stocks, Perry Prescott.
Front row from left: Jerry Brown, Blake Traylor, Tommy Jack Van Houten.



Robert King, Sharon Pollard and Sue Ellen Wideman at the Rec.

Out of tragedy Buck and Eloise Dorsey created a place in Barnesville where the young could listen and dance to live music and socialize. Their creation, known as the Rec, was located in the basement of the old American Legion hut (above). The photos in the upper left and lower right were taken in the Rec. The Eagle Scouts in the lower left photo were all from Troop 17; their Scoutmaster was Buck Dorsey.

Growing Up in the Buck and Eloise Era

by Peter Boltz



It was the Christmas season, and a mother with her three young children were waiting for the return of her husband who had been called out on a terrible mission. She didn't know how many hours passed, but when her children grew weary she put them to bed then returned to her vigil. When he finally came home in the early hours, he was deeply upset, almost speechless. Something had to be done.

And so Hugh R. "Buck" and Eloise Dorsey did something. They started the "Rec," a place for young people to recreate, where they could entertain themselves and be safe.

Buck had been called out to the hospital after learning five young people from Barnesville had been in a terrible accident on Highway 341 only three days before Christmas 1962. Neither he nor Eloise knew the extent of their injuries, but one of the victims was one of Buck's Scouts, Eddie Shockley. He and Jewel Emerson survived, but Jeanette Clark, Wayne Cooper and J.L. Hancock died when Hancock's '54 Chevy collided with a semi-trailer truck.

In a recent interview, Eloise said that her husband went to the hospital with Albert McGaha, a man who also worked with Boy Scout Troup 17, Barnesville, Georgia. He and Albert stayed at the hospital as long as they could but were eventually convinced to go home by hospital staff.

Meanwhile Eloise was at home "on pins and needles," alone in the living room. "Thoughts go through your head," she said. "Awful thoughts because you don't know anything except that there was a terrible accident. I didn't



Buck and Eloise graduated from Gordon at the same time except that she graduated from high school and he from college. They met at Howard Knott's Café where she was a 16-year-old waitress.

know what condition the kids were in." She said she and Buck knew that Shockley was in the crash and this in itself shook up the both of them.

When her husband finally came through the front door, he was "almost in tears." She said he told her that it was the "most horrendous thing" he had ever seen. He also told her that on the drive home, he and Albert talked about how they could keep kids "off that highway," Highway 341. She said that the two of them loved children, and "the thought of ours on the road was unbearable."

From what Eloise remembers of that night 45 years ago, her husband had no plan for keeping kids safe, but in the morning, "He just went to the Legion." American Legion Post 25 quickly gave Buck what he requested – permission to use the basement of its building as a recreational center for young people. The building no longer stands, but it was in the vicinity of the northeast corner of College Drive and Gordon Road.

Having permission, Buck and Eloise set out on the first day to create the Rec.

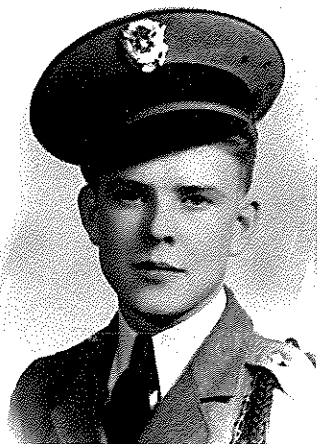
"While we were getting the space ready," Eloise said, "kids would just drop by, curious. We'd tell them what we were doing, and they asked if they could help, and they did. Local kids would just wander in, and we'd tell them we were opening a rec center."

The two of them found a pool table and a ping pong table, but the most memorable element of the Rec was music. Their daughter, Linda, age 9 at the time, remembers her father saying, "We'll start with records."

Today Linda Dorsey Anderson remembers with a mixture of amusement and admiration how her father acted on this pronouncement. He put the family stereo and records, including her personal collection, into the trunk of the car and took them over to the Rec. She still remembers writing her name on the labels so that at the end of the evening the Dorsey collection could be sorted out from other records kids



Hugh Radford "Buck" Dorsey Jr. is 14th from the left, approximately in the middle of the formation, wearing braid.



Buck's Gordon High School senior picture.



During Buck's World War II service.

would bring to play. She said that music was always central to her family, her father raising his children to the sounds of big bands.

One of Buck's Eagle Scouts, Tommy Jack Van Houten, remembered that Buck had "an extensive collection of 33 rpm records that introduced us to big bands, jazz and other types of music to add to our love of rock and roll."

Eloise remembered that "not many showed for the first dance, but those who came enjoyed themselves and said 'thank goodness we have some place to go.'" Word spread, and kids from Gordon, Forsyth, Thomaston and beyond found their way to the Rec. Soon, the record player was replaced by a jukebox donated by Louis Gra-

ham. Then came live music. Eloise said its introduction was not her or Buck's idea. Live music made its debut after they were "approached by bands looking for a place to practice and perform." From what she recalls, Eloise said the first band was Steelwater from Griffin. Other bands followed: The Paragons, The Premiers, The Mini Bruts, The James Boyd Band, The Vagrants, The Gents and others lost to memory.

"I'm sure we were pretty bad," Danny Smith, a founding member of Steelwater, said, "but because Buck provided a place for us to perform and to practice, we actually got better." Smith added that Buck, who died on July 3, 2004, was a fine man, always trusting and nonjudgmental of us "nutty kids."

Continued on page 7

Playing SANTA CLAUS by Linda Dorsey Anderson

Christmas holds many wonderful memories for me growing up in a small town in the 1950s and 1960s. One of my fondest memories happened when I was 10 years old. My dad was an Explorer Scout leader here in Barnesville. His Scouts ranged in age from about 15 to 20, and they were all students at Gordon. Every Christmas my dad's troop found one of the neediest families in our area and played Santa Claus for them.

This particular year my dad let my little brother Butch and me go with them. While my mother stayed home with my baby sister Susan and the Scouts' girlfriends, I watched

My dad and his Scouts got busy putting up and decorating a tree, wrapping presents for the four small children, stocking the kitchen with food, and even cleaning the house. They made the beds with new sheets and blankets. I was wearing my gray wool coat that night, and I remember thinking how cold the house was on the inside.

I watched these young men folding clothes neatly on each bed, and then I saw one of them tear up. I realized at that moment how special my father was. He took this very special moment to teach me the lesson of a lifetime. He taught me how important it is to share with those less fortunate.

I have been married for many years now, and I have a grown daughter of my own. I was fortunate enough to marry a man who is just as giving as my dad was. He is always helping people out, especially at Christmastime.

We lost my dad a few years ago, and I really miss him. But every holiday season I have fond memories of him, his Scouts, their generosity to others and the life lessons that they taught me... and it makes me smile.



I was wearing my gray wool coat that night, and I remember thinking how cold the house was on the inside.

these young men load toys, groceries, blankets, and clothes into their cars. We caravanned out into the country to a house that looked as though it was abandoned.

In a way it was because my dad had a friend of the family get them out of the house and take them to the movies. It was Christmas Eve, and this family did not even have a Christmas tree. At the age of 10, this seemed so sad to me.

Last Kiss

The Song from that Awful Night

If you are of a generation that remembers the music of the '60s, you probably remember a tune called "Last Kiss," written by Wayne Cochran and performed by the Cavaliers. In 1998 Pearl Jam released the song as a single, and it hit the No. 2 spot on the Billboard charts.

It was a song about two young lovers out on a date. The young man was driving his daddy's car, and swerving to miss a stalled car, he crashed. In the aftermath, his girlfriend dies in his arms, and he remembers, "I held her close, I kissed her our last kiss."

The inspiration for this song was the very same inspiration the Dorseys had for creating the Rec, the accident on Highway 341 on the outskirts of Barnesville on December 22, 1962. And like the Dorsey's, Cochran had a personal connection to the tragedy – his drummer's girlfriend was the sister of one of those killed, Jeanette Clark. An aspiring musician and writer living in Thomaston, Cochran had been working on a song about a dangerous highway, but until that night, it was incomplete. Inspired by the proximity of the tragedy, Cochran wrote "Last Kiss" with its memorable chorus:

**Oh where, oh where can my baby be,
The Lord took her away from me.
She's gone to heaven, so I've got to be good,
So I can see my baby when I leave this world.**

The song was not an immediate hit as recorded by Cochran and his band, but when the Cavaliers recorded it, the song made it to No. 2 on the Top 40 pop charts in 1964.

It was only fitting that this was a popular tune at the Rec.



Another Steelwater member, Rod Rosenthal, said that sometimes when the band was scheduled to play Friday and Saturday night, they would spend the night in the Rec, “with Buck’s permission.”

Ben Sandifer of The Paragons was only 14 when his band first played the Rec, but before his father would allow it, he wanted to make sure it was an appropriate environment for his son. “One night of watching Buck and Eloise Dorsey in action was proof enough to my dad that the Rec was a good place for a 14-year-old,” Sandifer said. “I remember how impressed he was with the way Buck ran the place and earned the respect of the teenagers at the same time.”

Bobby Blackmon of The Vagrants remembered that when they decided it was time to play for “other teenagers,” they approached Buck. “He welcomed us with open arms and with such warmth that it is hard to put into words,” Blackmon said. “You knew that this was a man who loved young people. He never gave us negative criticism no matter how bad we sounded. He always – always – had a positive word for us.”

The Rec was so popular that after Friday night football games at Summers Field, hoards of young



people would migrate the short distance to the Rec across College Drive. Traffic would come to a halt.

With such popularity, one might expect occasional problems, but two unbeatable forces worked against any troublemakers – the Dorseys and the kids themselves.

As Eloise recalled, if something was amiss outside, one of the kids would come in and tell Buck. As the story goes, Buck would then go outside and sit on the front step to smoke his pipe. This drew no attention from anyone since he was in the habit of doing this, but he would look around at the cars and the kids and watch to see what wasn’t right. His many contacts with just about every kid and car in the area allowed him to size up the problem, and his easy manner allowed him to solve it.

The problem was frequently beer. When he spotted the source, he would go up to a car and ask a boy if everything was okay. The boy would of course say everything was fine, but then Buck would say, “Come, let’s take a walk,” and pointing to a bag in the car he would add, “and bring ‘that’ with you.”

Eloise chuckled when she reached this part of her story. “I don’t know how much beer was poured into the creek.” Then she added an afterthought: “He had a wise eye on him.”

When Jim Graham, owner of Balamo Building Supply in Barnesville, remembered Buck after his death, he said that he was thankful “to enjoy such a great experience of growing up in the ‘Buck and Eloise’ era. Their love and concern for young people showed in all they did.”

Buck's and Eloise's commitment to young people extended beyond the Rec. One particular outlet for their generosity was the Boy Scouts.

Van Houten said that when he turned 12, he joined the Scouts, but it wasn't long before Troop 36 was without a Scoutmaster and without any prospects for having one "until the word was out that a guy named Buck Dorsey was considering starting a Troop." Anyone interested was to show up at the Dorsey home, so Van Houten and several others went and met Buck and Eloise.

"Buck used the term 'fellows' as we talked and listened. That word will always be in my mind and heart," Van Houten said. "I remember his last words that day: 'Fellows, I don't know what we're getting into, but we'll give it a try.'"

Thus was born Troop 17. Not long after, Explorer Post 17 was organized with Buck as post adviser.

One of the Explorers was Larry Waller, a 1963 graduate of Gordon Military High School, a 1965 graduate of Gordon Military College and former sheriff of Lamar County.

He welcomed us with open arms and with such warmth that it is hard to put into words," Blackmon said. "You knew that this was a man who loved young people. He never gave us negative criticism no matter how bad we sounded. He always – always – had a positive word for us."



Waller remembers a particular problem Buck and his Scouts were having in building a Scout hut not far from the Rec – they needed concrete to pave a drive to the hut, but there was no money for it.

"Buck saw no particular problem with getting the needed material," Waller said. "At the time, Gordon Military College was building the new gym. Buck said, 'Just go up there and offer the contractor there a place to wash out his concrete trucks.' I did as Buck said, they took me up on the offer, and I was a proud boy when I came back with all the concrete we needed."

Then Waller said, "Buck had a way of making boys be successful."

In all the testimonials by the young people who knew Buck Dorsey, there is always mention of his life-long partner, his wife Eloise Blalock Dorsey. When Jim Graham, owner of Balamo Building Supply in Barnesville, remembered Buck after his death, he said that he was thankful "to enjoy such a great experience of



In the eighth grade, when Graham regularly played in a band at the Rec, the Dorseys taught him how to handle himself professionally in business matters.

growing up in the 'Buck and Eloise' era. Their love and concern for young people showed in all they did."

Graham's history with the Rec and the Dorseys is lengthy, beginning when he was 10 or 11. He would ride his bike to the Ritz Theater on Friday and Saturday nights, and after the movie he would stop at the Rec, which was on his way home. "I loved listening to the music, playing billiards and watching the cadets and girls dance."

In the eighth grade, when Graham regularly played in a band at the Rec, the Dorseys taught him how to handle himself professionally in business matters. "Later in my teen years, college years, newly wed and family years, I can remember Buck and Eloise always showing an interest in my well-being. I have always felt a special tie to them because of their interest and concern for the youth of our area, including me."

Scouts and Explorers had such affection for this woman that she became known as Mama No. 2, a woman who often turned her home into a fruit cake warehouse for the Scouts to raise money. At the beginning of an evening at the Rec, she was at the door selling tickets. At the end of an evening, she was at the door wishing safe trips home.

Waller said that his fondest memories of Scout meetings were when they met in the Dorsey home. "No doubt, the difference was Miss Eloise," Waller said. "She loved us, as rough as we were, as much as Buck did. We all loved her and will always appreciate the hospitality she gave." ■



James Boyt and the Soul Seekers.





THE Neuner Family Legacy

by Peter Boltz

"It all gets back to having Kebie and Cyrus as parents."

Thunder rumbled off in the distance and seemed to approach as the Neuner family sat on the back porch of the family home in Barnesville. Mary "Kebie" Scott Neuner, her two sons, Sam and Don, and daughter Sandra Neuner Carter were enjoying the afternoon and keeping an eye on Miss Kebie's grandchildren and great-grandchildren – including a youngster named Cyrus – playing in the yard. Earlier that morning, they attended Gordon College's graduation ceremony where Kebie's husband Cyrus was honored for his many years of service as a trustee and most recently for the formation of the Cyrus Neuner Faculty and Staff Enrichment Fund.



Cyrus and Kebie on their wedding day (left) and on their first anniversary (above).



Cyrus Neuner was in the North African theater of war when he had this picture of him and a fellow U.S. Army Air Force officer taken in Egypt. In better days, he traveled with Kebie (below).



Unanimously, the Neuner siblings believe one of the big differences between their educational experience and the one for people of today is strong family ties.

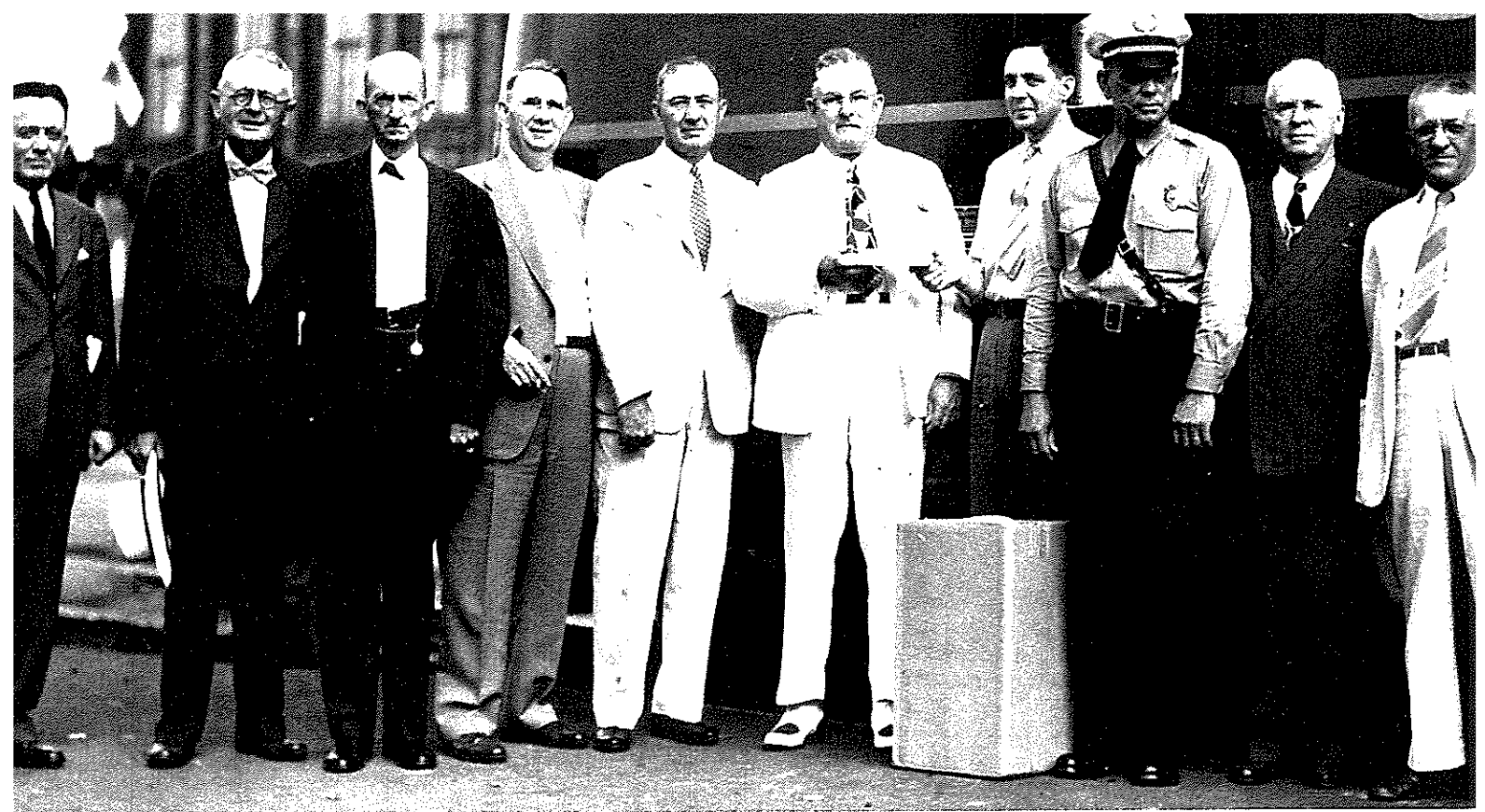
"It was very different then. . ."

Kebie attended the ceremony, as did her children, her children's spouses and her grandchildren. Their presence and the announcement of the fund made Cyrus Milton Neuner's absence all the more palpable, even to those in the audience who never knew him.

Last year's *President's Report* was dedicated to Cyrus, who died on July 9, 2006, shortly before the magazine's publication, and in it he was quoted as saying he "was never a strong student." The irony is that whatever his virtues as a student, his commitment to education, especially to Gordon College's role, was immense and even after his death, he has left an enduring legacy to education and to Gordon.

The Neuner legacy reaches back to the earliest days of Gordon Institute. Kebie's Aunt Bessie Floyd Gwyn graduated in 1897, Aunt Lucy Floyd Banks graduated in 1903, Uncle Walter Lewis Floyd graduated in 1915, and her mother Frances Floyd Scott graduated in 1908. Her great Uncle Charles Lewis Floyd graduated in 1875. Her father, Thomas Goodwin Scott II, did not attend Gordon Institute, but he was the first president of the Sixth District Agricultural and Mechanical School in 1907. When this A&M closed in 1933, Gordon Institute took over the campus. The Neuner's legacy of education continues today with Sandra Neuner Carter, who has taught, with time off for family, for 18 years. Currently, she teaches





The first run of the Nancy Hanks II to Savannah through Barnesville from Atlanta in 1946. Cyrus Neuner is fourth from the right.

reading to second- through fifth-graders. Don Neuner's wife, Karen, has taught for 24 years.

All three of Cy Neuner's children, Sam, Sandra and Don, attended Gordon. At the time, the school included grades eight through 12 and two years of college. The two boys graduated from Gordon Military High School and then went on to Georgia Tech, while Sandra went all the way through Gordon Military College and then on to West Georgia College. They all agreed that having their father on the school's board of trustees was not the greatest influence on their time at Gordon or their education in general. They were mostly influenced by the expectations and confidence their parents had in their success. Family meals were the rule, and the Neuner children ate lunch every day at home. Don, the youngest, started lunches at home after the fourth grade.



Football was a central family activity. On Friday nights, they would attend Gordon Military High School games. On Saturday morning, the family would travel to the Georgia Tech game in the afternoon and make it back home for the Gordon Military College game on Saturday night.

Unanimously, the Neuner siblings believe one of the big differences between their educational experience and the one for people of today is strong family ties. "It was very different then," Sandra said. "It gets back to having Kebie and Cyrus as parents. They had expectations, and they gave us the support we needed. They set the example; they gave

us confidence."

In contrast, she said, many of today's children come from broken families which fail to set priorities and expectations and don't provide the necessary support and confidence.

Military training at Gordon reinforced what the siblings learned at home, particularly for Sam and Don. Sandra and the other females who attended Gordon at that time were free to leave campus after classes were over for the day, whereas the males remained into the late afternoon marching on the drill field and learning other military functions. Still, she said, coeds were treated the same as cadets in the classroom. The educational demands and rigor were the same for her as they were for her brothers.

"I got a very good grammar school, high school and college education at Gordon," Sandra said. "I was well prepared for West Georgia."

"My first experience with Gordon was the eighth grade," Sam said. "I was scared to death." Unknowing and disoriented, he and a friend entered a room for military orientation, but when they realized they were in the wrong place, they got up to leave and were immediately yelled at. "You boys sit down!" Instead they fled in terror.

Such mishaps were common for the uninitiated, and part of the fun for those who made it through their first year was to ensure mishaps for newcomers. Sam remembered how some boys were told they needed to be measured for their rifles or that they needed a key to the flagpole. Those following such bogus advice would be not only reamed by the upper classman in charge but be the laughingstock of classmates.

Both Sam and Don said that they were so thoroughly drilled as cadets that if they were ordered to march today,

"It gets back to having Kebie and Cyrus as parents. They had expectations, and they gave us the support we needed. They set the example; they gave us confidence."



Mrs. Cyrus Milton Neuner,
formerly Miss Mary Cleveland Scott.

they would easily fall into formation and not miss a step. They didn't volunteer that they could still shine their shoes to a mirror finish, but they remember the technique. Apply layer after layer of polish, and then buff with the top part of a woman's stocking, the thicker part.

At this point in their recollection, Sam and Don paused just long enough to check the look on their mother's and sister's faces, and then started laughing. "That's where all your stockings went," they said, getting an even bigger laugh out of everyone on the porch.

Don remembered a time he and a friend thought they could get away with skipping an assembly and leaving campus. Despite their caution in returning to campus, they were caught. "Dean Kirby was watching us the whole time," Don said. "Our punishment was 1½ hours of additional drill."

Sam once had to run around the track on the drill field with his M1 rifle at "high port." In civilian language, this means he had to run holding his 10 pound rifle held

over his head. The reason for the punishment was not even of his doing but for a wrong committed by cadets under his command. They were supposed to enter the armory in single file to return their rifles, but instead they crowded through the doorway.

He reflected that such experiences, as unpleasant as they were, taught responsibility because they made cadets responsible. "In my day," he said, "if you didn't meet your responsibilities, they would get in your face like drill instructors." Having experienced the receiving end of such close quarter shouting, he likes to say he could have "taken a shower if I had a bar of soap."

"You have to admit, it probably helped you," his mother Kebie said.

"We learned there were consequences for our behavior," Sam said. "And that if you expect proper behavior, you have to define it. This was done at Gordon, and those who were a problem either changed or were simply 'gone,' expelled." In addition, they learned successful study habits, and, as Sandra put it, "Gordon helped cement an already close community of families and friends."

No doubt Cyrus Neuner would have been pleased to hear the things his children said about their family life and their Gordon education. He had devoted a large part of his life to Gordon College, from his days as a cadet right up to the time of his death. According to his children, more than a decade before his passing, he was already building the development fund for Gordon's staff and faculty.

Karen Neuner summed up her father-in-law that afternoon on the back porch: "He had a vision. He was prepared. He protected his family." ■

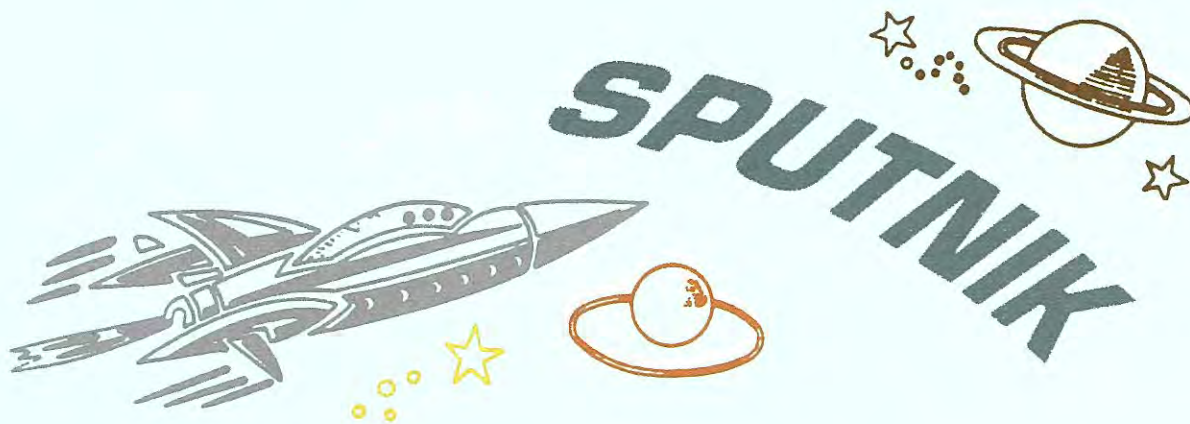


(Top) Sandra Neuner as sponsor for cadet officer Wayne Hughes.

(Middle) Cyrus, with Kebie, as grand marshal of Barnesville's Buggy Days Parade.

(Bottom) Cyrus reading "The Paperboy" to his great-grandson Carter Bowers in 2004. Cyrus's first job was being a paperboy.





Gordon Military High School's

Class of '57 Remembers

by Peter Boltz

It is difficult for Americans who didn't experience the Cold War of the '50s to understand the threat of Sputnik, which today is known to most Americans (if it is known at all) as a harmless silver ball which transmitted a regular beep as it circled the earth. But at the time, Americans knew that if the Soviet Union could fly a satellite over the United States, it could do the same with H-bombs and spy cameras. Those who doubted the menace were reminded of the words of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to visiting American diplomats in 1956: "We will bury you."

Since Sputnik was launched October 4, 1957, and the Gordon Military High School and College Class of '57 will be holding its 50th reunion this year, it seemed fitting to ask those graduates about their memories of that momentous occasion, which many say was the beginning of the space race.

Paul Kilpatrick, who was a Gordon Military College boarding student at the time, said he remembered discussing Sputnik and its implications with his roommate Ken Cherry. Kilpatrick said "the event and that discussion has stayed with me ever since." He recalled the event as a wake up call "to the extent that Sputnik spurred the

Mercury-Gemini-Apollo programs. It was also an indication of the perils of complacency, not to mention a bewildering lack of imagination on the part of many of our leading lights."

One leading light of the time, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was roundly criticized for appearing to be more interested in playing golf than in having the upper hand in the space race. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson was one of Eisenhower's harshest critics. "Soon, they will be dropping bombs on us from space like kids dropping rocks onto cars from freeway overpasses."

Experts were predicting the Soviets would land on the moon within a week. Edward Teller, co-inventor of the hydrogen bomb, was asked what we might expect to find on the moon. He replied, "Russians."

Barnesville's weekly newspaper, *The News Gazette*, wondered "why our USA Missile and Satellite programs are lagging, when we believed them to be leading. Americans are asking that our retarded programs be given top priority..."

Looking back from 2007, Kilpatrick said Americans eventually took up the challenge and prevailed – something he likes to associate with the Class of '57 – but he added that "50 years later, we have descended back into complacency – the 'American Idol' era."

Cherry said he reacted very much like everyone else, with shock. How could the Soviets beat us into space? Why weren't we in space first? He said there was a competitive spirit of not letting the Russians get the better of us, but that competitive spirit didn't strongly influence his future career.

"I only worked on one bird, the Atlas D booster (which became the Saturn) while working for General Dynamics," he said. "After we put John Glenn into space, I left the aerospace industry and went into the petrochemical industry."

He said it was exciting to work in aerospace at the time, Sputnik wasn't the only or biggest reason for working for General Dynamics. In part, the proximity of his hometown of Rockledge, Florida, to Cape Canaveral determined the job. Perhaps more important was that he had long had an interest in rockets, space and science fiction.

"The summer between the sixth and seventh grades," he said, "a buddy and I read every science fiction book in the local library. Every single one." Much of what these books predicted, he said, has happened.

The first "official" sighting of Sputnik in the United States

was made by Gordon Little, a British astronomer, working at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, at 5:01 a.m. on October 6, two days after the Soviet launch. Bud Tillery, however, may have made the first "unofficial" sighting while on duty in the U.S. Air Force in the panhandle of Texas.

"The shocking news of the launch of Sputnik had just come over my tiny radio as I stepped outside the barracks in the pre-dawn morning, for a solitary smoke before I roused

the troops," he said. "The air was magnificent, cool, and clear on that October, 1957 morning under the endless sky. Standing there, I contemplated the ominous news that the USSR had preempted America into space. The feeling was one of doom."

"Just as I finished my cigarette and resolved to go about my duties, I took one more glance toward the eastern sky... and froze. Coming right to-

"... resolved to go about my duties, I took one more glance toward the eastern sky... and froze. Coming right toward me, moving east to west, was a bright, twinkling, fast moving, point of light. I stood transfixed as it grew larger and brighter and rapidly vectored directly toward me. The bright object looked ominous and threatening to me as it approached my position, because I knew without a doubt what it was. It was Sputnik."

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"Ah yes, Sputnik," Carrie Nelle Moye said. "I remember it well. I was parked in front of Druid Hills High School in a '55 green two-door Ford, with the man who would become my husband in three years. We were both students at Emory, just around the corner."

"We were astounded that night of October 4 when the car's radio music was interrupted by an announcement of the USSR's Sputnik. We discussed in awe what we felt the ramifications would be, and we knew our world would never be the same." ■

WITH A GENTLE PUSH

JOAN CRANFORD

Helps Student Nurses Find Their Way

by Tamara Boatwright



JOAN CRANFORD ALWAYS KNEW SHE WANTED TO BE A NURSE.

"My momma was a seamstress, and she made me a little nurse's hat," Cranford recalls. "I had a play doctor's bag too. I was maybe 5 or 6 and I knew that was for me. There was never another career I ever considered."

Cranford, 55, and a native of Alabama, came along at a time when schools were actively recruiting African-American women to attend their nursing schools.

"So I got a full scholarship to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa (UAT). My dream was fulfilled, and it didn't cost my parents a dime," she said.

She recently came across a photo of her pinning ceremony at UAT. There she is, standing stick straight in a starched white uniform with a white nurses hat pinned in her hair. The look is complete with white stockings and chunky white "nurses" shoes.

"We even had those little navy-blue capelets," she said with a laugh. "I miss those days. Nurses really stood out back then; there was a professional polish. I've learned to live with the scrubs the nurses wear nowadays. I know that attire is a little more comfortable, but they still look like pajamas."

Nursing, she remembers thinking that day, was "something I could do for the rest of my life."

But then her mom received a phone call from an acquaintance at Opelika State Technical College – now known as Southern Union College – asking if Joan would consider teaching nursing.

"They were looking for diversity in the faculty," Cranford explained. "At first I wanted to say no because I was very happy where I was, but I went anyway to see what they had in mind."

She loved it. Teaching nursing offered her the best of both worlds. There was still the clinical aspect of the job, but there was a new part – helping students reach their goal of becoming nurses. Plus the teaching schedule fit in well with two new roles she had acquired in the years since that pinning ceremony – wife and mother.

But changes are common in young, growing families

and after a few years a second son came along followed closely by a move to Atlanta. Cranford took a position with a health care provider. It was a good job but not as fulfilling as her years of nursing and teaching nursing had been.

Then she saw an ad in the newspaper for a position at Gordon College.

"Lord, I didn't even know where Barnesville was," she said. "But I got a map and figured it out. I came down here for an interview, and it was the warmest visit. Dr. Jim Richards was here, and they were looking for instructors for the evening program. He told me, 'I can offer you a job today.' So I took it, and I worked with Ramona Dobbs for years. She was so wise and so helpful."

But her boys started "acting out," and she decided to take time from work to dispense some tough love at home.

"Then one day in 1998 I realized I was ready to come back. I called Dr. (Jerry) Williamson to see if there were any openings. I had been so happy here," she said. "He told me to come on back, and I have been here ever since."

When asked to look back on her career and recall her most memorable moment, she hesitated for a second.

"One thing is the number of nurses that I have taught who have gone on themselves to either teach or to help others through their nursing," Cranford said. "I got a call the other night from a woman who I had taught who has since gone to work with a company specializing in cardiac technology. She thanked me for helping her along and said she wouldn't have been able to make it if it hadn't been for me. She did all the work though. I just gave her a gentle push every now and then."

Those gentle pushes that she is so famous for eventually grew into "Camp I Can," a two-day conference for new nurs-

ing students and their families. The purpose of the camp is to explain what the students will be facing over the course of the two years it takes to earn their degree.

"We teach them about time management, stress management, study skills and the curriculum," Cranford explained. "We tell their families what they will be going through over the next two years and that they will need a lot of support."

The camp has been a rousing success and has, according to Cranford, helped improve retention rates among the nursing students.

"We also give out T-shirts with 'Camp I Can' on them," she said. "During those times when they are feeling down or

having a hard time I tell them to go put that T-shirt on. It reminds the students that they have a lot of support behind them."

And although Cranford has been teaching for years, she hasn't stopped educating herself. She is about a year away from earning her EdD in higher education. Her course work is done, and she is now concentrating on her comprehensive exams and dissertation which will cover a topic she knows well — nurses transcending into the role of educators.

Cranford admits the years since she entered nursing school have

been rewarding but not always so easy. She heaps praise on her mother, Mae, for helping to shape her and her sister into the women they have become.

"My mother was a real strong woman who didn't give up and who didn't let me and my sister give up," Cranford said. "My father was very important in our lives, but it was our mother who taught us to be able to sustain ourselves and be women of strength. She promoted education as a way to do that. I just hope I have done the same with some of the students who have crossed my path." ■



Back row, Joan Cranford is second from the right.

Voices from the Past



Jere M. Pound was president of Georgia State Woman's College at Valdosta shortly before his death in 1935.



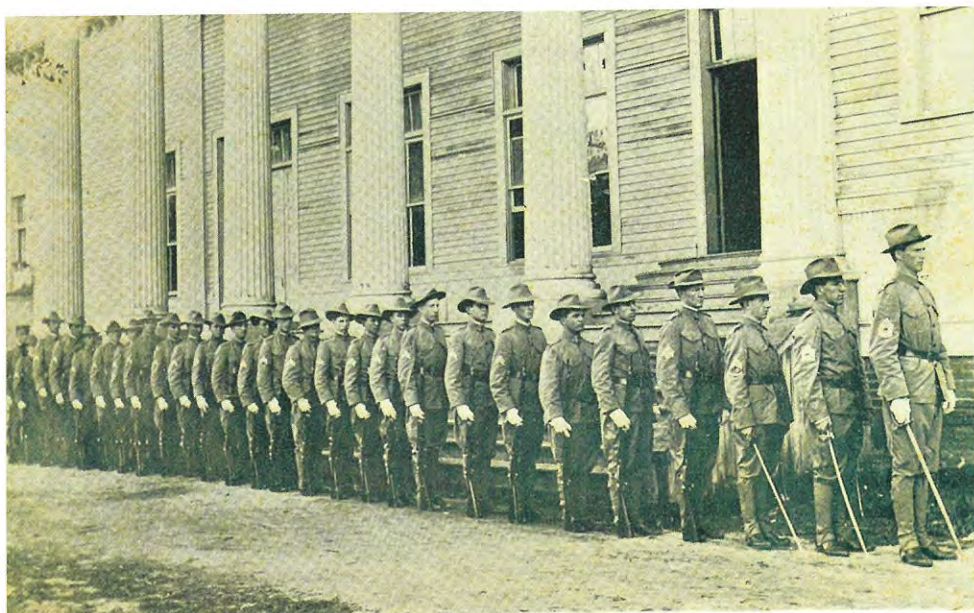
This is what Gordon looked like when Jere Pound was its president. At the time the name of the school was Gordon Institute.

It is easy to forget that Gordon College is just a name. While it may honor the memory of the man John B. Gordon, be on the resumes of thousands and recorded in a fair number of histories, the College is still just a name.

What gives this name substance are the people who have been associated with the College throughout its 155 years of existence, and one of these, Dr. Jere Madison Pound, called out from the past this last year with the aid of several of his grandchildren.

John B. GORDON and Jere M. POUND

by Peter Boltz



Dr. Pound was born a few miles north of Barnesville at Liberty Hill on March 23, 1864. No doubt his parents, Edwin T. and Elizabeth Bloodworth Pound, had high hopes for him, but they could not have known the significant impact their son would have on Gordon, then known as Gordon Institute, nor on the state of Georgia. He served three terms as president for the former, and many different roles in education for the latter.

Through the generosity of the Pound and Huggins families, Gordon College was able to learn more about its former president in a series of phone calls, letters, emails and visits starting in the fall of 2005.

On November 18, 2006, Bill Huggins and his older brother Tryon presented Gordon Vice President of Advancement Rhonda Toon with a letter

When Dr. Pound was president of Gordon Institute he told the graduating class of 1889 that "inherently, the hand is as honorable as the head, the mason's trowel as the warrior's sword, hayseed in the hair as powder on the periwig."

Continued on page 23

Jere M. Pound's Speeches

"In many respects, the venerable men who have outlived their day and generation are yet among us and are, by the dignity and moderation of their lives, a perpetual rebuke to the materialistic tendencies of the present age. We, of the younger generation, must admit that strive as we may, we cannot acquire the culture and courtesy and noble bearing of our sires. We admire those qualities, we imitate them, but this subtle grace eludes us; 'and this we know, where'er we go, that there passed away a glory from the earth.'"

In this undated speech, Dr. Pound was writing to answer the question, "How can our characteristic chivalry of spirit be preserved amidst the general immigration into our Southland?" He obviously believed Southerners of the antebellum period, "these manly men of the old regime" and "hoary heroes," were the ideal of Southern chivalry, but he also believed that their day had passed and must make way to a new generation living in new circumstances.

"Let us hope that our friends of the North may now forgive us ever as long since we forgave them. The tragedy of the 'Lost Cause' is complete, the drama is ended, the curtain is fallen, and the last vision of woeful scenes is excluded. The South has atoned in sackcloth and ashes for what may or may not be an error. Right or wrong, she willingly abides, she patiently awaits the judgment of posterity – right or wrong, she wishes to forget the bitterness of the past and yearns for a friendly voice, like that which stilled the Galilean waters...."

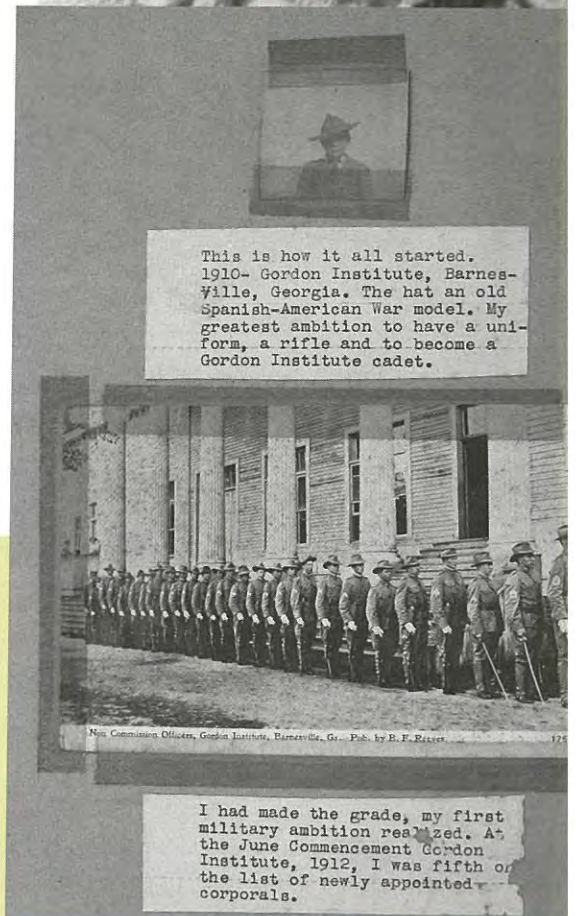
In his speech entitled "Memorial Exercises of Jefferson Davis at Barnesville," Dr. Pound uses the occasion of Davis' death to look to the future of the South and to remind Northerners and Southerners alike that "we will no more engage in the 'madness of secession.'"

"All honor then to our state legislature! When we shall duly appreciate the fact that such bodies are the only barriers between us and despotism we may prolong our national life indefinitely; but if we should divide them we will render them impotent and open a Pandora's box out of which shall fly evil in every shape. Contempt for the legislature means undue regard for Congress; undue regard for Congress means a concentration of power in the Federal government; concentration there means domination by the strongest section; domination by the strongest section means internal dissension; internal dissension means inevitable destruction."

In an address to the Barnesville Literary Club, Dr. Pound argues states' rights.



If the present age, Mr. of the younger generation must admit that, strive as we may, we cannot acquire the culture and courtesy and noble bearing of our sires. We admire those qualities, we imitate them, but this subtle grace eludes us; and this we know, where'er we go, that there passed away a glory from the earth."



Jere Pound's son, Merritt B. Pound Sr., kept a scrapbook. On this page is a typewritten note about his looking forward to attending Gordon Institute and then being appointed corporal.

dictated and signed by John B. Gordon to their maternal grandfather Pound. A third brother, Jere, was unable to be present at the presentation dinner arranged by Gordon alumnus George Bugg in Athens. According to Bill Huggins, his family was long aware of the letter, but they had not thought to donate it until the death of his mother, Lucy Pound Huggins.

During the course of the dinner, Tryon Huggins asked if anyone from Gordon was aware that another of Dr. Pound's grandsons also lived in Athens – Col. Merritt Pound Jr., U.S. Air Force, retired, the son of Professor Merritt B. Pound. With the passing of his mother, Tryon said that Col. Pound had been given a trunk full of memorabilia, much of it directly related to the cousins' grandfather.

The trunk yielded seven speeches of Dr. Pound, in his handwriting, on Gordon Institute stationery – a historical treasure trove. (See page 22.) Three of these were speeches to the Barnesville Literary Club, two to the Teacher's Institute, one an address to the Gordon graduating class of 1889, and the last was a eulogy written for Jefferson Davis.

The speeches also offer an insight into Dr. Pound. In his speech to Gordon's graduating class of 1889, he exhorted graduates to find their "own peculiar place in the social economy." He warned that if they chose a profession according to the dictates of "popular esteem," they would spend the rest of their lives in misery. "He who subverts his tastes to the dictates of that principle [of popular esteem] confesses himself a slave – the meanest of his type, because he dares not what even a slave may do – he dares not think for himself."

"Inherently, the hand is as honorable as the head," Pound told the class; "the mason's trowel as the warrior's sword, hayseed in the hair as powder on the periwig. All professions may be perverted to ignoble purposes – all may be made productive of highest good."

What makes Dr. Pound's words so insightful is that he graduated from the University of Georgia with an AB in law, but instead of law, he entered the profession of education.

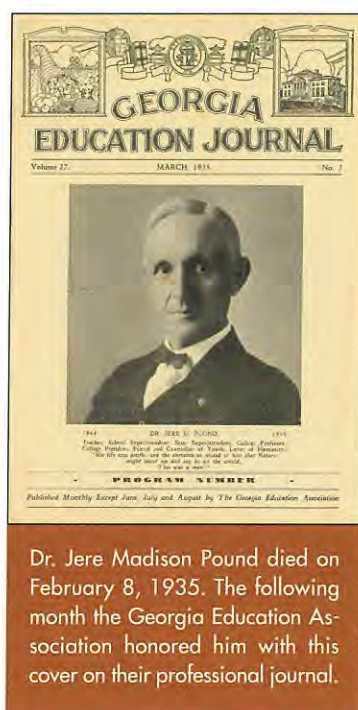
His memorial of Jefferson Davis gives a personal look at a man of his times, the Reconstruction. In 1887, when Pound accepted his first term as Gordon Institute's president, the former president of the Confederacy traveled by train through Barnesville on his way to Savannah. According to one history, "Thousands from the surrounding country crowded about the station to await the arrival of the flag-decorated train and to see the old hero who everywhere received as royal an ovation as was ever accorded a reigning monarch."

Davis' imprisonment in shackles by the federal government after the war excited the outrage of Northerners and Southerners alike. The train that bore him through Barnesville in 1887 reminded onlookers of this severe treatment with a banner which read, "He was manacled for us."

The image of suffering monarch can be found in Pound's memorial. He described Davis as "the Knighthood representative of a Knightly race, the Kingliest head uncrowned" and compared him to several of the Knights of the Round Table: Sir Pelleas, Sir Percival, Sir Galahad and Sir Gareth." But his speech also took into account that Northern ears were lis-

tening, so he assured his audience that paying respect to Davis was not "treason."

These two and the other five speeches by Dr. Pound have been digitized with the generous permission of Col. Pound, as are many news clippings and photographs and are available for researchers to view in the Hightower Library archives. The original letter signed by former Georgia governor and the College's namesake, John B. Gordon, is also in the College's library archives. A facsimile is on public display in the College's administration building, Lambdin Hall, on the third floor. ■



The First

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

by Tamara Boatwright

They don't see themselves as trailblazers, historical icons or really all that special. And some will even admit that all the attention they are drawing makes them a little nervous. But they do share a common bond, and a simple one at that. They want to be that one teacher a student recalls with fond memories, that one teacher who makes a difference in a student's life.

"I had a great teacher in the second grade and since then, this is all I have ever wanted to do," said Megan Sollenberger. "This is simply what I am supposed to do. I want to be that teacher for someone else."

Sollenberger is one of 30 teacher-candidates who make up Gordon College's first baccalaureate program in early childhood education. The students will enter the program as juniors this fall and graduate ready for a classroom in May 2009.

The program was approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in May 2006 as part of its initiative to double, by the year 2010, the number and diversity of teachers prepared by the University System. According to a 2004 report by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, early childhood education is one of the top three shortage areas in the field of education, based upon the number of provisional teaching certificates issued by the commission. Competition for the 30 slots in the first class was tough. Students were selected based on grade point average first, then a grueling interview process.

The program was approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in May 2006 as part of its initiative to double, by the year 2010, the number and diversity of teachers prepared by the University System.



A Surprise Serenade

The 30 teacher candidates in Gordon's first baccalaureate program in early childhood education showed their appreciation to Gordon President Lawrence Weill, a Kentuckian, in a special way after having their pictures taken with him in May.

The group gathered in Weill's office and, accompanied on guitar by Jerry Stinchcomb, interim chair of the early childhood education department, sang "Kentucky Waltz," a song made famous in the 1940s by bluegrass singers Bill and Charlie Monroe.

"We thought only a native Kentuckian might be surprised that anybody from Georgia would know this relatively obscure song," Stinchcomb said. "We also wanted to let him know, in a memorable way, how much we all appreciate his leadership in getting the program established at Gordon."

Weill, both pleased and surprised, could not stop grinning.

"This is just great," he said. "You did a marvelous job."

"We want the best teachers to come out of the Gordon program. I want a principal who is interviewing a prospective teacher to look at him or her and know by the way they carry themselves, the way they come across, that they are graduates of Gordon College. Like the graduates of Tift College, Spelman or Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville were looked upon — dedicated, polished, professional and very well trained," said Jerry Stinchcomb, interim chair of the early childhood education department.

"This combination of training will enable the Gordon graduates to be highly qualified to meet the increased expectations of teaching children with mild disabilities who are mainstreamed with regular education classes," said Stinchcomb.

The group is a diverse mix of traditional and nontraditional students. There are 28 women and two men. Some are married, most not. Some have children and many of those who do are single parents.

They all know the next two years will be challenging but they all have the same support.

"Each other," they say almost in unison when asked what that support is. The response is followed by a few hugs shared among the group.

"We've become a family in a very short time," said Deana Kimbrell, one of the nontraditional students of the group who, at 36, is raising a 7- and 4-year-old. "We lift each other up."

Doris Jackson, another older, single parent agrees.

"There have been a few times that I doubted that I could make it knowing what is facing me, facing all of us," she said. "But when I get down and out, I get the shove I need."

And there are those in the group who are simply "really, really excited," about what lies ahead.

"I enjoy working with kids so there couldn't be a better profession for me," said Nathaniel Knowles, 22, who wants to concentrate on teaching math and science. "I know that what we are facing will better prepare us for the classroom and I can't wait."

Jennifer Higgins, 21, wants to have the same kind of days her dad, Steve, did in the classroom — even after teaching for 30 years.

"He never came home complaining of a bad day," she said. "That's the kind of career I want." ■

FROM THE GROUND UP

Tamara Boatwright

Get Jerry Stinchcomb talking about the new early childhood education program at Gordon College and you can't help but get caught up in his enthusiasm. It comes across in his voice, his hands which constantly gesture and a giant smile that stays planted across his face pretty much all the time.

At 57, Stinchcomb, a native of Fayette County and now a resident of Pike County, was happily retired when he was asked by Gordon College President Lawrence Weill if he'd be interested in doing some writing for the ECE program's initial accreditation. Weill and Stinchcomb had gotten to know each other before Stinchcomb retired as director of the Regional Education Service Agency in Griffin.

Stinchcomb, who has experience as a teacher, administrator and even stints as both an elected school superintendent and interim school superintendent, calls the opportunity to help develop the ECE program, "a blessing from God."

"How many people get to work on a program from the ground up?" Stinchcomb asked. "We're establishing a new program, a new tradition for all the following classes to use as a guideline. It is so exciting."

As interim chair of the early childhood education program, Stinchcomb has called upon not only Gordon College faculty but also faculty of local schools where the 30 teacher-candidates in the first class will eventually be employed.

"It's pretty much a partnership," he explained. "The teachers and administrators are telling us what they need and we are consolidating those needs into our curriculum. Our goal is to graduate classroom-ready teachers – students who will quite literally be able to begin teaching immediately."

Stinchcomb has always wanted to be a teacher and was drawn to the profession by Patsy Lassiter, his biology teacher at Fayette County High School. "She was just great," he said. "I always held her in very high esteem." So did others. Of the 91 students in Stinchcomb's graduating class, 30 attended college. And of those students, 20 majored in biology – Stinchcomb among them.

"My goal at the time was to come back to Fayette County High School and be the head of the biology department," he said.

His career took a slightly different path. After teaching several years at Fayette County Junior High and then at the high school, Sara Goza, whom Stinchcomb says remains his mentor, asked him if he'd like to be her assistant principal at the new middle school in Peachtree City. A few years later he made a successful bid to be superintendent of Fayette County Schools. Leading the school system through a painful growth period, which included building the county's second high school in Peachtree City, took its toll and a bid for re-election wasn't successful.

"My heart wasn't really into the second election," He admits. "We did some good work, but I really wasn't sure I wanted to be superintendent for another four years."

But Stinchcomb has been able to parlay every career move into a learning experience including his time as headmaster at Flint River Academy, a then 500-student pre K-12 private school in Woodbury before landing at RESA where he worked until he retired in 2003. He also helped out as "interim" superintendent in Lamar County for a short time while the system was transitioning between superintendents.

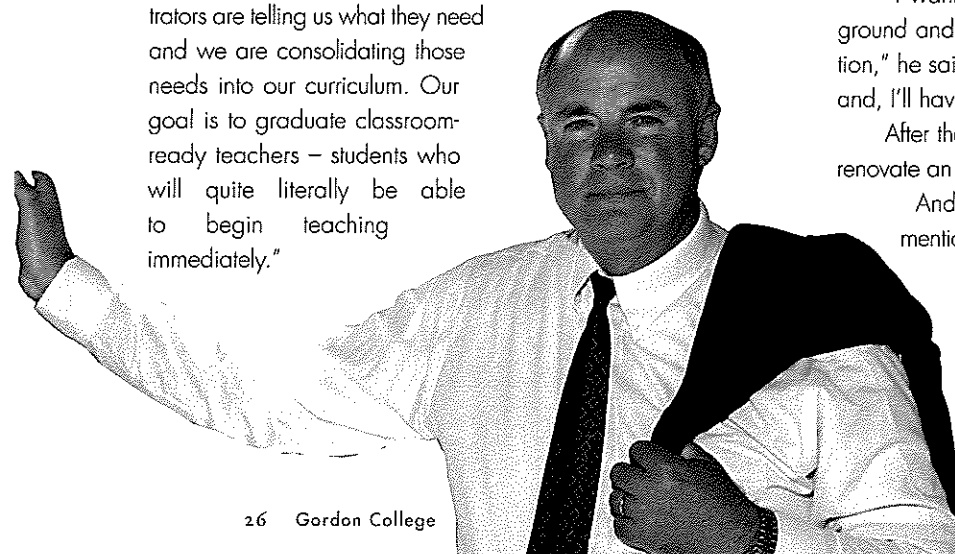
So the word "interim" doesn't concern him at all.

"I want to stay long enough to help get this program off the ground and to see the first 30 teacher-candidates walk in graduation," he said. "That will be such a proud day for Gordon College and, I'll have to admit, for me too."

After that, who knows? He wants to learn to paint and maybe renovate an older home in Macon with his wife, Jackie.

And then there are those three grandchildren whose very mention makes that near constant smile widen by a few inches.

"Oh they are great," he says. "Just great." ■



From Mannheim to BARNESVILLE baseball IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

by Dewald

Martin Dewald still remembers at age 11 watching Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves warily opposing pitchers. "He could hit home runs batting from left or right," he said during a May interview. On the field, Martin goes by the nickname "Germany," and it was from his hometown of Mannheim, Germany, that he watched the Braves, still his favorite American team.

That's right, a German national, playing American baseball, and, according to his coach, Travis McClanahan, making a significant contribution to the Highlander's third place ranking this year in the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association of nine Georgia two-year colleges. Dewald was the fourth best hitter on the team with a batting average of .363 and as a relief pitcher has an earned run average of 2.11 with five wins and two losses during the regular season.

In Germany, Dewald plays for the German national team, Deutschland, something he's been doing since he was 16, the same age when he decided to come to the United States to play college ball and earn a degree. (In regard to his education, Dewald holds yet another impressive statistic, a grade point average of 3.7.



While Americans are accustomed to hearing of players coming from Mexico, the Dominican Republic and now Japan, Germany has never stood out in the national consciousness as a big producer of baseball players. Soccer players, “ja,” but baseball players, “nein.”

So how did Dewald make it to Gordon College and one of the Highlander baseball team’s winningest seasons in recent memory?

When Dewald was 11, the coach of the Mannheim Tornados came to his school to introduce students to the game. With the soccer season just over and no sport to play, Dewald thought why not and tried baseball. He not only had fun, but he discovered he had a talent for the game – two great reinforcements. An additional reinforcement was

the proximity of American teams associated with U.S. Army bases in Germany. American teams would play German teams in exhibition games, and when Americans held tournaments, they would invite German players like Dewald to be on their teams. This experience not only honed his baseball skills but also his language skills. He was soon on a second Mannheim team, the Amigos, and by his second season of play, Dewald said, he was playing for the national team of Germany, Deutschland.

His success has not come without personal hardship. He said he realized his baseball talent gave him career and life experience opportunities, but at 16 he said he wasn’t getting enough play time with the Amigos, something he needed if he was going to develop as a better player. So he moved to Heidenheim, three hours drive away from his family and his friends to live alone in a strange city,

enroll in a new school and play for the Heidenheim Heideköpfe (literally, Heathheads).

It was also at this age that he began speaking with his Deutschland coaches about the possibility of his going to America to play college ball. Many coaches for the national team come from the United States, and one in particular is the head baseball coach of Georgia State University, Greg Frady. When Dewald told Frady he was looking for a high quality but affordable two-year college, Frady wrote his

friend McClanahan. In December 2005, Dewald and McClanahan spoke and things began to happen rapidly. They had to if Dewald was to enroll for the fall 2006 semester.

Before Dewald could get a student visa, he had to first be enrolled at Gordon, so he quickly booked a flight, met Mc-

Clanahan, enrolled, returned to Germany and got a visa. “It couldn’t have been more perfect,” Dewald said.

Majoring in health/physical education, Dewald is already looking to the future to earn his bachelor’s degree and go into sports management – that is, if the major leagues don’t snatch him up. At the suggestion, Dewald said he of course entertains the idea of playing in the majors. Loving the game as he does, why wouldn’t he? And considering how baseball has helped him achieve his dreams so far, why wouldn’t he?

But as much as he loves baseball, he knows that his education is also key to his future, so as soon as Gordon’s season was over in May 2007, Dewald returned to Mannheim for the first time in 10 months. While there, he earned money to return to school, enjoyed the company of his family and, of course, played ball. □

Donations of. memories

The treasures of Gordon College past grew this year as several members of the Gordon family donated memorabilia from their years as students or those of family members.

Mary Anne Stocks Downey and Jean Landers Stocks Shankles donated their father's 1927 Gordon Institute annual. As Gordon President Larry Weill wrote them in a thank you letter, the contribution was especially valuable since the College does not have a complete set of annuals in its archives. The inside front cover of the donated annual bears a memorial plate with the name of their father Farris Stocks and his children, J. Edward Stocks, Mary Anne Stocks Downey and Jean Landers Stocks Shankles.





Marybeth Pearman (left) and Janet Sammons (Class of '70) featured in their 1970 yearbook. They were co-captains of Gordon Military High School's cheerleading squad. Unbeknownst to either of them, they donated their megaphones within weeks of each other.

Diana Walker contacted the College from her home in New Mexico. Her grandfather T.J. Fambrough graduated from Gordon Institute in 1886, and she wanted the College to have a handwritten speech he delivered at Gordon, a photo of him taken about that time, and two newspaper articles about his 90th birthday in which Gordon Institute is mentioned.

Ron Zellner, Gordon Military High School Class of 1969, donated many items including copies of the student newspaper, *The Reveille*, uniforms, photos, and a red and white letterman's jacket from his years of playing football.

Zellner, 56 and a resident of Buford, said he checked with his daughter before making his donation.

"I wouldn't take anything for my time at Gordon," he said. "I am in sales and the discipline that I learned here is something I use every day. I have lots of good memories of my time here. It was very special."

Barnesville native Marybeth Pearman Stone, Gordon Military High School Class of 1970, donated her red and white megaphone that she used as a cheerleader.

"I just laughed when I found it," she said. "It has a lot of memories."

Not long after Marybeth's megaphone donation, the College was contacted by the Sammons family who donated items from former Gordon Military teacher and coach, Maj. J.Q. Sammons.

If you have memorabilia of your Gordon days, and you or your family no longer wants them, please consider making a donation of a memory to Gordon College. ■



Making Room For Students



"We are excited about this much needed addition to our campus," said Weill.

The new student center addition.

Construction began in May on Gordon Village, the newest residence complex on the Gordon College campus.

The Village, which will be open for students in August 2008, is designed for 400 students and will offer a variety of housing options like suites and more traditional two-to-a-room apartments. It is adjacent to Gordon Commons, on the east side of the campus, which opened to students in 2006.

"Gordon College has not been able to meet the demand for on-campus housing for many years," said President Lawrence Weill. "As an access institution in the university system, we provide a critical need for commuting students in the immediate area. We also serve students who require the benefits of an access college, but who live outside a reasonable commuting distance. The project positions Gordon College to better meet the needs of students."

At the April groundbreaking for the Village, Allan Vigil, chairman of the University System of Georgia, lauded the public-private partnership that is funding the project.

A groundbreaking for the addition to the student center was also held in the spring.

The current student center was built in 1978 to serve 1,400 students – contrast that number to today's student population of 3,600.

The expansion, which will centralize student services into what is tentatively being called a Student Success and Retention Center, will include a career counseling center, a dedicated space for advising and other counseling services as well as group study rooms, space for computer tutoring stations and two classrooms.

But the biggest impact will be the greatly expanded student book store which will also be open to the public.

"We are excited about this much needed addition to our campus," said Weill. "It will not only make campus life more convenient for our students but will offer added support to help them reach their goal of earning a college degree."

The student center expansion is expected to be complete in 2009. ■

Celebrating Future Gordon Students

For four years Gordon College has been inviting students from Lamar County Middle School to the campus to experience a day at college.

"We want them to begin thinking about their future and show them how important an education – whether it is received here or some place else – is to that future," said Gordon College President Lawrence Weill.

During their April visit the students were divided into smaller groups and visited the library, toured the campus and were treated to a mini earth science class and a mini health sciences/nursing class among other activities.

The day ended with Weill greeting each child individually and inquiring about their plans for college. With each student's promise that "I'm Going to College!" they were given a small mirror with "Turn Over to See a Future Gordon College Student," on the other side.

Sixth grader Kaitlin Kee promised to attend college and even knows what she wants to study and what school she will attend.

"I want to be a crime scene investigator," she said with determination. "And I want to go to Gordon!"

"Well good," Weill replied. "I'll be looking for you in six years."



Brianna Jarman and Jacob Rawls look over a mineral chart during a "mini" natural science class taught by Gordon College Professor Richard Schmude. Jarman and Rawls visited Gordon College as part of the "I'm Going to College" event held annually for Lamar County Middle School students.

More Than a Lunch

Local entrepreneurs were offered a chance to "lunch and learn" through a program offered by the Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of Commerce and the Gordon College Community Education Department.

Donald Rhodes of the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center in Macon assisted with the program and was its first speaker.

"This program offered local entrepreneurs an opportunity to network while learning something about business and visiting our campus," said Patti Lowery, program coordinator for Gordon College Community Education. "Both sessions were very well received. We look forward to holding similar programs in the future."



Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of Commerce President Jan Haddon is joined by Donald Rhodes of the UGA Small Business Development Center, speaker Ann Smith a Macon CPA and Lisa Perry of the UGA Small Business Development Center.

Rhodes spoke on the topic of "Moving Your Business Ahead," and Macon CPA Ann Smith on the topic of "Working ON vs. Working IN Your Business."

New Master Plan Assesses Historical Significance of Campus Buildings

On a cool, clear day in March, a man sat down on the sidewalk across the street from Gordon College's Community Education Building. Resting on his crossed legs was what appeared to be a portable drawing table similar to the kind the College's art students use in their drawing classes. For the indifferent onlooker, this was what he was, albeit a little bit older and dressed business casual. For the more critical onlooker, he was out of place. Art students had never bothered to sketch the everyday boxy look of this former residence on Spencer Street, but then again, art students had no clue that this house was of historical significance, and this is why Glen Bennett of OJP/Architect, Inc. was sitting cross-legged on a cold sidewalk.

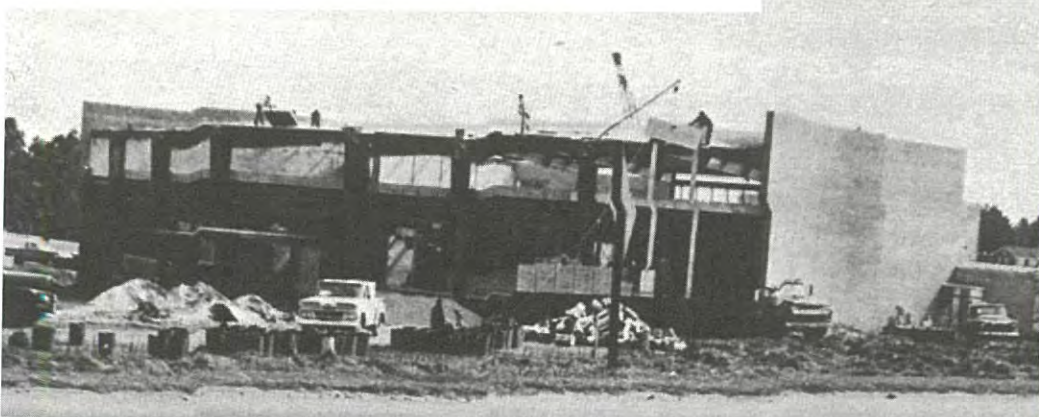
meet the 50-year age eligibility mark because it is "a property of exceptional significance."

The new master plan, once completed, will be placed on file in the Community Education office and will be available for public review.

Bennett was on campus as part of Gordon College's effort to update its master plan. Each unit in the university system completes an intense examination of its facilities periodically. The last plan was approved by the Board of Regents in 2003, and with Gordon's change to a state college the plan needed revision. The plan now in progress with the help of Sasaki Associates Inc. is expected to be completed and approved in early fall 2007.

Part of the planning process involves an assessment of all campus buildings and their historical significance. Bennett evaluated all campus structures and classified them by their architectural styles. Lambdin Hall, the oldest building on campus has been renovated so many times since its construction that it is no longer a viable candidate for consideration in the National Register of Historic Places, but Smith Hall, across Lambdin Green, was deemed worthy of consideration.

Alumni Memorial Hall, designed by architect John J. Cohen and constructed in 1963, was recommended even though it doesn't



Gordon College Outstanding Scholar

"I just love Gordon College," Autumn said.

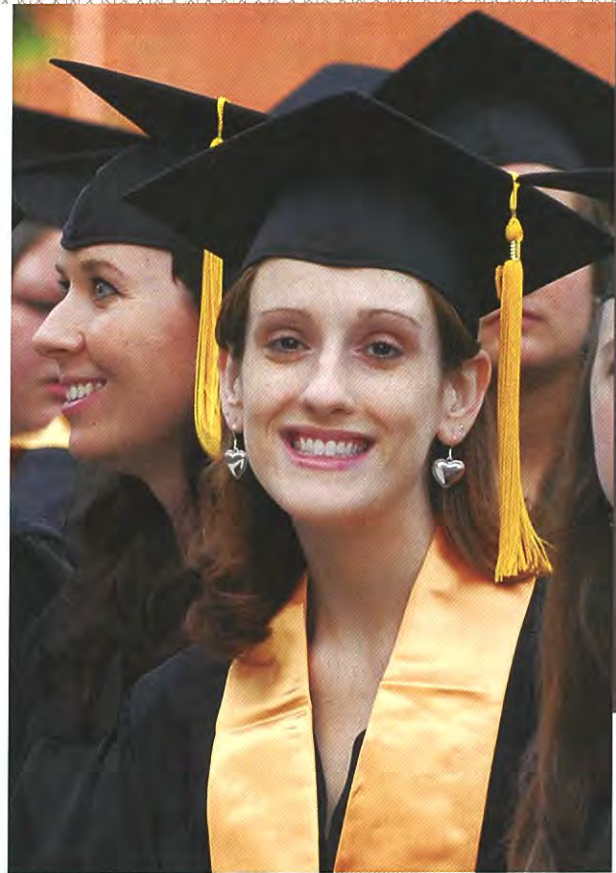
**"I love the atmosphere, and I love the fact
that I can go to college in my hometown."**

Autumn Schaffer of Barnesville was named Gordon College Outstanding Scholar for 2007. Schaffer, 19, is the daughter of George and Roxanne Schaffer and is a 2005 honor graduate of Lamar County Comprehensive High School.

"We are very impressed by Autumn's commitment not only to academics but her commitment to the community too," said Dr. Robert Vaughan, Gordon College dean of academic affairs. "She is a model of what every Gordon student should strive to be."

Schaffer graduated with highest honors in May and will follow in her mother's footsteps to become a teacher. She is one of the 30 teacher candidates who will make up the first four year program at Gordon – early childhood education – which began in August 2007.

"I want to teach kindergarten like my mom," Autumn said. "I want to be able to teach but also play and have some fun with the kids at the same time."



Her career plans include returning to Gordon, but not as a student. "I would love to eventually come back to Gordon as a professor in the early childhood education department."

Describing herself as "driven" and "self-taught," Schaffer said, "If I don't know something I will make sure I do everything I can to learn about it. I am very motivated to reach the goals I have set for myself."

Her mother agrees.

"Many nights I go into her room and she has fallen asleep among her books and pens and pencils," said Roxanne Schaffer who graduated Gordon College in 1972. "She works really hard and is very focused."

"I just love Gordon College," Autumn said. "I love the atmosphere, and I love the fact that I can go to college in my hometown."

Chancellor Praises Gordon's Student Government

"You will help make decisions that will impact future generations," Davis said. "That is part of what being a leader is all about. Your voices have great power."



From left to right: Kristen Lewis, Jake Holloway, Nathaniel Lewis, Victoria Washington, Wes York, Gilda Moss, Amber Ward, Tangie Vinson.

When Gilda Moss, president of the Gordon College Student Government Association, left an April meeting with the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, she felt empowered and excited.

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. spent time with eight members of the SGA during a daylong visit to the Gordon campus. He praised their involvement in student government and urged them to take a proactive approach to obtaining their education.

"Those who lead early will lead later," he told the group.

Davis fielded questions and heard concerns from the students which ranged from Gordon's growth to parking – an issue he says he hears at nearly every campus he visits.

Jake Holloway, a political science major from Thomaston, told Davis about the need for expansion of the nursing and health sciences building and the need for a new gymnasium.

"What can we do locally to get that?" Holloway asked.

Davis explained that the Board of Regents, the governing body for all 35 University System of Georgia institutions, annually receives requests in the billions of dollars while allocations fall far behind.

To better handle needs and ability to pay for those needs Davis said that all institutions are being asked to develop multi-year capital models. This, according to Davis, allows for more planning certainty.

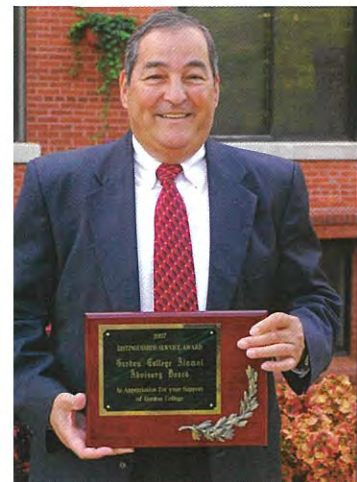
"Institutions can plan around their needs and allocations," he said adding that students can be a part of that planning.

"You will help make decisions that will impact future generations," Davis said. "That is part of what being a leader is all about. Your voices have great power."

Moss was pleased that the Chancellor scheduled the group into his very busy day. "He has proven himself to be very student-oriented," she said. "He was candid and open about how we can meet our goals. He is very empowering, and he left me feeling inspired."

Davis' April visit to Gordon also included meeting with Gordon President Lawrence Weill, the president's cabinet and the faculty executive committee. It was Davis' second visit to the campus since being appointed chancellor in February 2006.

2007 Distinguished Service Award Winner



Kike Seda, receiving the 2007 Distinguished Service Award for the Gordon College Alumni Advisory Board.

Gordon College Foundation President Peter Banks awarded the College's Distinguished Service Award to the Gordon College Alumni Advisory Board at this year's graduation ceremony on May 12.

President Banks told the audience that the board had been appointed by Gordon College President Larry Weill in 2005 "to organize an alumni association dedicated to uniting Gordon alumni toward a common goal of protecting the history and heritage of this place and ensuring that it advances forward into a bright future." He then presented the award to the board's first president, Kike Seda, Class of '59, from Columbus, Georgia.

The members honored were Sophie Blosser, Dr. Aaron Buice, John Burnette, Berry Cook, Chuck Copeland, Charles Covin, Lewis Covin, Laura Harrison, Laurie Chambers Holmes, Carol Jenkins, Don Neuner, Marcia Rosenfeld, Kike Seda and Paul Stinson.



From left to right front: John Burnette, Peter Banks, Carol Jenkins, Laura Harrison, Sophie Blosser, Marcia Rosenfeld. Back: Charles Covin, Kike Seda, Paul Stinson, Chuck Copeland, Don Neuner, Lewis Covin. Not pictured: Dr. Aaron Buice, Berry Cook, Laurie Chambers Holmes.

Nursing Reunion **First of Its Kind**

Gordon College nursing graduates from 1975 to 2006 made history on May 5, 2007, when they held the first combined-classes nursing reunion since the nursing program started in 1973. Gordon President Larry Weill greeted approximately 100 graduates and guests gathered in the College's Student Center Atrium and praised them for helping to make Gordon's nursing program the best in Georgia.

The president did not quote Spinoza but he acknowledged the difficulty of Gordon's nursing program and recognized how the hard work of its students had made it "the best in the University System of Georgia."

"We are all very proud of this reputation, but we are most proud of you nurse alumni," he said.

The nurses at the reunion had no difficulty in remembering the rigor of the program. Betty Traylor Coleman, who started her studies the first year of the program in 1973, said she had fun but also remembers that large numbers of her fellow classmates

dropped out. She also remembers that the final test of the first semester of instruction was known as the "do or die" test because those who failed it were dropped.

Darlene Alls, Class of '85, had an especially tough experience because she gave birth not long before she graduated. "It was tough," she said. "I gave birth on a Wednesday and was back on Monday. They would have failed me if I missed more than three days. All of us knew this going in."

2002 graduate Kezia Mobley of Hampton, Georgia, remembered having to show Professor Pat Brown that she could establish and maintain a sterile field. "I'll never forget her looking over those glasses and telling me I contaminated the field," Mobley said. Although the experience was painful, she said, the lesson was not wasted on her. To this day, she gets it right.

Sydnie Glanton, Class of '01, said she was always aware that the difficulty of the program had a purpose. "They made sure we knew what we were doing before letting us work on real patients."

"All excellent things are as difficult as they are rare." **Spinoza**



Gordon College nursing graduates from 1975 to 2006 made history on May 5, 2007, when they held the first combined-classes nursing reunion since the nursing program started in 1973.

Members of Gordon College's nursing class of 1993 catch up at Gordon College's reunion of all its nursing graduates on May 5, 2007, in the Student Center Atrium. From left to right are Sandra Landry of Griffin, Kathy Schumaker Hammock of Thomaston, Ron Andrews of Miami, Florida, and Rob Foster of Thomaston.

Gordon College Goes Virtual

Taking advantage of the online classes offered through the Gordon College Department of Community Education is easy. There's no dress code – you can even wear your pajamas if you want – there is no commute and you can sit where you want to – your own desk or easy chair if your computer allows.

And the courses are fun. The ed2go courses are instructor facilitated and involve interaction with an instructor and other students in the class via a lively and intelligent online discussion area. Many participants have stayed in touch long after the course is complete.

"We had 19 participants in last fall's courses," said

"We offered courses ranging from 'The Analysis and Valuation of Stocks,' to preparing for the SAT/ACT. Photography and writing courses are also popular."

Patti Lowery, program coordinator for the Gordon College Community Education Department. "We offered courses ranging from 'The Analysis and Valuation of Stocks,' to preparing for the SAT/ACT. Photography and writing courses are also popular."

Mary Adams, who lives in Fayette County, is considering taking a digital photography course.

"I like the fact that I don't have to leave home for this," she said. "Plus,

I'm older and I like to do things at my own pace. This type of course allows me to take my time."

Each course runs for six weeks and a new round of classes starts every few weeks. A small fee is charged for each course.



The full catalog of classes is available at www.ed2go.com/gdn.

Mandarin Chinese Is Spoken Here

Mandarin Chinese, the most common spoken form of the Chinese language, was one of several language courses offered through the Gordon College Department of Community Education last year.

Patti Lowery, program coordinator for Gordon College Department of Community Education, said that Mandarin was chosen as a community education course because several people who had recently traveled to China for business had expressed an interest in learning the language.

"Upon completion, most participants have the basic language skills for use in conversational Mandarin," said Lowery. "We hope to offer more language classes in the coming academic year. There is a special interest in Chinese due to the announcement of the General Protecht Group's manufacturing facility to be constructed

in Barnesville. Our intent is to be as responsive as possible to the needs of the community we serve."

General Protecht is the U.S. corporate name for the Donzheng Electrical Co. Ltd. of Zhejiang province in China.

In addition to Chinese, Spanish was offered on campus. French and Italian are also a part of the College's online course offerings.

For more information on Beginning Mandarin Chinese or any of the other courses offered through the Community Education Department visit www.gdn.edu or call (770) 358-5123. Gordon's online courses can be taken regardless of one's location.

中国

Zhongguo is translated as Middle Kingdom or Celestial Kingdom. In English, it is simply China.



Curtis Brown, in red, played Senex, and Walker Davis was Hysterium in last season's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

The business of betrayal

is the theme of the 2007-2008

Gordon College Theatre Season

which opens in late September with a production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde.

Regarded by many critics and scholars as the wittiest play in the English language, the comedy tells the tale of Jack, a decent young country squire who has created an imaginary younger brother, Ernest, which allows him an excuse to visit London and his beloved Gwendolen. Jack's best friend, Algernon, learns that his pal Earnest is really named Jack and that Jack also has a lovely 18-year-old ward, Cecily, back

A Season of Betrayal

home in the country. Algernon betrays Jack by sneaking to the country estate pretending to be Earnest so he can meet Cecily.

The play will be presented Sept. 26-29 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 3 p.m.

The second production of the season will feature an ensemble cast in *Brecht on Brecht*, adapted by George Tabori.

Bertolt Brecht was one of the world's greatest playwrights and theorists. His plays include *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Galileo and Mother Courage*. Brecht was also a gifted poet and lyricist. This show is something new for Gordon College – chamber theater. The ensemble will perform poetry, jokes, songs, and a short scene in a style rarely seen today. Where is the betrayal? The second half of the show focuses on the coming threat of the Nazis and their hatred for the Jews.

Brecht on Brecht is Nov. 14-17 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 3 p.m.

Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley is set in Mississippi and tells the story of three sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe who have been reunited after Babe has shot her husband for beating up her boyfriend. The Pulitzer Prize winning play is a mix of comedy and drama and is part of the college's new Southern Culture Arts Series.

Crimes of the Heart is Feb. 13-16 at 7:30 p.m. and February 17 at 3 p.m.

The Gordon College Theatre closed its 2006-2007 season with a musical comedy and is doing the same for the 2007-2008 season with a production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. The play, from which came the film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, tells the story of sweethearts Brad and Janet. It features the scandalous Frank N Furter, the scheming Riff Raff, rippling Rocky and the vivacious Magenta and Columbia. Also featured are rock and roll classics including *Science Fiction/Double Feature*, *Hot Patootie*, *Damn it Janet!* and the pelvic-thrusting *Time Warp*.

This production – in which just about everyone is betrayed – has a very adult theme and parental discretion is advised.

The Rocky Horror Show is April 16-19 at 7:30 p.m. and April 20 at 3 p.m.

**All performances are in the Fine Arts Theatre.
For ticket information call 770-358-5295.**

Randy Rivera sent the following letter and picture October 28, 2006.

Dear Ms. Rhonda:

I am writing you this letter to say hello to you, Dr. Weill, Dr. Boltz and all the wonderful people I met during the visit to Gordon with my family. Sorry I am a little late, but the thing is, I carry all of you in my heart.

I am sending you some pins I made for the association. I hope you like them.

Enclosed too is a picture of the Gordon Military College 1956 Latin Combo. From left to right: Rafael Marquez playing guiro; Johnny Rosado, the band's director (now a retired M.D.), Ramon Hernandez playing maracas (died in Vietnam), Roberto Inclan playing palitos, and Randy Rivera on the bongo drums. This picture was made in the auditorium.

Hope you like the pins and the picture.

I remain
Randy Rivera



Celebrating the South

If you read just a few pieces written by John Shelton Reed, the founder of the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC/Chapel Hill, a wide variety of images of the South will flash by you. Seats from '57 Chevys on front porches; guides to the "kooky South"; searches for the perfect Dixie barbecue; pellagra and hookworm; and a distinctive literature from the likes of William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe and Flannery O'Connor.

And there is more, much more, like politics, music and race relations.

Gordon College Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Robert Vaughan and history professor Dr. Marvin Thomas have put together the Southern Culture Series, a series of events celebrating the South which will bring musicians, poets, speakers and barbecue to the Gordon campus. Dr. Vaughan said the purpose of the series was to gather people from inside and outside the college community for the sake of education and entertainment.

"We want to draw a wide audience of people to develop an appreciation for the uniqueness of Southern culture," Dr. Vaughan said.

The series was inaugurated with the Paul Thorn Band which played on August 24, 2007. The following is the remaining schedule of events:

IN 2007

October 4

Merle Black, Professor of Politics and Government at Emory University; author of *Politics and Society in the South*.

November 8

Ed Francisco, poet ((*Lie*)fe Boat; *Death, Child and Love; The Alchemy of Words*) and novelist (*Til Shadows Flee, The Deal-Maker*).

IN 2008

January 25

Nashville Bluegrass Band. Two-time Grammy winners, featured on *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *Cold Mountain* soundtracks.

February 13-17

Gordon College Theatre presentation of *Crimes of the Heart*.

March 13

John Shelton Reed. Director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at UNC, author of *My Tears Spoiled My Aim, Minding the South* and *1001 Things Everyone Should Know about the South*.

April 25-26

BBQ and Blues Festival.

Remembering Captain Roy E. Congleton

Danks Seel

I graduated from Gordon Military High School in '62



Gordon cadet Danks Seel,
Class of '62, '64.

and College in '64. Those were great years to be in Barnesville and living on Gordon's small campus. I selected Gordon upon the recommendation of an Army Special Forces captain who was a friend of my family and a highly decorated Vietnam veteran. I was encouraged and motivated even more by another Army captain, Roy E. Congleton, who was a military instructor at Gordon. He was an outstanding officer in every respect.

Capt. Congleton invited me to his house several times a year to have dinner with him and his wife and two daughters, ages 8 and 9. What is interesting, that many Gordon cadets did not know, is that despite Capt. Congleton's tough Army Ranger/Airborne appearance to us Gordon cadets, he was entirely different around his family and little girls whom he had taught to play chess. The Gordon cadets who knew him referred to him as 22-5 ("by the book"), after our Army Drill Manual 22-5. He continually encouraged me to become a cadet sergeant and then a cadet officer, which I did.

He was in charge of Gordon's rifle team, which I was a member of, and our team was one of the best in the Southeast, beating the Citadel in every match. Congleton left Gordon to attend the Army's Command and General Staff School, was promoted to major in the Special Forces, but then was killed in action in Vietnam on December 21, 1964.

While at Gordon I met the love of my life, Renee Bush, whose grandfather and father both graduated from Gordon. We have been married for 43 years. Our son and daughter are married and we have one 3-year-old granddaughter.

I graduated from Gordon and went on to North Georgia Military College to graduate with a BS in business. I went on active duty after graduation, serving three years in Germany and one year in Vietnam, getting out as a captain. I now am a manufacturers rep for the Hillman Group after working 30 years with Consolidated Freightways as a manger. When I am not at work I can be found in my shop making commissioned period tomahawks and knives.

Gordon's professors and military staff were without a doubt instrumental in helping me develop the discipline I needed to make it in life. Those years at Gordon and the friends I had there will never be forgotten. When I look back I can see God's hand directing me along the way to where I am today. I have been blessed in many ways and my time at Gordon is one of them. I live in Waxhaw, N.C., and can be reached at dtomahawks@aol.com.

Best regards,
Danks Seel



Capt. Roy E. Congleton (right) and Staff Sgt. Troy Turner presenting Danks Seel with a shooting award.

... what many Gordon cadets did not know is that despite Capt. Congleton's tough Army Ranger/Airborne appearance to us Gordon cadets, he was entirely different around his family and little girls whom he had taught to play chess.



Capt. Roy E. Congleton, assistant professor of military science at Gordon Military College, 1961 to 1963.

We're Listening . . .

Sometimes we need to know what large numbers of you are thinking. It's great when you come by in person and tell us what's on your mind, but sometimes, like with planning reunions and larger projects, we need to send out surveys. And so we did... 12,000 of them.

We asked things like the level of formality you preferred, the kinds of activities that interested you, who you would like to see as a speaker, the types of reunions you would attend, and when a reunion should be held. In this way we learned the kind of reunion your particular graduating class preferred and the kinds of reunion older graduating classes preferred compared to the kinds preferred by more recent graduating classes.

Seventy-seven percent of all respondents said they would prefer informal events with the most popular being a barbecue for adult guests only. Second to this was a family barbecue with children included. Other popular choices included a concert, wine tasting, or theater production.

"Gordon has been in my heart for 57 years. I have so many wonderful memories about my years there. The people of Barnesville were great to our '50-'51 football team and especially to me, a student player."

More than 70 percent of all respondents said they would prefer an alumnus as a featured speaker in a social setting. Twenty percent of the respondents said they would attend presentations by professionals.

When asked what type of reunion event the alum would be the most likely to attend, the highest percentage of everyone surveyed responded that they would attend a reunion specifically targeting their graduating class. Decade reunions ('30s, '40s, '50s) were also a popular choice. Slightly more than 20 percent said they would be willing to attend an event for anyone who ever attended Gordon. Forty-two percent said they would attend an event that included only the pre-1972 graduates.

There was less interest in events held by affiliation, but among those who responded that they would attend a reunion by major, sports team or club participation, reunions for like-majors received the highest score.

"I really appreciate how Gordon has progressed, and my son plans to attend this fall."

An alumni weekend set aside in the spring of the year was the top choice among respondents for when an alumni celebration should take place. Slightly more than 70 percent chose a weekend set apart specifically as an alumni weekend rather than an event connected with Buggy Days, the annual arts and crafts festival held by the City of Barnesville.

"I realize that some 35 years have passed since Gordon was a military school... but I'd like to see an event on campus that would make us old 'bellhops' feel less than forgotten."

Keep in mind that a survey is like voting in that only those who participate let their voices be heard. Try to imagine what kind of public officials you would end up with if only a few people voted. Now try to imagine what your reunion would look like if only a couple of people in your class planned the entire event without ever asking for your ideas.

The good news is that you can still "vote." If you are one of those who still haven't filled out your questionnaire, you can still do so. Then just pop it into the prepaid return envelope and put it in the mailbox.

If you misplaced your survey and would like another, just email us or give us a call and we'll send one to you. Call Gordon's Alumni Affairs Coordinator Lynn Yates at 770-358-5073, email her at lynny@gdn.edu or write her at Advancement Office, Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA, 30204.

"Sometimes we are all so busy with our careers we don't get to visit with old friends. I think reunions hosted by Gordon are a great idea!"

We Want to Know
WHAT YOU THINK.
We're Listening.

John Burnette, A Recollection

On a winter day in 2004, I decided by impulse to drop by the administration building at Gordon just to let them know that the class of '54 was planning a Golden Reunion during Buggy Days. That is when I first met Rhonda Toon and Becky Watts, and very soon they ushered me into the president's office. I will never forget the enthusiastic welcome given me by Dr. Weill. In fact, for a long period of time he made me feel like the "most important person in the world"! Soon I learned that Gordon was offering all the resources possible to help make our reunion a success. Several reunions later, I have observed Dr. Weill still treating Gordon Alumni as "Very Important People."

I did not consider myself worthy of this special treatment. You see..., I was not superlative as a Gordon cadet. I carried out my class assignments as quickly as possible, then changed to my work clothes at my dad's grocery store. I knew my classmates and their parents well because I had delivered milk to some of their houses during the '40s, and then groceries in the '50s.

Moving to North Carolina in 1960, I soon learned that Gordon Elementary and High School had "prepared" me much better than I had realized. This "foundational treasure" helped me to experience success in public school teaching and 26 years of administration. After retirement, the Survivors' Reunions prompted fond memories

of my classmates. It was a joyful adventure to work for a year locating classmates, then the magic of finally seeing them again after 50 years..., the hugs, the stories, and laughter. I feel greatly blessed for the opportunity granted me to serve a term on the Alumni Advisory Committee. Alumni planning is guaranteed a great future supported by Lynn Yates and a committee presently headed by Kike Seda. I witnessed this "spoken into existence" by Gordon President Dr. Weill.

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John D. Burnette, Class of '54



Dear Gordon Alumni,

In spring 2008, Gordon College will complete the remodeling of your alumni house, which was purchased in 2006 by the Gordon College Foundation and is now the property of the College. Alumni like you regularly stop by the Office of Advancement on the third floor of Lambdin Hall, and we've learned from those visits that the College can best serve alumni who return to campus by providing a place specifically for you.

Our hope is to eventually display memorabilia and other items of significance to alumni in the house. The Class of 1956 has donated funds for the reception area of the house, and their donation will assist in furnishing this area.

Attendees of the September 2007 Barnesville Buggy Days festival who stop by the alumni house will have an opportunity to more closely view the plans for the building's renovation. The house will be open and staffed by alumni volunteers during the weekend festival so plan to stop by to see the house before renovations begin.

By now you have received a mailing about the grand opening of the house in April 2008. Current students celebrate "Gordon Days" every spring with games, inflatables, dances, and special activities. This year we are expanding "Gordon Days" to include alumni with a slate of events specifically designed for you. You will not want to miss it! There will be events taking place across campus for different alumni groups, music, food and celebration.

If you are interested in getting involved, have an idea or just want more information about visiting, please contact Lynn Yates at 770-358-5073 or lynny@gdn.edu.



Lynn Yates (left) and Virginia Carter will soon be able to greet alumni at Gordon's newly refurbished Alumni House. Virginia is a new member of Gordon's Alumni Advisory Board; she graduated from Gordon in 1999 with an AS in pre-pharmacy. Lynn is the College's alumni affairs coordinator.

Mark your calendars. **April 11-13, 2008**

Gordon Alumni Weekend Proud Past, Bright Future

Arthur C. (Skip) Williams Jr.



Arthur C. (Skip) Williams Jr., Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Ret.) Gordon Military High School, 1967
Gordon Military College, 1969

"Gordon Military High School and College changed my life. It turned a young boy, poor in study habits and self-discipline, into a young man with goals and direction. The dedicated teachers, professors, workers and staff at Gordon Military enabled me to start on a pathway of military service that lead to a career of leadership and service to the nation.

"Some of my classmates from High School may recall my younger brother David. David spent only one year, 11th grade, at Gordon H.S. He and the military way did not match up. David later became a professional wildlife artist and for 11 years was Art Director of North Carolina Wildlife Magazine. Regretfully David passed away January 2006 due to a heart attack at age 55. Gordon affected his life too; I believe he was among the record holders for walking bull ring tours in front of the Commandant's Office."

Williams has a BS in management from Troy University and an MS in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology. He is currently the Eastern Business Director for Applied Companies based in California.

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Skip and Reva Williams at their North Carolina home.

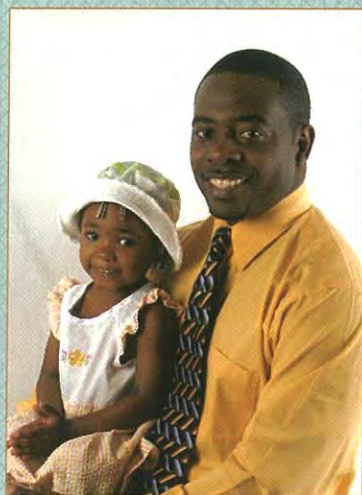


And Then THERE WERE 15

In spring 2006, Guy Barber, Dewese Haley, Jimmy Hightower, Sonny Hawkins, Sid Stringer, Wayne Stallings and James "Hoss" Matthews, all Gordon Military College graduates, met with the intention of seeing each other every six months and even increase the size of their reunions. On March 21, 2007, the group held its third reunion in a year and a half at the Holiday Inn in Perry, Georgia, with an additional eight members. Mission accomplished, at least for six months.



Kneeling left to right: Joseph (Joe) H. Smith, Jr., Charles (Sonny) Story, Ben Spear (in motor chair) and William E. Meeks. First row left to right: James W. Garrett, Clayton (Sonny) Hawkins, Wilson M. Mitcham, Sid H. Stringer, Carlton Guy Barber, James B. (J.B.) Ryner, and John Hill Harris. Second row left to right: Wayne Stallings, James (Hoss) Matthews, Sr., Jimmy L. Hightower, and Thomas Dewese Haley.



Tony Emetu, Class of '07,
with his daughter, Toni Aniya Emetu.

Transfer Student Success

Gordon alumnus Tony Emetu knows the exact date of his graduation from Gordon College – May 12, 2007.

Even though his last semester at Gordon was in the summer of 2005, Tony was a senior at Augusta State University when he decided to transfer coursework credit back to Gordon to complete requirements for an associate's degree. This might sound like a strange decision for some, but not Tony. "My only regret during my time at Gordon was that I never graduated from there." The Gordon diploma means so much "because it's a degree from a place that holds such wonderful memories for me.

"What made Gordon College such a wonderful experience," Emetu wrote in a recent email, "was not only the academic success, great memories, life-learning experiences, and students I encountered there, but the faculty and staff I had the pleasure of getting to know as well!

"Something that I have realized that we really took for granted during our time at Gordon was the hospitality and availability of the faculty and staff. As I have moved on to other colleges where the faculty and staff are not as reachable and friendly, there's a greater appreciation for the atmosphere that GC provided."

Tony currently works as the administrative coordinator of the bone marrow transplant department at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and plans to graduate from Troy University in 2008 with a degree in business administration.

1940s

James W. Coker '42

enjoys golf and writing poetry. He and Bob-bye, his wife of 59 years, reside in Palm Springs, CA.

John Hill Harris '48

and his wife, Judy, are celebrating 57 years of marriage and reside in Cordele, GA.

William E. (Billy) Meeks '48

and his wife, Mary, will celebrate 56 years of marriage this year. They reside in Dublin, GA.

1950s

William Paul Rodgers Jr. '51 and '53

is a former Georgia assistant attorney general. He and his wife, Barbara Jean, celebrated their 51st anniversary in 2006 and reside in McLean, VA.

John F. Kelly '59

is the president of Kelly & Kelly CPAs PA and a past partner in Haskins & Sells (now Deloitte and Touche). He is also a past president of the Ferrari Club of America, and for recreation, he is working on a land speed record attempt. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Boca Raton, FL, and Albuquerque, NM.

1960s

Ed Owen '60

has retired as a teacher/coach after 36 years. He and his wife, Beverly, reside in Tampa, FL.

Danks Seel '62 and '64

and his wife, Renee, are celebrating 43 years of marriage and reside in Waxhaw, NC. When not working for the Hillman Group, he makes commissioned period tomahawks and knives.

Judge James G. (Jim) Bodiford '67

has served as a superior court judge in Cobb County, GA, since being first elected

Sparing No Effort to Alleviate Suffering Sydnie Glanton, Class of 2001

Sydnie Glanton pledged at her 2001 graduation from Gordon College's nursing program "to care for the sick with all the skill and understanding I possess, ... sparing no effort to conserve life, to alleviate suffering and to promote health."

Today, as a registered nurse at Southern Regional Medical Center in Riverdale, Georgia, Glanton has taken her nurse's pledge a step further and into the realm of music. She said she started the practice of playing her violin for patients with one particular patient "who was very sick and did not have a lot of visitors." She discovered that her music helped soothe her patient's suffering, so she now plays for patients when she is not on duty.

They tell her of the joy her playing gives them, and in turn she shares in the joy. "I cannot express enough the happiness I feel when I know that my music has touched their hearts," she said. "It has been a wonderful experience to play music for the sick."



in 1994. During this time he presided over a number of high-profile cases including two murder cases that were televised on Court TV. He is active in a number of civic and professional organizations and has been a frequent lecturer across the state. He and his wife, Nancy, have a son, and reside in Marietta, GA.

Oscar N. (Pete) Petree '67

and his wife, Glyn, plan to retire in a couple of years and travel the "Great Loop" which starts with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. They reside in Louisville, KY.

Henry Archie Ray '68

has retired from the Florida National Guard as a captain. He resides in Highland, AL.

Skip Williams '67 and '69

has retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel. He and his wife, Reva, reside in Columbus, NC.

Jack Winover '67 and '69

has retired from the U.S. Army as a captain and is now an EMS pilot for Mercy Air and flies part time as a helicopter fire pilot. He and his wife, Susan, live in Oxnard, CA.

1970s

Tom Beal '72

is an account executive with DocuTeam in Newnan. He and his wife, Ellen, reside in Newnan, GA.

1980s

Robert (Bob) Wright, '83

serves as director of personnel and director of professional learning for the Lamar County, GA, School System and will retire in June 2008 with 30 years of service.



Woody Briscoe, Gordon Military High School Class of '48 and Gordon Military College Class of '50, won third place in his age group in the March 2007 ING half marathon in Atlanta. With him is his granddaughter Caroline Brown, 15, who also won third in her age group.

James Patrick Akin '84

is science department chair at Taylor Street Middle School in Griffin, GA. He and his wife, Lynn, reside in Griffin, GA.

Beverly Walter '88

graduated from Clayton State University August, 2006, with a BS in business administration as a marketing major. She is the Director of Tourism for the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Forsyth, GA. She and her husband Joe reside in Zebulon, GA.

1990s

Allen Statham '92

is the manager of the health information department and medical records for Athens Cardiology Group.

Brenda Nelson-Porter '93

is the founder and CEO of Brigette's Technology Consulting and Research Firm in Newnan, GA.

Amy Pinkerton Tidwell '94

is employed at the Medical Center of Central Georgia as a research nurse in

gynecology. Amy and her husband, Robert, reside in Macon, GA.

Matt Eldridge '98

is working towards his professional engineering license as senior engineer with Harcon, Inc. in Atlanta. His wife, Michelle, gave birth to their daughter in February 2006. They reside in Lawrenceville, GA.

2000s

Teresa Liles Hegwood '02

is employed by the Georgia Department of Corrections as a probation officer. She and her husband, Cory, reside in McDonough, GA.

Ashley Bearden '02

is a registered nurse at Southern Regional Medical Center in Riverdale, GA.

Tomohiro Ito (Tomo) '04.

is a video editor/broadcast operator for TV Japan in New York City and also plays drums for a rock band.

Denise DuBose Thibaudeau '04

is employed by CCH/Wolters Kluwer Law and Business. She and her husband, Chuck, reside Peachtree City, GA.

Richard Wright '05

graduated December 2006 from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a BA in theater management. He was awarded a graduate fellowship with the Hilberry Theatre at Wayne State University to pursue a MFA in theater management.

Ashley Attaway '05

graduated December '06 from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a BA in Spanish.

Phillip Stigura '06

is working on his teacher's certification at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Rebecca L. Robinson '06

is a registered nurse at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon.

Ike Thurston '06

is the drummer for the band, The Last Portrait, which beat out 1,400 other bands in spring 2007 in the American Idol Underground competition. Ike is from Williamson, GA.

Kellie McKoon '07

graduated in May 2007 with an AS in biology. She plans to attend UGA or Auburn University in wildlife biology.

Nicholas Stigura '07

graduated in May 2007 with an AS in information systems. He served in Iraq and Kuwait from May 2005 to July 2006 and is sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He will be attending Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah.

Jessica Renee Armstrong '07

graduated cum laude in May 2007 with a double major in theater and business and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She will be attending Clayton State University.

Elena Moyer '07

graduated summa cum laude with an AS in nursing in May 2007 and is employed by Spalding Regional Hospital in Griffin, GA.

Brandi Nicole Jackson '07

graduated cum laude with an AS in nursing and is employed by Upson Regional Hospital.

Robyn Parker '07

graduated cum laude with an AS in nursing and was awarded the Phi Theta Kappa USAA National Collegiate Nursing Award.

Jennifer Nicole Thayer '07

graduated cum laude with an AS and an AA in business and history. She will continue her career as a flight attendant for Air Tran Airways. Jennifer resides in Fayetteville, GA.

Gifts made in memory and in honor of the following people between July 1, 2006 & June 30, 2007.

FRIEND

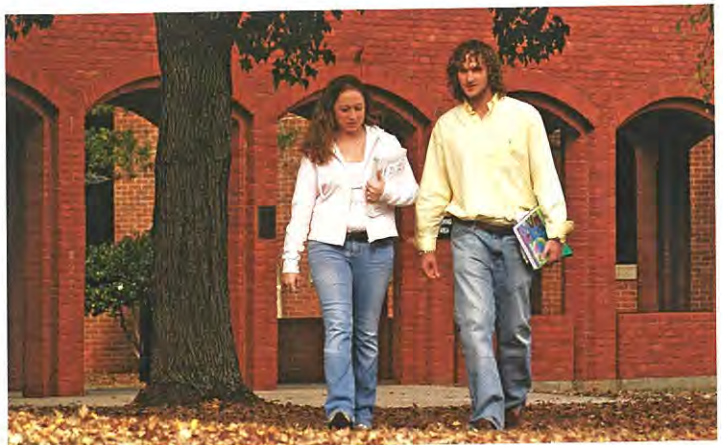
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 The Edward Colston Foundation, Inc.
 Town of Aldora
 Upson Regional Medical Center



**Gifts from July 1, 2006
to June 30, 2007
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Mrs. Scottie Baker
Grashunda E. Banks
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Wayne Bloodworth
Glenn Brinkley
Roy H. Brooks, Jr.
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Gordon College Campus Campaign
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Gordon College Division of
Nursing/Health

Gordon Military High School Class
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of these scholarships**

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Class of '57 Scholarship
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Scholarship
Virginia Pollack Memorial Nursing
Scholarship

The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007. 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 770-358-5124 or rhondat@gdnc.edu. **Thank you.**

Gordon Alumni Weekend

Proud Past, Bright Future



This is a first-ever event for all Gordon College alumni.

It's the Gordon Alumni Weekend, a series of very special events designed to celebrate the men and women who attended Gordon College. It's your chance to reconnect with friends as well as make some new ones.

Built around the theme "*Proud Past, Bright Future*," the Alumni Weekend will feature ballgames, barbecues, luncheons, dinners and other special activities. We'll have class events as well as decade-specific events for graduates from the 1930s to the present.

The weekend will coincide with Gordon Days, a campus-wide celebration that includes performances, sporting events and outdoor activities. Remember what it was like to be a part of Gordon as you mingle with current students.

We'll send you more information in the months ahead, but for now, mark your calendar.

April 11-13, 2008



Gordon College
419 College Drive Barnesville, GA 30204
770. 358. 5000 800. 282. 6504
www.gdn.edu

Class of 1956



From left to right, first row : Paula Reeves Wilde, Shirley Sims Knox, Barbara Ann Woodall Flournoy, Faye Littlejohn Frazier, Carole Witcher Rovang, Catherine Morris Taylor, Nell Wilson Crawford, Kay Revels Willis. Second row: Catherine Redd Cloud, Peter Banks, Gene Duckett, Bill McKoy, Roland Watts, Carlos Morales, Leta Frances Martin Holder, Betty Burnette Martin, Doris Watts Meadows, Yvonne Perry Ruffin. Third row: Ward Chewning, Tommy Jack Van Houten, Robert Cherry, Burney Baldwin, Dohn Bonner, Ralph Swatts, Mack Bryant, Frank C. Jones, Kenneth Boswell, Ed Craze. Fourth row: Thomas Thornton, Frank V. Jones, Dale Gay, Charles Merrill, Richard Lumpkin, Tyrone Gibson, Charles Walker, Sam Alford, Jimmy Stocks.

Tell us what's new about yourself.

We would like to stay informed about what's new in your personal and professional activities so we can share your news with other alumni and friends in our Class Notes section in next year's magazine. Please send your items to Lynn Yates, Advancement Office, Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA, 30204, or email her at lynny@gdn.edu. You may also fax them to 770-358-5738. We want to know your news!



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