Gordon State College

volume 11, number 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

fall 2013

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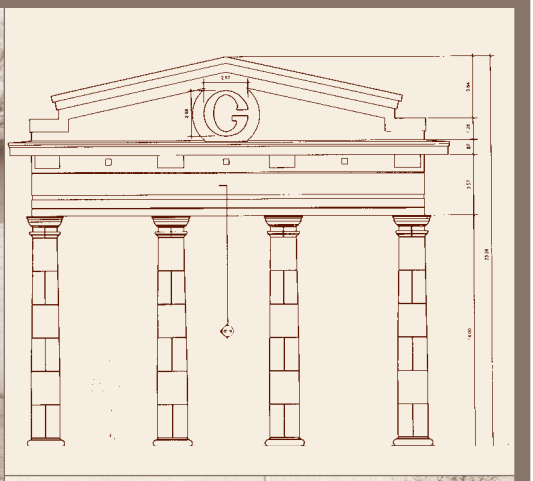

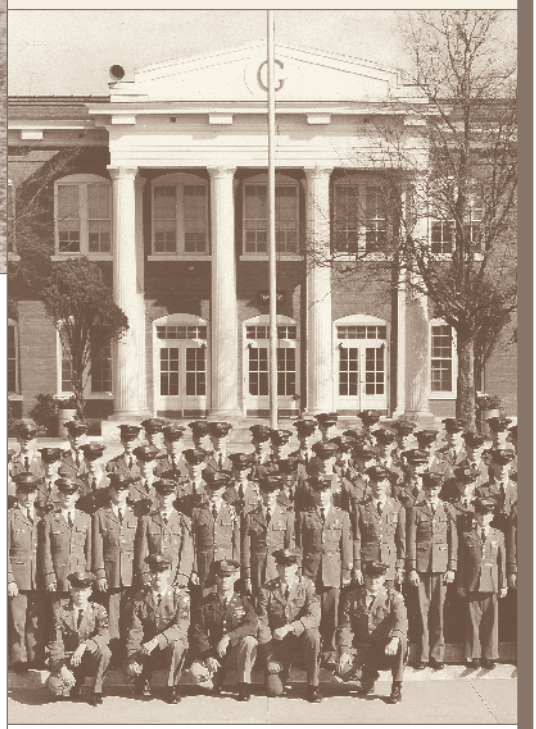

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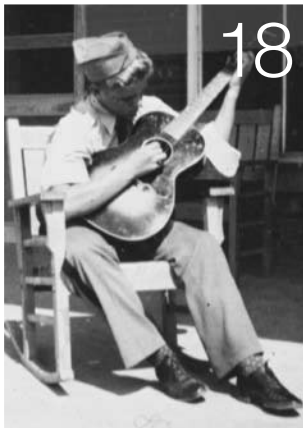
Gordon State College



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Make Gordon part of your legacy.

Include the Gordon State College

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2013, Volume 11, Number 1

ON THE COVER: Jackson Evans Bush was a graduate of Gordon Institute and father to the Bush sisters Elizabeth Bush Sellers and Jacolyn Bush Perrone. His first wife was Olive Williams, with whom he had a son, Morris, but she died in 1917. In 1919, he married Evelyn Bryant Griffith who bore him his two daughters. Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth B. Sellers.

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Dedication

Quimby Melton Jr.

When Gordon Military College was in danger of going out of existence in the early '70s, Quimby Melton Jr. helped save it to become part of the University System of Georgia.

Two years after Gordon became part of the USG in 1972, Melton continued working for its good by joining the Gordon College Foundation, a body charged with supporting and enhancing the work of the College by securing financial resources for its further development and growth. He served on the Foundation until 2009, as its president from 1990 to 1997.

After he graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's in journalism in 1942, he joined the Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served in the Pacific during World War II. He was part of the invasion force to liberate the Philippines in 1944 and was wounded on the island of Luzon.

When the war ended, he returned to work as a journalist, becoming the editor of his father's newspaper, *The Griffin Daily News*. He took over as the paper's publisher in 1970 and in 1982 he sold it. Not long after, he became chairman of *Hometown Newspapers* which consisted of seven community newspapers printed in Barnesville by Hometown Press.

He was a member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia from 1955 to 1960, was a member of the Georgia Legislature from 1959 to 1972, and the chair of the legislature's Ways and Means Committee from 1967 to 1972.

Quimby Melton Jr. was a powerful champion of many causes, and this year's issue of the *President's Report* is dedicated to him because he was a champion and good friend of Gordon State College.

ALONG LIFE'S ROAD,
SO WE ARE TOLD,
SOME FOLKS STAY YOUNG,
AND SOME GROW OLD.
I PRAY, WHEN I REACH MY GOAL,
THERE'LL BE NO WRINKLES ON MY SOUL.

Perpetual Youth
by Wightman F. Melton,
Quimby Melton Jr.'s grandfather

President's Letter

Max Burns
President
Gordon State College

Dear Friends,

On May 10, 2013, we graduated more than 600 students from Gordon State College. Imagine the size of this graduating class. Not too long ago in Gordon's history, the College did not even have this many students enrolled.

Not only the largest graduating class in history, it also had the greatest number of bachelor's degrees from the greatest number of baccalaureate programs. Among the 127 bachelor's degrees in arts and sciences, two came from English, three came from history, 23 from biology, 47 from early childhood education, and 52 from nursing.

This is a proud accomplishment for Gordon and an even prouder accomplishment for these graduates and their families.

These numbers reflect the College's effort to increase the number of Georgians with college degrees to meet the state's 21st century job requirements. The numbers also show the College's commitment to increase its number of baccalaureate programs.

Our primary purpose at Gordon is to educate our students, to help them to realize their dreams of earning a college degree and to help them form the kinds of relationships that will support them throughout their professional and personal lives.

I know many of you have written a check to the Gordon State College Foundation to help fund the many scholarships it manages, and I thank you for your generosity. I hope you can be just as generous, or more, in this next year. For those of you who haven't given in a while, or perhaps never, I would like you to make a commitment to do so now.

All of you who are reading this, whatever year you attended Gordon or if you never attended, I invite you to come see the fine work Gordon's faculty, staff and student body is doing. You are welcome anytime.

Sincerely,

Skeet Burris, 1961

A Dream, A Vision, A Family, A Land

By Peter Boltz

TO LOOK BACK OVER SKEET BURRIS'S LIFE, it is tempting to think it has been an unbroken trajectory of success starting with a dream to become an orthodontist.

To meet Skeet Burris today is to realize his dream has grown much larger, and instead of a single trajectory, his dream has branched out and set deep roots, much like the hundreds of trees he's planted on his Cypress Bay Plantation.

Early in his life growing up on the Atomic Energy Commission's reservation in Oak Ridge, Tenn., he decided he would become an orthodontist.

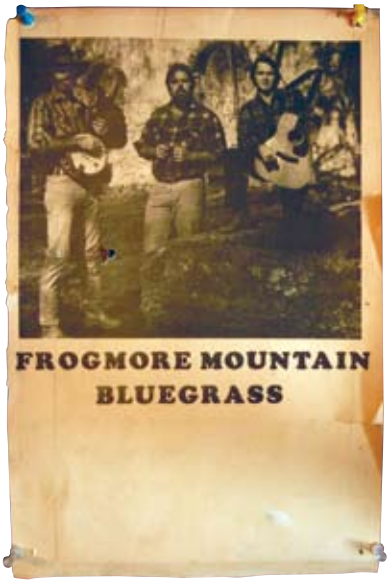
Perhaps he did so because an orthodontist was able to correct his pronounced overbite. Perhaps it was on the advice of his father, who told him not to work for a company if at all possible, even though he himself worked for Union Carbide.

Burris explained this contradiction by saying that his father was in personnel management and employee recruitment, which he found distressing at times, especially when he had to let go employees who were also friends, and the only cause for their firing was federal affirmative action regulations.

He was also likely inspired by an ob-gyn doctor and a dentist who lived on his paper route in Oak Ridge. He passed their homes and cars daily and told himself he wanted their standard of living. He also paid attention to their work schedules.

"I noticed that the ob-gyn's car would be heading out at all hours and any day of the week," Burris said, "whereas the dentist had regular hours and weekends off. He was always at his lake cabin or working on his sailboat on weekends. I thought to myself, these are the working hours I want."

In high school, he visited his orthodontist regularly, but not to have treatment done. He visited so he could learn more about the profession, which the orthodontist and his staff encouraged, allowing him to familiarize himself with



Captions in clockwise order

Gail and Skeet (top) proudly show off their grandchildren. Bottom row left to right: Hannah, Gail, Rocco, Berkeley, Skeet and Hampton. Top row: William and Amelia.

Skeet (above right) was president and valedictorian of his graduating class in 1962. In the center is Don Bright and to the right is Penny Pharr.

Skeet Burris played banjo in the Frogmore Mountain Bluegrass Band. This poster (above left) hangs on the wall of the hunting lodge of Cypress Bay Plantation.

the office and what an orthodontic practice involved. He was even allowed to try his hand at making molds of teeth.

Burris also kept busy with scouting and his love of the outdoors. From Cub Scout to Boy Scout, he learned outdoors lore, often exploring the woods outside his back door. He said the wooded area was a buffer between housing and a fence that bordered the Tennessee Valley Authority/Atomic Energy Commission (TVA/AEC) reservation. Mounted guards patrolled the fence line during his younger years.

Another interest of the young Burris was architecture, although at the time of his youth, he probably just called it building. He admits that he attempted to build a log house in those woods, cutting down trees that he probably shouldn't have.

In high school, he focused on his goal of becoming an orthodontist, and so he was concerned about where he would go to college.

"Many graduates from my high school went to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville" Burris said, Knoxville being about a 30-minute drive from Oak Ridge.

"During the Christmas break of my senior year of high school, some good students who were a year ahead of me went to UT, joined fraternities, flunked out, and were back home. It was a party school, and I wanted to be an orthodontist, not flunk out of school."

"My dad said he had a friend with a son who was not great in high school, but was doing well in this military school in Georgia, which had a lot of structure and small class size. This sounded good to me," he said.

It also sounded good to his father.

"Dad thought the world of military structure and the military academies, because former military made such good employees."

So Burris spoke with his dad's friend's son and decided he wanted to have a closer look at Gordon Military College. He and his dad drove down to

Cypress Bay Plantation (above) was once a worn out piece of land. Skeet and Gail Burris turned it into a self-sustaining property with beautiful views like the one above.

Skeet Burris (left) is a hands-on tree farmer, which means he burns off underbrush himself.

Barnesville, and the both of them were greeted by Gordon's president, Col. C.T.B. Harris.

Harris heard their concerns, especially Burris's concern that Gordon help him toward his dream. According to Burris, Harris said, "If you come here, we'll make you succeed."

Gordon and its military regimen, not to mention the uniform, agreed with Burris, and by the time his college freshman year had ended, he had figured a number of things out.

One thing was that he should be an officer, an inspiration he had while on parade as a new cadet. He saw the cadet officers up on the hill looking down at the cadets during every pass in review, and he said to himself, "Man, I'd rather be up there with those guys." So in his first year, he worked his way to be the noncommissioned officer (NCO) in charge of the battalion supply room. During his sophomore year, he became the supply officer, which allowed him to have a sponsor.

"Being a sponsor was always a goal for gals," he said, leaving unsaid the obvious – that having a sponsor was also always a goal for guys.

BURRIS RECEIVED HIS DDS FROM THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS, IN 1967, AND ONCE AGAIN HE WAS VALEDICTORIAN.

At graduation in 1962, Burris was not only class president, but also the valedictorian. He said he "about fell over" when he learned of this. He was also wanted by West Point and the Air Force Academy, but he chose neither because neither would allow him to enter their academies as a college junior. Furthermore, West Point would not let him fulfill his service as a dental officer, instead assigning him as the Army wanted.

Keeping to his dream, he chose the University of Tennessee to finish out his college degree. At Gordon he was a pre-dental major, intending to get a bachelor of science in biology at UT, and then a doctor of dental surgery. Because of his love of the outdoors and the forest, he changed his major to botany.

Burris received his DDS from the College of Dentistry at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, in 1967, and once again he was valedictorian.

"At that time, the Army was drafting everyone with a dental degree," Burris said, "so I decided to sign up with the Navy and was commissioned."

Assigned to Parris Island in December 1967, he became the orientation officer for newly commissioned dental officers, preparing classes of 20 officers at a time for their duties and assignments. Because Parris Island is a Marine Corps installation, naval officers like Burris could choose to wear either uniform, and he chose the Marine. But instead of wearing the Marine rank insignia, he wore the naval rank of lieutenant (equivalent to a Marine captain) along with the dental corps insignia of an oak leaf with acorns.

In June 1970, his two years of active duty honorably completed, he returned to the University of Tennessee, Memphis, having been accepted into orthodontics residency. He also continued serving as a naval reserve officer, going to drill every Monday and screening the dental health of possible recruits. He completed 10 years in the Navy, reaching the rank of lieutenant commander.

It only took Skeet and his wife Gail their first winter in Memphis to realize they missed the low country winters of Beaufort, S.C. They had bought property and planned to settle near Knoxville, but they missed the ocean, boating and fishing. So they made a new plan.

Skeet called his former captain at Parris Island and asked him if he could arrange for Skeet to return to his command for his yearly two-week active duty as a reservist. The captain didn't hesitate, and Skeet again had a stake in the low country. There he and Gail scouted out their options, he as an orthodontist, she as a salt water fisheries statistician for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

By the time he had finished his residency in Tennessee in 1972, he was ready to set up his first orthodontics practice in Beaufort.

He and Gail spent the next 14 years building a practice and investing in real estate, all the while enjoying the outdoors with their growing family, introducing their sons to hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and a conservation ethic that has drawn the attention of the Center for Private Conservation, the American Tree Farm System, Ducks Unlimited, and the U.S. Congress's House Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health.

In 1986, they bought a piece of land near Cummings, S.C., about 40 miles from Beaufort.

"Gail and I were looking for a place to take our boys hunting and fishing," he said. "We talked to real estate people and found a place of 95 acres. It was all timbered out and had some old and abandoned buildings – we called it the Farm."

He would later name it Cypress Bay Plantation.

The property, described as a disaster, must have had some people scratching their heads, but Skeet had a vision. He knew "what the land could become."

And so began the work of clearing the land of "dense thickets of short, stunted, crowded, bent, and twisted pine, gum, and maple," and planting more than 100,000 trees, mostly longleaf and loblolly pine. Native live oaks were preserved, and numerous species of oak trees and ornamental and fruit bearing trees were planted, the acorns and fruit providing natural forage for deer and other animals.

It took years, but Skeet, Gail and their five boys transformed a sad piece of property into a model of tree farming. His vision became reality after years of family weekends at "the Farm," everyone in the family pitching in, working together, sometimes with the help of friends – most of the time by themselves.

Skeet's vision, which he wrote down, was to transform 95 exhausted acres of land into a model tree farm, and with his vision he included several tenets to guide the vision. He would follow conservation practices, he would preserve native flora and fauna, he would help educate other landowners, and he would create a sustainable forest.

"Our forester and other advisers started submitting our work for awards, and in 1995, I was named the American Tree Farm System's South Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year."

In 1996, he was named the Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer and in the same year he won the South Carolina Forest Stewardship award.

In 1999, Cypress Bay Plantation was awarded Rural Sportsman's Stewardship Farm of the Year for Big Game Management from *Progressive Farmer* magazine and also the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainable Forestry Award from the American Forest Foundation and American Cyanamid.

In 2000, Skeet and Gail were named the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, and in 2001, Skeet was named the Private Conservationist of the Year by the Center for Private Conservation, which was presented by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton.

Besides winning awards, Cypress Bay Plantation is certified by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), which, according to its website "is the United States' oldest family forest certification program." Under the auspices of the ATFS, Skeet is a Certified Tree Farmer with the right to post the Tree Farm sign on his property.

Considering the number of awards he's collected, the number of wildlife groups he's associated with, and the number of educational programs the Cypress Bay has hosted, it's pretty clear, his vision has become a reality.

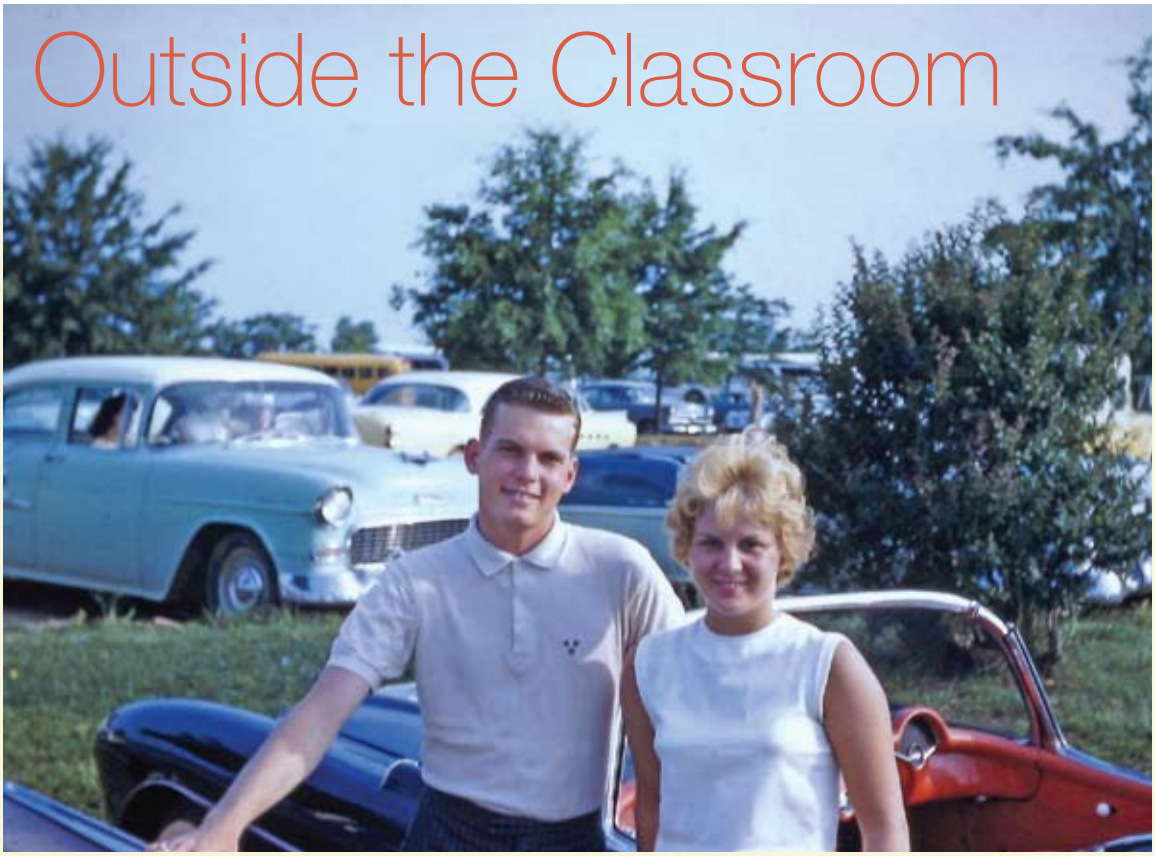
However large and far-reaching his vision, there is one thing he didn't write down, and visitors can be excused if they don't see it for all the natural beauty around them.

Not that it's hidden.

You just have to understand that greater than the preserve he's created for wildlife of all kinds is the bond his vision has created between his family and the land. From the earliest days of spending weekends at "the Farm" to today, the Burris family husbands the land, and the land sustains them.

A VIEW OF LIFE

Outside the Classroom



One of Burris's good friends at Gordon was Lloyd Coursey. Here he is with his girlfriend Shelly Salter, a student at Tift College in Forsyth, Ga. The Corvette behind them isn't his, but the '57 Chevy his right hand is touching is.

Burris (pictured above) on escort duty at Tift with coed Jane Cassidy.

Tift's May Day queen had an elaborate court, which included Gordon cadets like Skeet Burris (far right).

When Skeet Burris left for Gordon Military College in the fall of 1960, he brought along his camera and a roll of color slide film from his father. He was to use the roll to record events from his first year at Gordon and to wait until he went home after the school year to have it developed. The photos featured here are from a collection of slides Burris has donated to the College's archive.

Burris made friends with a fellow cadet, Lloyd Coursey. The two of them started at Gordon at the same time, the fall of 1960, but Burris was one year ahead of Coursey.

A native of Atlanta, Coursey had a nice car, and, as Burris put it, "knew girls." One day, Coursey invited him to join him in a trip to the girls' college in Forsyth, Ga., called Tift College. It was a common activity for Gordon cadets and Tift girls to date, and for the cadets to become escorts for young women during Tift's celebration of May Day.

"Tift was a Baptist school," Burris said, "and so the Tift campus was like having a hundred Miss Marions around, paying attention to the way girls dressed, walked and so on."

In other words, cadets and Tift girls behaved properly since the eyes of Tift's many matrons were on them.

Left: Lloyd Coursey, Shelly Salter and Skeet Burris at Rocky Creek. The photo was taken by Burris' date from Tift, Lee Swann.

Above: Lee Swann, Shelly Salter and Lloyd Coursey at Robin Lake.

Left; from left to right, Fred Dillman with his date; Lloyd's date, Shelly Salter; Lloyd Coursey; and Burris's date, Lee Swann at Robin Lake at Callaway Gardens. Burris remembers Swann as an "incredible singer" who majored in music and Bible studies at Tift.

Burris's photographs give a rare look into the extracurricular life of a cadet, including trips to Rock Falls near High Falls, Ga., and Robin Lake at Callaway Gardens.

Photos are not available for a prank pulled by Burris and others unknown. As Burris put it, "Our classmates were so tight-lipped that no one knew who did it."

It happened on a night that Gordon was playing a basketball rival; the school's dean accompanied the team to the Gordon campus. This dean, Burris recalled, was in the habit of wearing a hat, and this hat became the center of the prank.

While this dean and Col. C.T.B. Harris walked from the arena through an especially dark part of the campus, several cadets ran up on the two men and made off with the hat. They thought they had made a clean break, but they were mistaken.

"The order went out," Burris said, "that if the hat was not returned by a certain time, there would be consequences for the entire cadet battalion."

The hat was returned within 30 minutes.

Yeoman Elizabeth Sellers, 1942

Jackie Perrone, 1943

IN THEIR OWN WAY

The Bush sisters
didn't let normal stop them

WORLD WAR II ALTERED THE LIVES OF ALL AMERICANS, but even in this time of upheaval, Americans tended to keep to their usual ways, to keep to what was normal as much as the war allowed.

In order to understand how unusual Elizabeth and Jacolyn Bush were, it is necessary to understand that the normal of their youth is far removed from what is normal for young women of today. Normal usually meant staying at home until a young woman married. Normal usually meant going only as far as high school for education. And normal usually meant young women did not set off into parts unknown on their own.

For a young woman to join a group of other young women and wander around Washington, D.C., at all hours of the day and night was not the usual, but Elizabeth Bush Sellers did this.

For a young woman to decide to head for a metropolis like New York City at age 19, with no job and no place to live, was not the usual, but this is what Jackie Bush Perrone did.

They were unusual women, and likely would have been even if the times were usual.

Elizabeth is the older sister by two years and a half, and after she graduated Gordon Military High School in 1938, she enrolled in Gordon Military College. Here she defied Vice President George Connell's assertion that she would not be able to enter the University of Georgia early as a junior. She did.

She took four courses every semester at Gordon rather than the usual three, and by the time the spring of 1940 rolled around, UGA had accepted her as a junior a semester earlier than usual. There she went for a year, but before she finished her degree, she returned home, at age 18.

"It was because of the war," she said, "because of finances, the depression, and my father was in poor health. So I lived at home and taught school in the brick building I went to school in. The next summer, I went back to UGA, having saved $150 for tuition, which was enough for me to get my English degree in 1942."

She graduated in August 1942 shortly after war was declared, a move prompted by the Japanese Imperial Navy's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The women's naval reserve (WAVES, women accepted for volunteer emergency service) was created on July 30, 1942, and she joined in October.

"I went into the Navy because that was what was happening. I had to do something for the country, and this appealed to me," she said.

"So I did it."

After training at Oklahoma A&M University, now Oklahoma State University, she was sent to Washington, D.C., to operate what could be called the forerunner of the modern computer. Being before the age of the transistor and microchip, the machine was more mechanical than electronic, something she recalled as having "huge wheels." She worked in one of the buildings the Navy had requisitioned from Mt. Vernon Seminary for girls on Nebraska Avenue and lived in a barracks across the street. Her job, and the job of her fellow WAVES, was to decipher coded messages to and from Nazi U-boats. Needless to say that at the time, her work was top secret.

It was also wearing, she said, because it was shift work. Every week her schedule rotated around the clock: Midnight to 8 a.m.; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 4 p.m. to midnight.

"Working shifts that went around the clock messed everything up," she said. "We couldn't eat or sleep. We used

Left: In 1949, Elizabeth Bush (center left) married Edgar Sellers (center right). Her parents are to her right, and his parents are to his left.
Right: Jackie Bush in New York City, 1944. The scene behind her is now where the United Nations building stands.

Ensign Elizabeth Sellers, 1944

to roam around D.C. at all hours of the day and night. It was interesting."

After a year of this work as a yeoman third class, her commanding officer suggested that she go to officers training because she had performed her duties in an exemplary manner and because she had a college degree.

She laughs at the memory of being called a "60-day wonder." This is how long it took her to complete the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. She graduated 60 days after the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, D-Day.

Her mother Evelyn and her sister Jacolyn were at the graduation ceremony, and to celebrate, the three of them traveled together to New York City to see a show. Elizabeth and her mother then traveled to D.C. and Jacolyn, who was living in New York City at the time, stayed put.

Morris Bush, half-brother of the sisters from their father's first marriage, was living in Chevy Chase, Md., and offered hospitality. He was a graduate of Gordon Institute, as was their father, Jackson Evans Bush, who graduated in 1895.

"The entire time I was in D.C.," she said, "he took care of me and entertained me."

She returned to the same place to continue her war duties but with some important distinctions. She was now an officer, an ensign. She now taught others how to tend and run the machinery. She now lived in a private apartment, not a naval barracks.

The apartment, at 4707 Connecticut Ave., was next door to the temporary residence of the Vice President Harry S. Truman, 4701 Connecticut Ave.

One morning, after her midnight to 8 a.m. shift, she made it home to an unusual sight. The street in front of her apartment was lined with limousines. The date was Apr. 13, 1944, and the Secret Service had come to take President Truman to the Capitol. It was only the night before, at the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, that he was sworn in.

Roosevelt's funeral procession wound its way through

A Short Genealogy

Jacolyn Bush Perrone once observed in a piece she wrote that her major in journalism and her sister Elizabeth Bush Sellers' major in English, both from the University of Georgia, were a logical development from having grown up in Barnesville's Carnegie Library. Their mother, Evelyn Griffith Bush, was its head librarian after the retirement of Augusta Lambdin in the early 1930s until the late 1950s.

Evelyn came to Barnesville by way of the State Normal School of Georgia in Athens, which was led by President Jere M. Pound.

Pound, who had been president of Gordon Institute up until 1912, called her to his office in 1917, but she did not know why. She had graduated and had a job lined up. She wondered if a problem had arisen.

No problem, he told her. What he wanted was for her to change her plan to teach in a small north Georgia town to go to teach in Barnesville. Whatever reservations she might have had, the much respected, and a little feared, Pound persuaded her.

In such little ways, history is changed, for had she not come to Barnesville, Jacolyn and Elizabeth would not have had Jackson Evans Bush for a father.

Elizabeth told the story of how her father and mother came to marry – Evelyn lived just a couple of houses down Stafford Avenue from Jackson's home. Her father was the town druggist and had been a widower for a number of years. Every day he would walk home for lunch, and after lunch, he

Evelyn Griffith Bush

Washington, but Elizabeth was not among the many who lined the streets to pay their respects. She was on duty.

The war continued and she still worked shifts. When the wars in Europe and the Pacific were over, she knew her active duty would end, and it did in 1946. Her outfit received the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon for their help in breaking the Nazi submarine code.

From D.C., she went back to school to get a master's degree in psychology from Emory University in Atlanta. She then went to work for Fulton County.

"I taught at four different schools in the Atlanta area. I taught kids with speech difficulties, before I had my own speech difficulties," she said with a touch of irony.

She lived in Atlanta with two other girls, coming home to Barnesville on the weekends.

It was during one of these visits that her mother did a little matchmaking. Edgar Sellers, a teacher at Gordon Military, had caught her mother's attention, and one Sunday in August 1949, she introduced him to Elizabeth. Not long after, he asked for a date, and not long after that, a steady courtship ensued.

Sellers, a native of Pennsylvania, preferred teaching at military schools, and he worked at one after another, down the East Coast until he came to Gordon. Curious, Elizabeth asked him why he kept moving onto another school. He told her he was looking for her.

"Anyway, he found me," she said. "He told me he was going home for Christmas and wanted me to join him – but we had to be married first. We met in August and were married in December."

Only a couple of years younger than her sister, Jacolyn also went to UGA after she completed her sophomore year at Gordon Military College but to major in journalism rather than English.

While at UGA, she landed a paid internship with a local daily where she learned a couple of good lessons. First, she learned what it meant to be a journalist, something she remains to this day even in her retirement. Second, she learned that college deans can get things wrong.

The dean of the Grady School of Journalism at UGA at the time was John Drewry. When Jacolyn inquired about the internship, he told her that she would get credit for the basic journalism course. When the term came to an end, the professor of the journalism course informed her she wouldn't get credit unless she took the final exam.

"I didn't even have the textbook," she said, "but the professor let me borrow his and his notes."

She crammed for the exam and made a B, and the dean and professor made sure such a misunderstanding wouldn't happen again.

With her journalism degree, Jacolyn decided she wanted to go to New York City, alone, without a job, without a place to live. Her parents, instead of being aghast with the plan of their 19-year-old being alone in New York City, supported her decision. Having a sister who had already shown a Bush

would spend a little time sitting on his porch swing before walking back to work.

Evelyn also worked in town at Gordon Grammar School and would also walk home for lunch. When she saw Jackson on his porch, she knew to watch for him to leave for work. When he got up, she walked out her front door, and soon, their walks together became a courtship. They married in 1919, and from their union came the Bush sisters.

After many years of raising a family and teaching public school, Elizabeth is now enjoying retirement on Stafford Avenue in Barnesville, the street where she was born 92 years ago. She has two sons and four grandchildren.

Jacolyn lives at the Presbyterian Community of South Carolina in Lexington, S.C., and keeps her journalism skills honed with freelance writing for area magazines. She has three children, three grandchildren, and her first great-grandchild.

Evelyn Bush, left, with her son-in-law Edgar Sellers and Elizabeth Bush Sellers on the occasion of Evelyn's 90th birthday.

In this picture from Jacolyn Bush's personal photo album, Althea Sappington (now Bergtholdt), an unnamed man, Rebecca Smith (now Graham), and Christine Riviere (now Goodenough) are picking cotton on the outskirts of Barnesville, circa 1942.

girl could find her own way and a brother living fairly close in D.C. likely alleviated her parents' concerns.

She decided to start her journey around Christmastime 1943 with a stop in Chevy Chase to spend the holiday with Morris and his family. Unknown to her, her brother's wife had also invited a relative who was in the Army to also spend holidays there.

"I was alone after Morris and his wife left for work," she said, "and there was a knock on the door. It was a soldier with a suitcase. At the same time, we both asked, 'Who are you?' He was Jim Perrone."

After the holiday, they both headed north, she to New York City and he to Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

"I had one thing working for me in New York," she said. "All the men were in the Army, so there was a manpower shortage. The thing working against me was that there was a housing shortage."

She quickly landed a job with one of the major news-wire services of the day, United Press. New York was the major communications hub of the United States at the time, and with the war, the journalism world was booming.

"New York is still an exciting place, but in the '40s it was the place to be," she said. "The city was the international news headquarters for UP. I did background work for *Newsweek*, which had a subscription to UP. *Time* had a subscription with the rival news service the Associated Press. All the servicemen came through the city on their way to D-Day. I became the unofficial hostess for 'visiting firemen.'"

Her first job wasn't really with UP but with a subscriber, NBC news commentator H.V. Kaltenborn. Her job was to "pull the wire" for his broadcasts. In other words, she read through all the stories that came into his office over the UP's teletype machine, deciding which stories he should see. After a few months of this grunt work, she was promoted to the job she really wanted, writing for the UP.

Like most writers who worked for a news service like UP or AP, she did not get a byline for her stories. She came into work at 7 a.m. and went through the wire stories for three hours to write a 15 minute news roundup for a noon radio broadcast. Her story was then sent out by teletype.

One of the most popular broadcasts of the day was *Kate Smith Speaks*, and it was during one of these broadcasts that Jacolyn worked one of her toughest deadlines.

"I was listening to the show; it had just started," she said. Then the bell on the teletype started chiming. A "flash," or most urgent of stories, was about to roll off.

"The wire reported that Ernie Pyle had been killed. He was the most famous of the World War II war correspondents. My boss told me I had 14 minutes to write a tribute for Smith's broadcast. Every few lines I wrote on the typewriter would

In clockwise order starting above:

Jacolyn Bush takes in a view of the Hudson River Valley from Flirtation Walk at West Point Military Academy in 1944.

Van Baker, with Bush, was a Barnesville native, a Gordon graduate, and then a West Point cadet. Today he is a retired English professor in York, Penn.

Christine Riviere and Althea Sappington look up at Bush atop the billboard at the entrance to Barnesville.

Bush mugged for the camera with her cousin Louis Griffith from Eatonton, Ga., then a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps.

be pulled from the carriage and given to the teletypewriter to send out."

To this day, she is pleased with her performance that day, a day when she and CBS broke the Pyle story, getting it out to the country before anyone else.

"A 14-minute deadline is about as good as it gets in journalism," she said. And a scoop is pretty good too.

She landed her job with Kaltenborn on a Thursday, and he wanted her to start immediately. Not having a place to live was problematic, but she promised her new employer she'd have a place by the following Monday.

And she did, Longacre House, off Times Square. It was a hotel for single women, mostly retired nurses at the time, and it was safe, near her workplace and affordable.

"When I first inquired," she said, "I was told no, but then I mentioned that I had corresponded with the Longacre's manager. The front desk person went to the manager, and when she returned, I was told someone had just moved out. The cost was $9 a week and I was making $25 a week."

In less than a year, she found an apartment on Riverside Drive, which she shared with roommates. Her parents were relieved she found a safe and secure place to live, she said.

The war ended and then, as she put it, "My soldier came home and I got married." The soldier was of course Jim Perrone.

After that Christmas at her brother's in Chevy Chase, when he had settled at Ft. Monmouth and she in New York City, the two of them often saw each other over weekends. Not long after, he was sent to New Caledonia to the east of Australia where he served in the Army Signal Corps until the end of the war.

"He'd say the only war he fought was the war on boredom," she said, "writing me every weekend for four years. And yes, there was a spark ignited at my brother Morris' house that Christmas."

For the Bush sisters, the war had been anything but boring. Both of them are quick to remark that it was one of the most exciting times of their lives. As Elizabeth recently put it, "There was nothing like it, ever." ✽

Overcoming Time and Distance

Take two people who lost touch with each other for 20 years and a mountainous locale 2,000 miles away, and what do you get?

The answer is Casandra and Julian McClellan's bed and breakfast – and brewery – near the little town of Cotacachi, Ecuador, named Rio Blanco Bed and Brewery.

As with all good alumni stories, this one begins at Gordon College when in fall 1989 Casandra Lynch and Julian McClellan first met through mutual friend Scott Carr. After this, the two of them saw each other frequently, hanging out with friends, but not as a couple.

In 1990, they suddenly stopped seeing each other because Lynch graduated and moved to New York.

As Casandra Lynch, now Casandra Lynch McClellan, put it, "I sadly lost touch with many of my Gordon friends and classmates." In New York she first worked as a personal manager for several artists, "but eventually settled down with a more grown-up job in banking and finance."

Julian stayed at Gordon until 1991, an art major who switched to music, then switched again to electronics technology at Chattahoochee Technical Institute. He ended up working in the music industry in Los Angeles for a time, but eventually returned to the Atlanta area.

Twenty-plus years later, as Casandra put it, Amy Harden Edwards Beatty, one of the friends she and Julian hung out with at Gordon, started a Facebook page. Friendships that had been forged in the late '80s were calling to her, so she began tracking people down and posting information about them on the social networking site.

"Soon I was seeing so many names in the suggested people I might know in the Facebook recommendations," Casandra said. "And one fateful day, Aug. 6, 2009, there was Julian's name. Before the end of the day, we were 'friends' on Facebook and chatting."

Casandra, who was born in Monticello, Ga., "immediately" arranged a trip to visit family who still live there, and of course to see Julian.

"To make a long story short, by Thanksgiving of the same year, I left New York to start a new life in my native Georgia. We figured that we'd been apart for 20 years, why wait to start a life together?"

They married on July 2, 2011, with Beatty standing as maid of honor, and on Nov. 15, they moved to Ecuador.

This may all sound sudden, moving to Ecuador five months after getting married, but the two of them had been making plans since they reunited in 2009. In fact, a topic of their first phone conversation was about living abroad, a place that cost less than the United States and where they could start a business – never mind they weren't sure what kind of business.

Their search led them to consider Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize, and according to Julian, their plan was to visit each country before making a decision.

Well, that didn't happen, exactly. They did make a plan to visit all four countries, with Ecuador first on this list, but after Ecuador, they had made up their minds to look no further than a little town in the Northern Andes of Ecuador, Cotacachi.

"We immediately felt an affinity with the little town, looked at some property, and went home to contemplate our next move," Casandra said.

They bought the property they had looked at, spent two more visits furnishing their casita, and thought about how to make a living in Ecuador. They had some money saved, but needed something that would provide them an income.

"Without knowing exactly what we were going to do," she said, "we figured that we were both resourceful enough to make it, and our goal became to make the big move to Ecuador by 2012. That included selling Julian's home in Atlanta, and paring down everything that we owned into two suitcases each. A very tough thing to do, but extremely liberating in its own way."

On Nov. 15, they landed in Quito, Ecuador, with everything they owned in two suitcases each, and their cat, Guinevere.

After living in Cotacachi for a while, they shied away from their idea of starting a restaurant and instead settled on a plan to start a bed and breakfast. So they put their casita up for sale and went shopping for a property.

"Mind you," Casandra said, "all the while, we were acting as our own real estate agents and going through all the steps to get our residency visas in Ecuador."

Even as they were working on buying the property, Rio Blanco, another idea floated through their minds – beer was the missing element in their business plan. They had been frustrated by the lack of variety of beer in the Cotacachi area and knew others felt the same way, so they decided to brew their own.

Rio Blanco had found a name and a niche. Their business would not just be a bed and breakfast, but a bed and breakfast and brew. With a keen sense of branding, they dropped the word breakfast, and their business became Rio Blanco Bed and Brew. They sell their ales, porters and stouts under the label Ivy House Brews, a name inspired by the little ivy-covered brick building in their beer garden.

A topic of their first phone conversation was about living abroad, a place that cost less than the United States and where they could start a business.

Casandra said she and Julian didn't experience culture shock once they were settled into their new life and business. Maybe it's because the American dollar is Ecuador's currency, and maybe it's because of all the expatriates living in Cotacachi. She is not exactly sure of the numbers, but she thinks there might have been 60 Americans when they first visited in 2009 and several hundred after their move in 2011.

The reason for all the gringos is anyone's guess, but weather and cost of living are frequently mentioned on

websites. Bloggers on AARP's website can't say enough good things about Cotacachi and life in the Andes. Even though the town is located near the Equator, the elevation is 8,000 feet, so year-round temperatures are around 75 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night. Utilities are about $30 a month and gasoline is $1.50 a gallon. As one blogger put it, "Magical things happen."

They eventually did experience culture shock, but that came when they visited the United States after living in Ecuador for a year.

"For the first time, we realized how very much we were living without, and how very low tech we were living," she said. "Everyone at home had a big flat-screen TV and showers that always run hot water. Here at Rio Blanco we have an 11 inch 'tube' television with rabbit ears and we use bottled gas to heat water."

She said they were grateful for the precious time spent with their friends and family in the States, but they were also delighted to get back to their "very modest way of living."

Both of them thought they would be fluent in Spanish by now, but they still find themselves searching for the right word or expression. The locals are patient, and so they manage to communicate and learn as they go along.

All their travel is by bus, just as the locals do, and so grocery day can be an interesting logistical problem, trying to get as much as they possibly can in one trip.

"With backpacks in hand, we hit the outdoor vegetable market for fresh vegetables, fruits, and flowers, then to the local little grocery store for meats and other staples," she said. "About every other week, we bus it up to Ibarra, a larger town north of here, to visit a larger grocery store that has 'luxury' items like sandwich bags, a better wine selection, and other 'gringo' must-haves. For really hard-to-find items, we might have to go as far as Quito."

Their patience is what gets tested more than anything. Life is slower compared to life in the United States, which can be a soothing balm for a frenetic American, but it can also be a bane. When the latter strikes, Casandra said they are learning to deal with it like Ecuadorians: laugh and shrug it off.

"Smiling and keeping a good attitude go a long way," she said.

Even though the town is located near the Equator, the elevation is 8,000 feet, so year-round temperatures are around 75 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night. Utilities are about $30 a month and gasoline is $1.50 a gallon. As one blogger put it, "Magical things happen."

Music is one of the ways they keep a good attitude, and Julian is Rio Blanco's resident guitarist, not to mention a growing presence in local venues.

"I have loved music for as long as I can remember," he said. "I started out at 11 playing a 'drum kit' which consisted of a snare drum and a hi-hat. I'd stomp on the snare case as a kick drum."

At 13, his Uncle Carl lent him a no-name electric guitar, and sometime after, his dad bought him a Squier Stratocaster and a Peavy Backstage Plus amplifier.

Soon he was obsessed with the guitar, influenced by Eddie Van Halen, Randy Rhoads, Vivian Campbell, Warren DiMartini, Mattias Jabbs and George Lynch.

"As you can see," he said, "I liked those shredder style players in those bands in the infamous 'big hair' era. But my favorite bands still are The Police, Rush, Sting, Led Zeppelin and Type O Negative."

A good place to hear Julian play is in Rio Blanco's beer garden while sipping on an Ivy House brew. In fact, a good place to spend the night after listening to Julian and drinking an Ivy House brew is Rio Blanco Bed and Brew. For $15, a visitor can stay in the "Fire" room, and for $30, a couple can stay in the "Water" room, both with their own private bathrooms with showers.

On their website, www.rioblancobedandbrew.com, they've written what amounts to their American dream:

"We bought this property, Rio Blanco, with an honest and sincere desire to turn it into the kind of place where we would love to stay: warm, inviting, comfortable, and above all, budget friendly. With a lot of love and sweat equity that we've invested in our home, we feel certain that we can now offer that special atmosphere to our guests. Not to mention a few special extra amenities like home-crafted Rio Blanco beers, great food and a promise to treat you like family."

There's something humorous in all this that has not been lost on Julian. In a recent email he wrote: "We like the idea of running a bed and breakfast and a brewery, which is something we could never be able to do in the United States. How's that for irony? In order for us to achieve the American Dream, we had to leave America."

Julian McClellan, Casandra Lynch McClellan, Joel Scott Carr, Amy Harden Edwards Beatty, and Stephanie Lee Stasolla enjoying a mini-reunion in 2009.

Julian makes a toast with one of his Ivy House Brews from Rio Blanco's beer garden.

Liberty

A Name and a Purpose

by Peter Boltz

The wide shot of the 1937 Gordon Military College campus hanging in Gordon State College's Alumni House is an interesting photograph, and it regularly draws the attention of anyone who walks by it.

It shows four buildings – North Barracks, Lambdin Hall, the Armory and South Barracks – naked trees and several period cars parked in front. This was the campus, formerly the campus of Georgia's Sixth District A&M School. A&Ms, or agricultural and mechanical schools, were established by the state to train young men and women of high school age to be farmers and homemakers.

Having ended its A&M program, the state returned the property, including the buildings, to the city of Barnesville, which, in turn, gave it to Gordon.

Interesting, from a historical perspective, but one morning, a man stood before this photograph and took a personal interest in it.

Jean Liberty, 90, came to Gordon the same year the photograph was taken. Three years earlier, his father died, leaving his young mother alone to care for him and his younger brother.

Jean Liberty, 1940

"My room was in South Barracks, and behind it was the heating plant and a grain silo across the street," he said. "There was an open entrance under South Barracks, and one day I went down there. There were two bales of cotton that had been stored there for many years."

In the photograph, just to the left of South Barracks is the Armory.

"I remember being with a couple of other cadets, and one of them had found some old black powder. Then someone said, 'Let's see if it still works,' So we spread it on the floor of the basement of the armory and put a match to it, and whoom!"

Liberty smiled at the memory and said, "The room filled with smoke but no one was hurt."

Asked if he and the other cadets were caught, he said no. Nor did he get caught for climbing to the top of the silo, a 50-foot tower of concrete left over from the campus' days as an A&M.

His father died in 1934 in Tampa, Fla., where the family lived at the time. His mother moved back to Washington, D.C., with her two young sons, and got a job with the Department of the Navy where she worked for the next 20 years.

For three summers, up until the time he went to Gordon, Liberty spent the summer in Lake George, N.Y., with one of his aunts while deciding what course his future would take. A relative in Georgia had a friend whose son went to Gordon so it was suggested that he do likewise. After studying the problems involved, Liberty was put on a train to Atlanta to meet one of his uncles who drove him down to Gordon. He was 13.

Liberty apparently took to the military regimen of Gordon, moving up the ranks from private to first sergeant to sergeant and then first lieutenant and commanding officer of Company C. He also learned to play guitar, a talent that got him on the orchestra and the Kaydettes, a dance band. Other activities included president of his sophomore high school class, boxing, golf and sports editor for the yearbook *Taps*.

"This was really just before World War II, and the military atmosphere was in effect," he said. "At that time, we were preparing. We didn't think much about it the first couple of years, but then it began to grow on us, especially after Pearl Harbor. We knew we would be going to war."

When he finished the school year in 1942, he went to work for the Department of the Navy for a few months and then joined the Army. Unlike many of his classmates who had joined the Army, Liberty was kept in the United States, working in intelligence.

When Jean Liberty came to the 2013 Alumni Weekend, he brought with him a notebook full of pictures from his personal collection. The undated photograph to the left is one of them.

Below is a photograph from the 1940 *Taps*. Liberty is the orchestra member playing the guitar.

Left: Jean Liberty taught himself how to play the guitar after he came to Gordon.

Above: After World War Two ended, Liberty asked a friend if he knew how many members of the 1942 Saber Club (pictured) survived the war. Liberty, the far right kneeling cadet, was told three.

One day after the war ended, he looked at a photograph of the 1942 Saber Club to which he and his fellow cadet officers belonged. Naturally, he wondered how many survived the war, and as best as he could learn, out of 20 men only three made it.

He went back to school, got a business degree, then a law degree from George Washington University, and continued working in the world of intelligence, in particular one of the nation's most powerful and secretive organizations, the National Security Agency. A Cold War warrior, Liberty spent 32 years with the NSA and won't tell you anything more than that.

But he had other stories. Like how, when he first came to Gordon, he was mistaken by Gordon coeds to be one of them because he went by his middle name Jean. He received an invitation to one of their pajama party sleepovers, but he wisely declined.

Then there was the time he was playing in the Kaydettes at one of Gordon's dances. Concentrating on his sheet music, he suddenly realized he was the only one playing. Looking at his band mates, he saw they were all looking in front of the bandstand, so he looked too. There, clearly visible to all, was a young woman whose strapless gown had slipped, a lot. And the band played on.

This reunion was Liberty's first time back to Gordon since he left it in 1942, and he came with his wife, Mary, his two sons Chris and Kevin, and their wives Michele and Christine.

Asked why it took him so long to come back for a visit, he said, "Well, I've been getting announcements of reunions every year, and I've never come down because things always seemed to be so busy or intervening to make such a trip."

But they "pulled a fast one on me," he said. "They got together and said, 'We'll drive, you're going.'"

Interesting that this is how he ended up at Gordon to begin with.

Jean Liberty's sons, Kevin and Chris, joined their father, Jean, for Alumni Weekend 2013. The Liberty party also included Jean's wife, Mary, Kevin's wife, Christine, and Chris' wife, Michele.

Miss Marion Bush

Why do so many say that Miss Marion is their favorite teacher of all time? "Because she was fully engaged on a personal level."

As much as she is venerated by so many alumni of Gordon Military College, she is also something of a mystery. Her former students usually have the same one recollection of her – that she was a wonderful teacher.

Her family knows a bit more.

During a February walk through the grounds of his home in Atlanta, Aubrey Bush spoke about his aunt, an English professor at Gordon for nearly half a century.

Aubrey, a professor emeritus of Georgia Tech, was joined by his wife Carol, and their two Great Danes, as he recalled his Aunt Marion while walking amid the 150-foot pines, running brook and stonework in this small nature preserve in the heart of a city.

"In the middle of her career Aunt Marion was very private about her age," he said. "Once, she was completing some paperwork at Gordon and everyone knew there was a box for her age on the form. As she moved down the form toward that box, everyone crowded around. She just filled it out 'adult' and went right on."

She wasn't so coy as she was proud of her age after she turned 80.

"At a Buggy Days speech, she was asked if she remembered things from more than 80 years ago. She said yes, she remembered the doctor coming to the house (that would have been the house on Atlanta Street before 1910) with his black bag. When he left, there would be a new baby. She thought he was bringing them in the bag!"

Her Barnesville roots stretch back to the 1700s when the patriarch of the family, Andrew Bush, settled in the Fredonia area. His son, Jackson Bush, helped to establish the Congregational Methodist Church, in 1852, on land he donated.

Her parents, Lizzy and Robert Lee Bush, lived on Forsyth Street in a home where Miss Marion continued to live until she passed in late 1981 at age 85. She had an elder brother Gayle, and three younger brothers, Powell, Donald (Aubrey's father) and Harold. All were graduates of Gordon, Miss Marion being Class of '13.

When Aubrey was a child, he and his father would make regular trips to the Forsyth Street home, where Miss Marion resided with her parents, and it was during one of these visits that she made a lasting impression on his young mind.

Initially completed in 1910, the home originally had a wood stove and no electricity. Water came from a well that was accessed through the flooring of the back porch, and the privy was set in the backyard. By the time Aubrey was making visits with his father, the home had electric light in the form of a bare light bulb hanging from a wire in the ceiling, and plumbing had been installed, although the bathroom was accessed by first going outside onto the porch.

The wood stove in the kitchen remained.

Once while dinner was being prepared, he was asked by his grandmother if he liked apple pie. Having never had it, he said he didn't like it. She told him she was very sorry he didn't approve, but she was going to serve it all the same.

Predictably, it didn't take Aubrey long to develop a taste for apple pie. To this day, he can still recall how many pieces he ate, three, and how his Aunt Marion teased him then and later about how much he disliked apple pie.

Anyone who knew Miss Marion knew she highly valued what was proper, and if you didn't know what was proper, she would let you know. This cornerstone of her nature was likely instilled in her by her parents, Lizzy and "Bob." Lizzy called him Father, and he called her Mother, and children most certainly did not call them mom and dad.

She was known to send students home if they came to class dressed "improperly," and in the classroom, she was a champion of English grammar. Correction, she was a champion of English grammar in and out of the classroom.

After Aubrey and Carol had been married awhile, they came to visit her on Forsyth Street with their children.

"My daughter Lynnette had learned some Scott Joplin jazz and told Aunt Marion she would like to play the *Maple Leaf Rag* for her. Aunt Marion said, 'No jazz in this house.'"

Aubrey explained that his aunt wasn't opposed to jazz, or Joplin; it was just that jazz was not played in her house. There was a proper time and a place for everything, and it wasn't the time nor the place.

For most of her life, Miss Marion got around by walking, like her parents. But there came a day when she was feeling the effects of walking to and from home to work, and when this day came, her nephew Powell Jr. gave her his 1933 Plymouth and taught her to drive.

She took to driving, but having a car drew some unwanted attention too. One day, some cadets connected a "buzz bomb" to her ignition. The fact that she was so distressed by the prank was clear; it never happened again, and no one dared come forward.

In 1951, she traded the Plymouth in and bought a new Ford V8 4-door sedan. In a few days, as she was enjoying the new Ford, the dealer called to say he was having trouble starting the Plymouth and asked her how she managed.

Miss Marion said she encouraged it, appealing for its cooperation by name. "Now Lizzy," she would say, "you know I have to get to work."

Hearing this, the dealer paused a moment before confessing that he had called the car every name under the sun … except Lizzy.

Aubrey said the only time his Aunt Marion visited his Atlanta home and its five acres of grounds was in 1981 during Christmastime. His mother, who also lived on the grounds, said she was concerned about Marion after a phone call and concluded she needed help.

A drive to Barnesville proved Aubrey's mother right. Miss Marion was suffering from congestive heart failure. An ambulance was called to bring her to Atlanta, first to Aubrey and Carol's home, and then to the nearby Emory University Hospital.

"We wanted Aunt Marion to come visit," Aubrey said, "but not like this."

He said he remembered two things from her hospital stay.

When the young physician who was attending her came into the room, she sat up and engaged him in conversation not about her health but about him. What was his name? How was it spelled? Who were his family?

"He was trying to save her life, and she was trying to know his."

The second thing Aubrey remembers is that he must have been looking grave, because she looked at him and said, "You don't think I'm going to make it, do you?"

In a couple of days, she was gone.

A longtime friend of the family and Miss Marion, the Rev. Dr. Harry V. Smith Sr. presided at her funeral on Jan. 1, 1982. Her casket was before him but a little below the pulpit so that he couldn't see her as he looked out at the packed church.

"WHY SHOULD I SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT MISS MARION? SHE CRITICIZED MY GRAMMAR, SHE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE COLOR OF MY SOCKS, AND SHE WENT ON ABOUT MY NEW MINISTRY."

Rev. Dr. Harry V. Smith Sr.

He began his eulogy by raising himself up to look over the edge of the pulpit and down at the casket.

"Why should I say something nice about Miss Marion?" he asked. "She criticized my grammar, she complained about the color of my socks, and she went on about my new ministry."

Caught by surprise, the congregation set to tittering, perhaps a little nervous about how the eulogy would go, and perhaps remembering how they had been admonished as well.

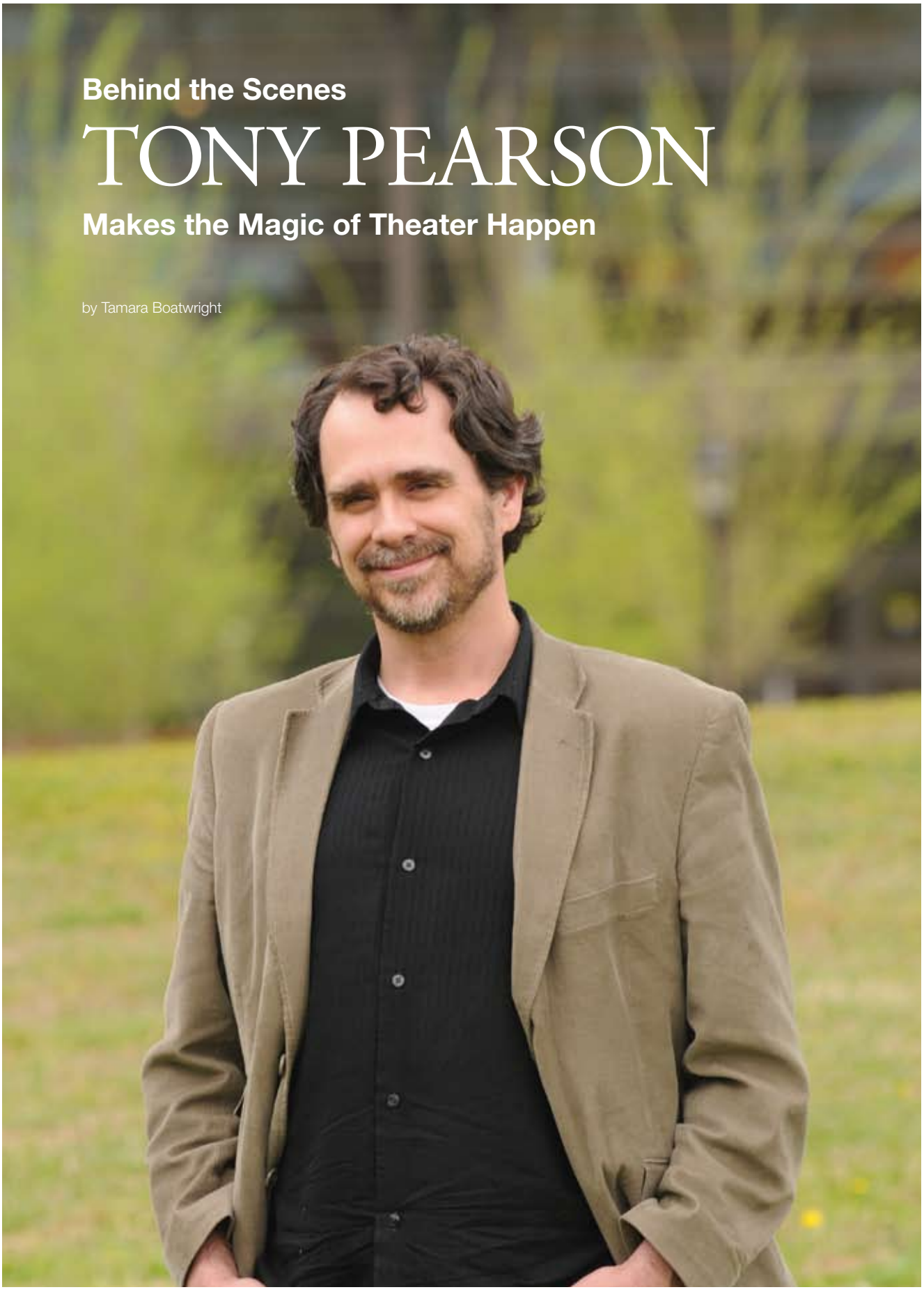
But they need not have worried.

Rev. Smith quickly made clear the high esteem in which he, and the congregation, held her.

"She was the conscience of not only her family but of her whole community. She defined what was right and proper behavior."

As he finished, he raised himself up again to look over the edge of the pulpit and down at the casket and said, "Happy New Year, Miss Marion."

Then he burst into tears. ✿



Behind the Scenes

TONY PEARSON

Makes the Magic of Theater Happen

by Tamara Boatwright

Tony Pearson has always had an interest in building things. But those things have not always been theater sets.

"I started out wanting to be a biomedical engineer. I watched a knee surgery on television and thought that would be a cool profession – developing things like artificial knees. But I am terrible at math so I switched to being interested in pre-law. You know, 'follow the money.'"

Eventually Pearson, who grew up in Statesboro, Ga., ended up a student at Mercer University in Macon.

"I had an interest in theater, but really hadn't fallen in love with it yet. Then one day an English professor asked me if I was in love with the law, and before I could even answer she said, 'no, you aren't.' And it was like a light bulb clicked on in my head. I realized at that moment that I really loved the theater. I was lucky in that I had parents who supported my new direction. They did want to know how I was going to make money so I could eat and what not – but they agreed that theater was the right fit."

And despite, or maybe because of, some early stabs at acting – there is that pre-pubescent voice-cracking appearance on stage that still stings today – and general lack of much free time, he remains more comfortable behind the scenes than on stage. His vita clearly illustrates this. Since 2000 he has been involved in the technical direction, scenic design and lighting for 72 shows, 24 of which were performed on the Gordon campus.

"I have never needed the attention that actors get, but I do like to create the make-believe that is lighting and stage sets. I enjoy that what I do today as a professor of theater design and technology allows me to bring students into that magic."

Pearson collaborates with Rhonda Wooley, Gordon's assistant professor of theater, melding her vision through the actors and his through the set design, lighting and technology to bring theatrical productions to life.

"Tony is the best scenic painter I have ever worked with," Wooley says. "He can take the set he's designed and create the finishing touch. You see it come to life. This ultimate thing he does, this thing that he's so incredibly good at doing, was one of the first things I ever knew about him that also let me know I was working with a truly skilled and talented scenic designer."

Pearson came to Gordon about midway through the 2007 academic year. He had earned a BA in drama/theater concentration at Mercer and then an MFA at the University of Georgia in 2001. He returned to Mercer as a technical director in the theater department and a life-changing event occurred.

"Our first child was on the way and I heard about the opening at Gordon. Coming here was good for me and the family in many ways. The position was on a tenure track and we really liked the area. It seemed like a good place to raise children."

He admits to at first being terrified at the thought of being a father.

"I have really cool kids, a 6-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. My wife and I have a lot of fun with them as a family."

For a while the growing Pearson family lived in an apartment in a campus resident hall.

"We were living on campus when our second child was born. That time on campus gave me a better understanding of our students and you couldn't beat the commute, but a college dorm isn't an ideal place when you have two very young children."

The family now lives in a home on the Towaliga River. It's a refuge of sorts and one that allows Tony to enjoy a new hobby, fly fishing.

"I HAVE NEVER NEEDED THE ATTENTION THAT ACTORS GET, BUT I DO LIKE TO CREATE THE MAKE-BELIEVE THAT IS LIGHTING AND STAGE SETS. I ENJOY THAT WHAT I DO TODAY AS A PROFESSOR OF THEATER DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS ME TO BRING STUDENTS INTO THAT MAGIC."

Tony Pearson enjoying some beach time with his two children.

"I just like standing there," he said. "There is something that is so calming about it. I don't catch much, but I certainly enjoy my time in the water."

He wants to eventually learn how to tie flies, has started playing the banjo – he found one in a pile of props and had it repaired – and not too long ago rode a roller coaster with his wife for the first time.

"My wife loves them; me, not so much."

His work at Gordon extends far beyond the stage of the Fine Arts Theatre. He recently wrapped up a very busy year of service as chair of the faculty senate. He also served on the strategic planning committee, calendar committee, investiture planning committee, Gordon name change committee, academic reorganization taskforce, graduation committee and statutes committee.

"I enjoy being a part of the process of the workings of the college," he said. "I kind of work in a cave when you think about it so I like committee work. I get to meet people – faculty, staff, and students – I might not come across on a regular basis."

Gordon English major Olivia Gunn served with Tony on the strategic planning committee. "He is completely dedicated to the success of Gordon State College," she said. "That was so clear through his involvement with the strategic planning process and our group work. And while he is serious about being involved, he approaches things with humor and he is so friendly."

His dream is for Gordon State to have a four year theater program in the future.

"Theater tells the truth and its characters, particularly the flawed ones, help us empathize. . ." he said. "It lets us sit in the dark with an audience and experience as a community something sad or terrifying or joyful from the safety of our auditorium seat. That's a powerful experience — one that I feel lucky to get to have a part in creating for others."

"Theater tells the truth and its characters, particularly the flawed ones, help us empathize. . ."

Tony Pearson

Art Roberts

On Maryland's Bay Coast

by Peter Boltz

Art and Roselee Roberts (center) had this photograph made with their daughters' families in Park City, Utah, for their 2012 Christmas card.

As the golden reunion for the Class of 1962 was winding down, Natalie Rischbieter, Gordon State College's alumni director, was closing down Alumni House. While she was still tidying up, Art Roberts came in to thank her and say good night.

He was missing his tie, his sleeves were rolled up, and his jacket was over his arm. At first she thought he was just unwinding like the evening, but then the question came up.

What happened to your tie?

Roberts had given it away to a classmate who admired it.

Where are your cufflinks?

Roberts had given them away to a classmate who admired them.

WILLIAM ARTHUR ROBERTS, Gordon Military College 1962
President Circle K Club, Editor *Reveille*, Barracks Commander, Barracks Floor Commander, Company Commander, Platoon Leader, Commander Honor Guard, Firing Squad, Sabre Club, AUSA, Tennis Team, Distinguished Military Student, MST 1 Marksmanship Medal, Best Drilled company, Best Drilled Platoon, *Taps* Staff. (Just a few of his accomplishments while attending Gordon Military College.)

Those cufflinks were a present from President Bill Clinton in appreciation for a bit of work Roberts and his wife, Roselee, helped him with. The tie didn't have the cufflinks' provenance, but anyone who's bought one lately knows a quality tie comes dear.

Roberts, like many other cadets, originally came to school at Gordon because he and his family knew someone already attending the military school and saw the value of it. In Roberts' case the cadet was Roy Bovard of Coral Gables, Fla. Roberts' father knew Bovard's father, and in conversation, Bovard's father said he was impressed with the results.

"Roy was a hellion," Roberts said, "but after one year at Gordon, his father saw that he had grown up."

Initially, Roberts would have gone to Culver Military Academy or the Sewanee Military School, both schools having accepted his applications, but instead, his father sent him to Gordon to start his freshman high school year.

"I went to Gordon so unknowing. I was so naïve."

But Gordon helped him cross a bridge from naiveté of the world to a better understanding of its pitfalls and opportunities.

"It was like the Marines," the former Marine said. "You were not going to die. Just follow the rules and people will help you along." In short, he found role models at Gordon.

B Compay First Platoon, platoon leader, Lt. Art Roberts

When he left Miami to start school, he left by plane to Atlanta, where he was met by John Kehoe, also of Coral Gables, who was also starting at Gordon, and his father who was a federal judge. From there, they drove down to Barnesville, and Roberts enrolled. This process involved lining up for a turn to meet with Gordon President Col. C.T.B. Harris. Roberts doesn't recall his meeting with Harris, but he does recall girls on the campus. It was only after his first Gordon formation that he realized that this military college was coed. He said he was shocked but not altogether displeased. His mother, however, was aware of the fact because she had spoken with Harris by phone before she decided to send him to Gordon.

After introducing himself to President Harris, Roberts collected his requisite trunk with its requisite contents of uniform, toiletries and personal items and set out for his barracks. His friend Kehoe set out for North Barracks and he for South Barracks. On his way, an upper classman stopped him and tried to give him some grief about saluting. Roberts cited the regulation that if a cadet had his hands full, which he did, the cadet did not have to salute.

Already Roberts was benefitting from following the example of role models and keeping himself out of trouble most of the time but not always as in the time he tried his first cigarette at Gordon. He was on the football team, and fortunately for Roberts' health, Coach Fred Miller caught him and read him the riot act. Unfortunately for Roberts' health, Miller then instructed him that if he wished to remain on the team, he would have to eat the entire pack, including the packaging. He complied; he was sick.

"It was like the Marines. . . just follow the rules and people will help you along." In short, he found role models at Gordon.

Roberts gave up the habit before he had one.

One year, he broke his collarbone, and this landed him in one of any cadet's favorite places if the reason were cookies and not a malady – Nurse Quillian's infirmary. There he had to lay

Art Roberts, editor *Gordon Reveille* with co-editor Mary Ann Reeves

for days with sandbags atop him so the bone would set properly, and because of this, he was unable to act as Gordon's aide-de-camp to an officer in an upcoming ROTC inspection.

This would not have been a problem any other time, since an injured cadet could be replaced by another. Unfortunately, his mother, Jane Stevens Roberts, had called President Harris before the injury to inform him that the inspecting officer was coming from her alma mater, the University of Miami. Wouldn't it be nice if Art could serve as aide-de-camp?

Harris was not happy, Roberts said.

When it came time to think about where he was going to go to school after he earned his associate degree at Gordon, he looked into schools with football programs.

"My dad said I could go anywhere I wanted, but if I went to the University of Miami, he said he'd pay for everything." And so, there he went.

At UM, he decided he wanted to join his father's fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, an event that led to another lesson in his young life.

When he became interested in a young woman named Roselee Nichols, he set out to impress her by telling her that he was already in the fraternity. She knew he wasn't, but he didn't know she knew. He also didn't know she was the first female to be president of the men's inter-fraternity council, and the fraternity brothers were protective of her. He quickly figured things

Art Roberts at a White House reception with President George W. Bush.

out after two tough fraternity guys paid him a visit one day and told him he'd better treat her properly – or else.

In the end, Roselee had her joke and the two of them had each other – they still do.

They are not only a married couple, but co-workers in a field that some would call lobbying and some would call consulting. Whatever you call it, the two of them have been rather successful at solving other people's problems. Just a quick 360° turn in their home office can tell you that. The walls are covered with photographs of the Robertses with presidents, astronauts, sports figures and foreign dignitaries. Every horizontal surface has additional pictures and trophies of other sorts.

Art claims that one year Roselee singlehandedly saved the funding for NASA's participation in the International Space Station, something that Roselee plays down but there in the office is a photograph of all the NASA astronauts with all their signatures. In another, the two of them are with the Clintons, signatures included.

Art is especially proud of an item that isn't signed by someone famous. "That's my nephew's saber, from West Point," he said, looking up at another part of the office walls. At a distance, it could have been mistaken for his own saber when he was a cadet officer.

The September 11 attacks have a special meaning to the Robertses because one of their daughters, Libby, worked on the "70th-something floor" of the World Trade Center when it was attacked by terrorists on Feb. 26, 1993 – that is, the first time the WTC suffered a terrorist bombing. Her sister, Leigh, was supposed to meet her for lunch; the bomb went off at 12:17 p.m. Libby was able to notify Leigh that she was okay, but like many in the building she was trapped because a loss of power crippled the elevators and smoke from the blast filled staircases and escaped into floors.

Eventually, firefighters reached the 40th floor where she was holed up, and she was escorted by the firefighters from the building. Out of the building and on the street, she decided she needed to contact her boyfriend on Wall Street, but as she went, she realized people were acting strangely toward her. They made way for her as she walked and gave up their seats on the subway. When she finally had the opportunity to have a look at herself, she understood. Her hair was completely covered with ash and her face was blackened.

Eight years later, she was safe and working in San Francisco, and it was Art and Roselee who were under attack in Washington, D.C. He was at a Congressional leader's breakfast at the National Democratic Club, two blocks from Capitol Hill, and she was working in her Rosslyn office not far from the Pentagon.

At the leader's breakfast, something startling happened.

"All of a sudden, all the beepers in the room went off, warning those who were members of Congress to hurry to their designated areas of safety," Roberts said. Although he wasn't a Congressman, he was carried along with them. The attack on the World Trade Center had triggered the alert, and security details all over the city went into immediate action.

Art claims that one year Roselee singlehandedly saved the funding for NASA's participation in the International Space Station.

Roberts went to his car to return to his office and on the way on the Southwest Freeway, he saw a passenger jet fly over,

and he thought, "that's not right." Even then there was restricted airspace over D.C. Not long after, he heard the explosion.

Roselee was not far from the Pentagon in her office in Rosslyn, Va., watching CNN's coverage of the attack on the World Trade Center. She was unaware of the low flying jet, but she heard and felt the explosion when it hit the Pentagon. From her office window, she could see smoke rising from it.

Although many years have passed since 9/11, they must still marvel at the thought that the first attack in 1993 might have been the one to destroy the World Trade Center, and their daughter with it. Today, living along one of the East Coast's most spectacular natural wonders, the possibility must seem far away.

Although the two are semi-retired, they still help a few clients from their home near St. Michaels, Md., in an unincorporated community called McDaniel, named after the McDaniel farm, part of the underground railroad expedited by Harriet Tubman for slaves escaping from the antebellum South. St. Michaels and McDaniel are both in Talbot County, the same county Frederick Douglass was born in not far from the McDaniel farm. The area, according to Roberts, was once known as Bay 100, because during Colonial times, those living there were expected to raise 100 militiamen when needed.

Their home is on the headwaters of Harris Creek, set back and unseen from the road. Visitors are sometimes shown into the drive by Art with his dog Talbot, a brown Spanish water dog – sometimes described as goofy, but always intelligent and social.

The house was, at one time, a vacation home and retreat for them when they lived in Georgetown. They had an addition built that includes a garage below and a bedroom, bathroom and office above. It was designed by their architect daughter, Libby Holah of Holah Design, who used redwood planks from huge holding barrels from a now defunct winery. When it was being cut, Roberts said, the wood gave off the aroma of red wine. The second story is covered with zinc paneling, which looks gray in winter and silver in summer.

Compared to their home in Georgetown, their home on Harris Creek is smaller, so much so that they've had to reduce the size of their art collection. Of their Georgetown home, Roselee said, "We had walls there."

The sculpture *Merlin* looks out from its pedestal on the balcony of the master bedroom

The Roberts's collection of carved decoys are displayed in the front living room.

The living room has views of the water. Rodrigue's blue dog tribute to 9/11 can be seen on the wall.

Jorge Castaño's *Magic Box* hangs on the wall of the dining room, a gold-lined bowl by Cheryl Williams graces the dining room table.

Not that the Harris Creek home doesn't have walls, just not as much wall space, something the Robertses have covered with paintings, drawings, photographs, and a curious hologram bulb. On the floor near the stairs is a sculpture of metal rods three feet high, clustered into a 5 by 5 inch rectangle by Harry Bertoia. Roberts invites guests to lightly strike the rods, setting them in motion and vibrating in a pleasing sound like so many tuning forks.

The floors are 100-year-old maple. Venetian glass, easily mistaken for fancy hard candies, are in a bowl on a coffee table in the living room. Their furniture includes a lounge chair and sofa by Florence Knoll, Barcelona chairs by Mies van der Rohe, tables by Eero Saarinen and several pieces by Warren Platner. Nearby on the living room wall is one of George Rodrigue's lithographs – a wide-eyed, sorrowful looking blue dog set against a background of the American flag, a tribute to 9/11.

On a nearby shelf are several duck decoys, art in themselves, one of which is a Canvasback duck. One morning, Roberts saw the living version of the Canvasback in the water outside his home – he estimated their number at two thousand. Two thousand.

In the hallway to the bedroom is a tall stand for one of John Littleton and Kate Vogel's exquisite glass bag sculptures. One of the paintings on the wall in the bedroom is something they bought while in Provence. "The trees are really that color," Roselee said. The bronze sculpture *Merlin*, by John Dreyfuss, sits on the bedroom's narrow deck. On a table top are Talbot's toys: two plastic ducks dressed up as farmers in bib overalls, red kerchiefs and ball caps.

"Talbot will sit and stare at them in the evening and will wait until one of us throws them down the hall for him to fetch," Roselee said. And just to demonstrate, Talbot sat and stared at the ducks until she threw one down the hall.

Then the phone rings. It is a call they've been expecting from a client about the sale of a rare earth metal the Robertses have been helping to guide through international and national regulations and discover the metal's provenance. From Kazakhstan to Switzerland to the Department of Energy Lab in Iowa, they guide the sale.

It is hard to imagine, but without Barnesville and Gordon in the equation, that metal would never have made it from Kazakhstan to somewhere in Iowa, and Roberts acknowledges this.

"Gordon made us all grow up," he said. "My most formative years were in Barnesville. We had fun at Gordon and Barnesville's townspeople were great."

Then he remembered something else that is part of his Gordon legacy.

"When I left Gordon, I bought the complete works of Shakespeare – and charged it to my mother."

Roberts attended his 50th reunion during Gordon's April 2012 alumni weekend. It had been 47 years since he last returned for a visit – good thing for his collection of cufflinks and ties.

Margaret Venable
Gordon's First Provost

Margaret Venable's son Quentin said something to her one day. Only 15, he opened her eyes to something that was right in front of her all the time.

It happened while they were talking about his future, something "he must be sick to death hearing about."

She wanted to know his thoughts about what he would like to major in when he went to college.

"He just shrugged his shoulders, like teenagers do, and said, 'It doesn't matter. There won't be any jobs anyway.'"

This set off a chain of thoughts that led her to not only empathize with her son but an entire generation.

He was 3 on Sept. 11, 2001, she said. A world of terrorism and economic downturn was all he knew. For him, these things were normal, whereas for her, they were anomalies.

The thing that was in front of her all the time was a variation of something she already knew. You have to meet people where they are, not where you'd like them to be, whether those people are your children, or your students.

Clearly, being a mother shapes Venable's life.

Both of her parents were school teachers, so education was always important in her home. Her mother taught first grade, and her father taught at Millersburg Military Institute in Millersburg, Ky., in the junior and high schools.

When it came time for her to go to college, they had just one piece of advice. Get a job you can make a living in; just don't go into teaching. She understood her parents caveat to mean that teaching K-12 was a tough go and that there were other careers to be had.

And she took her parents' advice, sort of. She didn't go into K-12 education; she went into post-secondary education.

"I enjoyed all my subjects," she said, "but my first real challenge was chemistry." For her, chemistry was about solving puzzles, and she liked puzzles.

Another thing she liked about chemistry was that she made the connection between theoretical and applied mathematics. She liked putting her mathematical knowledge to some practical use.

"It is too bad no one ever pointed out to me the many different career paths a math major could take," she said, quickly adding that she has no regrets about the career choices or pathways she ended up taking.

Venable got her bachelor's in chemistry from Agnes Scott College in 1987, her master's in inorganic chemistry from Georgia Tech in 1990, and then her doctorate in science education from Georgia State University in 1996.

As a professor, she said one of the main things she tried to

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Venable got her bachelor's in chemistry from Agnes Scott College in 1987, her master's in inorganic chemistry from Georgia Tech in 1990, and then her doctorate in science education from Georgia State University in 1996.

National Honor Conferred on Gordon Student

Emily Mumford, a rising senior human services major at Gordon State, has been awarded a national honor by the Mission of Sociologists for Women in Society.

Mumford won the Undergraduate Social Action Award for her commitment to expanding the Alternative Breaks Program for the Freedom Foundation in Selma, Ala.

The Freedom Foundation is a non-profit that primarily works with youth, encouraging them to become active leaders in their community. The Alternative Breaks Program is a program in which students give up their vacation time and serve the community through service projects.

Selma's Alternative Breaks Program concentrates on civil rights. Mumford first interned with the program in March 2011 then shortly after returned for an internship that ended up lasting until October of that same year. "I was so moved and impacted by the work that I witnessed being done in Selma that I decided to move to the area," Mumford said. "I moved with the hope of expanding the program. I wanted more students to experience what I had experienced."

Emily Mumford making art with children from the Alternative Breaks Program.

Mumford spends time corresponding with other groups of college students, educating them on Selma's Alternative Breaks Program and setting up field experience opportunities.

The work that Mumford contributed was strictly voluntary, most of which she accomplished as a student, commuting back and forth to Selma.

Baseball Alumni Reunion

Gordon State College invited its baseball alumni to return to campus on Oct. 20 and 21, 2012, for a reunion and a chance to play the College's current baseball team. The alumni who took to the field were, from left to right, front row: Tucker Stone, Scott Shaw, Blake Parrott, Chris Tyler, Adam Harmon and Ryan Brinson; back row: Kike Seda, Ted Pratt, Brad Hutson, Paul Bordon, Jordan Bacon, Tommy Ray, Tyler Brown, David New and Brad Linton.

Rock Wall Climbing

When Kim Smith saw the rock wall she would have to climb to earn a single physical education credit, she figured making it to the top would be the final exam.

"I really had second thoughts and was a little scared," the second year nursing student admitted. "But now I am more confident, and I really like the feeling of accomplishment when I reach the top."

Gordon State College is the only institution in the University System that offers a physical education credit for a rock climbing course.

Developing the course was a no-brainer for Gordon. Administrators knew the wall had been there for some time as part of the College's challenge course but was not being used. That, combined with the fact that instructor Bev Wolf is a certified American Mountain Guide, and bingo, the College had a unique credit course that 24 students took a chance on. Divided into two classes, some days students are at the wall and others in the classroom.

Wolf likens rock climbing to playing chess – you have to think two or three moves ahead.

On a recent day the students were tapping with their hands and feet on the "rocks" to help them focus and consider the next move.

Besides the physical benefits of rock climbing – Wolf says it burns four times more calories than running – the students develop strong teamwork skills. They depend on each other to make sure their climbing gear is on correctly, their ropes are knotted correctly and they can ascend and descend the wall safely.

Matt Mrizek came to class, like the others, with no experience. He now scales the 30-foot wall with ease. When asked if he might take up climbing as a hobby he replies, "Oh yea, I already have!"

Bachelors' Enrollment Exceeding Expectations

The eight four-year degree programs at Gordon State College are drawing more students than anticipated.

Gordon's first baccalaureate program, early childhood education, was launched in 2007 and has drawn 230 percent more students than was originally projected.

The most popular four-year degree program, nursing, which launched in fall 2010, has enrolled 294 percent more students than anticipated.

When new degree programs are proposed, one of the requirements is to project enrollment for the program's first three years to gauge its success.

"Gordon State continues to exceed its projected enrollment in most of the eight baccalaureate programs we offer," said Ed Wheeler, former vice president for academic affairs.

Wheeler, now retired, noted that the baccalaureate degrees offered by Gordon cover a variety of disciplines.

"We offer degrees in the medical field, in liberal arts, science and social science," said Wheeler.

"The variety of offerings, the quality of the education and the affordable cost prepares our students for requirements of the workforce without the burden of heavy student loan debt."

Gordon's baccalaureate offerings include early childhood education, mathematics, biology, history, English, nursing, health services and informatics administration, and human services.

Fighting Disease with Things Unseen

by Peter Boltz

Wade Harper, Ph.D.
Professor of Molecular Pathology
Department of Cell Biology
Harvard Medical School

Wade Harper came to Gordon in 1976 after graduating from Griffin High School.

"I guess you could say that I did not really apply myself well in high school," he said.

Today, he is known as Dr. Wade Harper, the B. and N. Vallee Professor of Molecular Pathology, Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School in Boston.

He said he wasn't sure what he wanted to do when he came to Gordon. He was interested in chemistry but ended up taking biology first.

When he did take chemistry, it was from Dr. Richard Chapas.

"He made chemistry interesting and I really came to love going to lab. This was the first time that I learned the pleasure of making a discovery, as well as getting an experiment to work perfectly," Harper said. "Dr. Chapas was unlike any teacher I had experienced in high school; I think he had a lot to do with me wanting to continue in chemistry."

He remembers two other influences from his time at Gordon, math professor Lottie Lang and physics professor Dr. Leonard Rodriguez, both of whom "provided essentially one-on-one instruction due to the small class sizes at Gordon at that time, which was important for me as math was not my forte," Harper noted.

From Gordon, he went on to Georgia Tech where he earned his bachelor of science in chemistry in 1980 and a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1984. After a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School (1984-1988) where he studied proteins that promote blood vessel growth, he started his independent career as an assistant professor of biochemistry at the Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Texas. There he rose to the rank of tenured full professor and stayed until 2003 when he got a call from Harvard.

"Harvard wanted to recruit me," he said. "The level of competition is extremely high, so I never expected to get the opportunity to go back to Harvard. It wasn't like getting back to Boston was a goal; it just sort of happened one day.

"At research intensive institutions such as Harvard, professors direct laboratories that attempt to push back the frontiers of basic biology and link cellular and molecular discoveries to human health. Running a lab is a little like running a small start-up company, where the products are new discoveries and publications that disseminate the findings to the world," Harper said. A word that appears frequently in the titles of his publications is "ubiquitin."

> "DR. CHAPAS WAS UNLIKE ANY TEACHER I HAD EXPERIENCED IN HIGH SCHOOL; I THINK HE HAD A LOT TO DO WITH ME WANTING TO CONTINUE IN CHEMISTRY"
>
> WADE HARPER

Ubiquitin is a protein found in the thousands in every cell in the human body, and it plays a key role in maintaining cellular health. It is part of a large field of research referred to as the "ubiquitin proteasome system," or UPS.

One purpose of the UPS is to find proteins that can cause disease because they are damaged or too abundant, and to eliminate them from the cell. In essence, relevant proteins are marked with ubiquitin, which serves like a zip-code to deliver the proteins to the proteasome, a protein that "looks a bit like a flip-lid garbage can," said Harper. The proteasome removes the ubiquitin and then converts target proteins to benign building blocks that can be re-used to make new healthy proteins. So the proteasome may be more appropriately considered as a flip-lid recycling center.

Unfortunately, the system doesn't always succeed and disease ensues, and this is why cell biologists like Harper are intensively studying this pathway. The UPS is involved in numerous cellular processes and about 5 percent of all the genes encoded in the human genome play roles in this system. As such, Harper's lab and many others are trying to understand when, where, and how the UPS works. There are numerous implications for drug development, and indeed, several FDA-approved drugs for various types of cancer inhibit the proteasome. Because of the role of the proteasome in degrading proteins that cause neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, significant effort is being placed on proteasome activators as well. "Our hope is that our basic mechanistic and cell biological research will inform the development of new therapeutics that can be used to either activate or inhibit the UPS in specific disease states," Harper said.

Such goals make it clear why investigators like Harper spend so much time peering into the unseen world that is the cell.

Emeriti Honored

As part of the spring 2013 graduation ceremony, 18 faculty emeriti were recognized.

Emeritus status goes to a faculty member or administrator with 10 or more years of distinguished service to students and to the college community.

To receive the designation the faculty member has to be endorsed by colleagues in the faculty and by colleagues in the administration. With emeritus status, the faculty member essentially becomes a member of the Gordon community for life.

Those honored include: Professor Nancy D. Anderson , director of Hightower Library, 25 years of service; Professor Patsy H. Brown, division chair of Division of Nursing, 26 years; Dr. Bill Day, professor of English, 28 years; Dr. Susan Ellzey, professor of English, 23 years; Professor Rosemary K. Evans, director of Hightower Library, 10 years; Dr. Luanne Fowler, professor of psychology, 28 years; Dr. Gloria M. Henderson, professor of English, 20 years; Dr. Daniel J. Jackson, professor of chemistry and dean of the college, 15 years; Dr. Joscelyn A. Jarrett, professor of mathematics, 12 years; Dr. E. Hutchinson Johnson, professor of history, 24 years; Dr. Mary Alice Money, professor of English, 30 years; Dr. N. DeWitt Moore, professor of mathematics, 10 years; Dr. Rhonda Morgan, professor of business, 28 years; Dr. James O. Richards, professor of history and dean of the college, 24 years; Professor Jacqueline Ruff, professor of mathematics, 12 years; Dr. Mary Jean Simmons, professor of music, 14 years; Professor Lettie Stallings, professor of mathematics, 21 years; and Dr. Mary L. Wilson, professor of biology, 31 years.

Front row, left to right: Nancy D. Anderson, Rosemary Evans, Gloria M. Henderson, Mary Alice Money and Rhonda Morgan. Back row, left to right: James O. Richards, Daniel J. Jackson, Joscelyn A. Jarrett, Jacqueline Ruff and E. Hutchinson Johnson. In the background are Dr. Ed Wheeler and President Max Burns.

Human Services Degree

In January, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia gave approval for Gordon to offer a bachelor of science degree in human services.

Human services is a multidisciplinary profession integrating the fields of psychology, sociology, government and administration. Human services professionals are employed in a wide variety of settings, including government and private social service agencies, vocational rehabilitation facilities, substance abuse rehabilitation centers, and residential facilities treating the elderly and intellectually challenged.

"This program will help provide well-prepared graduates to fill the human services workforce needs being experienced in the region we serve and across the state of Georgia," said Jeffery Knighton, chair of the division of business and social science at Gordon State College.

The first students to earn a degree in human services will graduate spring 2015.

This degree brings to eight the number of bachelor degrees offered by Gordon State College.

Cook-Off Cancer Crushers

Emily Mayo (left), Kaeleigh Duryea, Cathy Hammond, Christopher Korink, Christy Skinner, and Veronica Taylor show off their efforts to crush cancer.

This year's President's Chili Cook-Off was rich in great tasting chili and boisterous challenges, and helped raise money for the Cancer Crushers Relay for Life Team.

President Max Burns' Road Kill Chili, took first place while second place went to Alice Turner, campus nurse practitioner. SGA President Chris Childress took third place.

When asked his secret for winning chili, Childress laughed and said, "All the ingredients came off my land, including the venison. That's about all I'm going to reveal."

There was some controversy over one participant who tried to buy votes with cookies, crackers and a fancy sign, but the judges – Darlene O'Baner (staff), Jeff White (faculty) and Karen Meeks (student) – were able to see past all the fluff and awarded the President first place anyway.

"We are so appreciative of all the people who participated and everyone who sampled the chili and had some fun at the same time," said Cathy Hammond, assistant professor of nursing and co-coordinator of the event and the Cancer Crushers.

Gordon State College has long been a participant in the Lamar County Relay for Life event, but the Cancer Crushers – comprised mostly of nursing students, faculty and staff – refreshed the effort and boosted participation this year.

Through other campus events and a contribution from the Staff Council, the Cancer Crushers exceeded its goal.

Plans are also under way for the Second Annual President's Chili Cook-Off – challenges have already been issued.

All Steinway School

Gordon State College is officially an All Steinway School.

Representatives from Steinway and Sons made a presentation during the Spring Concert featuring the Gordon State College Chorus, Vocal Ensemble and Men's Ensemble.

"What a beautiful facility you have and what a wonderful evening," said Glen Gough, a representative of Steinway and Sons, New York.

Gough said that Gordon State had made the transition to all Steinway in about 20 months, far quicker than most schools and he credited the work of James Wallace and Neil Boumpani, associate professors of music, with making it happen.

Gordon State made the transition to all Steinway far quicker than most schools and he credited the work of **James Wallace and Neil Boumpani,** associate professors of music, with making it happen.

Ike Van Meter (left), Glen Gough, James Wallace, Ed Wheeler and Christoph Syllaba.

As an All-Steinway school, Gordon uses Steinway and Steinway designed pianos in all aspects of teaching and performance. Gordon's inventory includes two concert Steinway grands, one Boston baby grand and seven Boston studio pianos.

"My chest is bursting with pride," Wallace told the concert goers. "You are here on an historic night."

In making the presentation, Gough was joined by Ike Van Meter and Christoph Syllaba of Steinway Piano Galleries. Accepting the plaque were Wallace and Ed Wheeler, Gordon State College vice president for academic affairs.

From left, Dan Born, Piedmont Construction Group; Brannen Park, SP Design; Scott Hoover, Sodexo; Bill Littiken, Sodexo; Gretchen Favors, Sodexo; Joe Mitchell, Sodexo; Gordon President Max Burns; David Moore, Piedmont Construction Group; Lee Fruitticher, Gordon State College vice president for business affairs and Adam Berkstresser, Piedmont Construction Group. The project began in August 2012 and Burns credited Sodexo and student diners for managing to function through all the construction.

Highlander Hall

Students, staff, faculty and even visitors can now enjoy a variety of food offerings in a restaurant-like setting with the renovation of Gordon's main dining hall, Highlander Hall.

Gordon President Max Burns noted during an April dedication and ribbon cutting that the $3.3 million expansion was paid for with auxiliary funds built up over nearly a decade.

"Zero tax dollars and zero state funds were used. The students paid for it…."

The dining hall was expanded from about 4,000 square feet to almost 11,000 square feet. The salad bar was enlarged and configured to better accommodate diners and a new grill and flat-top, wok-style cooker was also added.

The design allows for a wide choice of food items while accommodating easy traffic flow throughout the room.

All seating was replaced and the ceiling and floors were refurbished to help soften the room's acoustics. A private dining room was also added.

"The area dining hall is much more functional, less like a lunchroom and more like a dining room," said Lee Fruitticher, Gordon's vice president for business affairs.

Outstanding Scholar

MARY BROWNING is this year's University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholar at Gordon State College.

Browning was recognized on Academic Recognition Day during the 2013 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

Academic Recognition Day was first held in 1987 as a "celebration of individual academic achievement and recognition of those students who exemplify that which is best about the University System of Georgia and its institutions."

Her achievement was announced on campus by Gordon State College President Max Burns during the annual faculty and staff reception.

Browning, a married mother of three who lives in Jackson, Ga., graduated in May with an associate degree in psychology. She plans to continue her education and major in human services at Gordon.

Browning is an active member of the Butts County Transition Team, an early education program designed to facilitate school transition to ensure pre-school age children are prepared for and are successful in kindergarten. She is also active in the extracurricular activities of her children.

Mary Browning with President Max Burns

"Mary is one of the most dedicated and hard-working students I have had the pleasure of teaching," said Evelyn Schliecker, associate professor of psychology, when Browning was recognized by the business and social science faculty during the fall 2012 semester.

"This is a tremendous honor for me," Browning said. "I am looking forward to continuing my education at Gordon."

Investiture

In a ceremony that "celebrated Gordon," Max Burns was invested as the third president of Gordon State College since the college joined the University System of Georgia in 1972.

In his address to a crowd that filled both the Fine Arts Auditorium and the Student Center Auditorium, Burns said that "today is not about me. Presidents come and go, today we celebrate Gordon."

"I am reminded of Lincoln's famous remarks at Gettysburg. 'We will not remember what was said here today, but we must not forget what has been done here…' We must remember the contributions of Gordon to our region, state and nation since 1852. Let us continue to celebrate Gordon State College."

Also speaking at Friday's ceremony was Hank Huckaby, chancellor of the University System of Georgia. Huckaby's personal ties to Gordon go back to the early '70s when he worked in admissions.

The Chancellor noted that Burns was the right person to be president of Gordon State College.

"I know his talents and I know his proclivities," Huckaby said. "He brings the right mix of leadership to this campus."

Other speakers included immediate past president Lawrence Weill, past interim president Sherman Day, and Linda Bleicken, president of Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Bleicken noted that her friendship with Burns goes back 23 years. She first met him when she was interviewing for a position at Georgia Southern University, where Burns was then a member of the faculty.

Burns' tenure at Gordon began Jan. 1, 2012.

Anthony Newman Opens Recital Season

The Gordon State College Recital Series begins Sept. 24 with Anthony Newman.

In his 50-year career as an organist, harpsichordist and Bach specialist, he has collaborated with Kathleen Battle, Itzhak Perlman, Eugenia Zukerman, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Mstislav Rostropovich and Seji Osawa.

The series continues on Nov. 19 with The Atlanta Singers, a vocal ensemble known for their innovative programming and engaging performance style. The Singers have developed a reputation for excellence in the performance of a wide range of choral repertoire ranging from Renaissance sacred masterworks to 20th century music.

February 25, 2014, the Janus Trio will perform on flute, viola and harp, and the season will end on March 20 with Canadian pianist Philip Thomson.

All performances are on the stage of the Gordon State College Fine Arts Theatre and are sponsored by Spalding Regional Hospital/Spalding Health.

Roll Call Day

In honor of Veterans Day 2012, a National Roll Call ceremony was held on campus.

Speakers included alumni, faculty and students. And while each speaker had his own story, each story contained the common thread, "Thank you, veterans."

Gordon alumnus and retired Lt. Col. Allan Imes told of being shunned when he returned from a tour of duty in Vietnam. He recalled an encounter with a Marine in a less than friendly diner and how he tried to assure the Marine, whose name he didn't get, that he would make it through his service.

Imes said he often wonders about that man.

"I'd like to know if he is on that wall," Imes said referring to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Names were also a common thread during the ceremony.

Darryll Wayne Kip, who is in the Naval Reserves and is a member of the Gordon State College Veterans Club, read a list of 76 names of area soldiers who lost their lives in service to their country. The list included many Gordon alumni.

Other speakers included Gordon Alumnus and commander of the Lamar County High School AJROTC, Maj. Paul Stinson; Gordon State College President Max Burns and Gordon History Professor and U.S. Air Force veteran Gary Cox. The AJROTC presented the colors.

The National Roll Call project began in 2011 when thousands of students, faculty, staff and community members at more than 180 of America's colleges and universities came together and demonstrated their commitment to remembering those who, while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, "gave their last full measure of devotion."

Gordon State College works to serve veterans through the Soldiers 2 Scholars program. S2S is an outreach effort that partners with the post-World War II G.I. Bill to help those in military service make the transition to civilian life by means of a college degree.

Steel Magnolias Opens Theater Season

The Gordon Theatre will open its 2013-14 season with the November production of *Steel Magnolias.*

Funny, touching and at times heartbreaking, the play – set in a beauty shop in rural Louisiana – follows strong female characters through life's ups and downs.

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* will be presented in February.

Winner of the 1953 Tony Award for Best Play, this exciting drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in Old Salem is both a gripping historical play and timely parable of our contemporary society.

In April the theater majors will perform a series of scenes and one-acts which will focus on their carefully choreographed stage combat skills.

Gordon's First Provost *Continued from page 33*

keep in mind was that not every student in her class was interested in being a chemistry major. What she hoped for these students was that they developed an appreciation for the subject. She also hoped this for her chemistry majors, and more.

Her broader perspective on science is that it is important for people not to be afraid of it, not to be intimidated by it. We live in an increasingly complex world, she said, and many of the decisions that will have to be made will have to be based on our knowledge of science.

Venable took her post as Gordon State College's first provost on July 1, 2013, and as such takes on the role of the College's second ranking administrative officer. She will be the college's chief academic officer.

"I always operate on the assumption that people are looking for opportunities to make a difference, to grow and stretch themselves," she said. "Given that, I try to identify people's strengths and find opportunities for them to put their strengths to work, and then I get out of the way."

There is always plenty of work to be done, too, she added.

Another Wonderful **Alumni Weekend Affair**

April 19-21, 2013

At 9 a.m. on a Friday, a typical scene on Stafford Avenue between Gordon's Alumni House and the Instructional Complex Building is one of students coming and going. They hurry to get to class on time, and when they're done, they hurry to start their weekends. This pattern hardly changes unless it is Gordon's Alumni Weekend, then alumni making their way to register at Alumni House mix in with the car and student traffic.

Gordon State College has hosted Alumni Weekend every April since 2008 and in that year Gordon's Advancement Office asked for feedback via a mailed survey, a survey which is still conducted yearly. One respondent wrote, "To Miracle Workers: We decided you could hardly do better. It was fun, the food excellent, A+. If you just do exactly as you did [for the next reunion], all of us will be glad."

"TO MIRACLE WORKERS: WE DECIDED YOU COULD HARDLY DO BETTER. IT WAS FUN, THE FOOD EXCELLENT, A+. IF YOU JUST DO EXACTLY AS YOU DID [FOR THE NEXT REUNION], ALL OF US WILL BE GLAD."

This advice was taken to heart, and although the following alumni weekends have not been "exactly" alike, they have all been similar.

Like earlier years, the first major event of Alumni Weekend was the faculty and staff reception. Last year's reception was held in Alumni House's courtyard, but this year it was held in Gordon's renovated and enlarged dining hall, newly named Highlander Hall, with a buffet provided by Sodexo, Gordon's contracted food service provider.

This event has always been a way of linking the faculty, staff and student body of Gordon's past with those of the present. As in past years, former faculty and staff returned to campus to visit with former students and each other. And once again, Dr. Neil Boumpani, an associate professor of music, performed on his vibraphone.

The reception is a time to say farewell to those retiring from the college, a time to award tenure and promotion, and a time to

recognize Gordon's outstanding student of the year. Despite differences in age, experience and position, conversation is easy at this event because everyone has something in common – Gordon.

Once the reception ended at about 4 p.m., most alumni were on their own time, unless they were members of the Class of 1963 and were preparing for their golden reunion.

This was held on the fourth floor of the Instructional Complex, a nice setting for its openness and view of the campus and surrounding area. Even though the dinner was set for 6 p.m., alumni started up the elevators earlier. Once off, many of them gathered by the elevator doors. When the next car would open, they would greet classmates with hugs, handshakes and kisses. The newly arrived group would then wait for the next car to open and greet newcomers with the same signs of affection.

When the 6 o'clock hour arrived, Larry Waller took the podium that stood between a movie screen showing slides of deceased classmates and an easel which held a large poster board of their photos. After he gave the prayer, servers poured out from behind the scenes and the meal began.

The Golden Reunion of '63 was the last major event of the first day of Alumni Weekend 2013, but the next morning's brunch mix-and-mingle started things up again in the Alumni House Courtyard.

That morning, people kept coming in the front door either on their way to the registration table or to the brunch, but more seemed to be staying inside rather than moving through to the back door and the brunch in the courtyard. Alumni House was filled with people more interested in talking to classmates they hadn't seen in a while rather than in listening to their stomachs.

When a conversation did end and the classmates turned to go to brunch, they inevitably bumped into more friends, and once again food was forgotten. Eventually people's stomachs led them outside to the buffet line, hot coffee, spicy tomato juice (with garnish) and sunshine. Conversations never stopped, but grumbling stomachs did.

After the brunch, alumni went in all directions, mostly to follow their own plans until that evening's alumni barbecue and music event. For those wanting to spend more time on campus, the bookstore was open, a classic car show was next door in the

Make a Date for Next Year

Join Us for Gordon State College Alumni Weekend 2014 April 25-27

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

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

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

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

Women's Clubhouse parking lot, and football memories were to be found inside the Clubhouse.

Other alumni made their way to a special dedication held under the shade of crepe myrtle trees growing between the Student Center and Lambdin Hall. The alumni who gathered there knew it as the site of the bullring, a place of punishment for cadets who got the wrong kind of attention from their military school superiors.

Unfortunate cadets would be given "tours" according to the severity of their infractions, one hour of marching around a prescribed area per tour. Depending on who you talk to, a tour was done with or without the additional weight of a pack or rifle, but it was always a drain on a cadet's spare time, and this was probably the worst part of the punishment.

The actual memorial is a gray rock set in the ground and large enough to bear a bronze plaque which reads: In honor of all the cadets who walked the bullring.

The man behind the idea is Kike Seda (HS '59), no stranger to the bullring and not one to miss an opportunity to smile and laugh. He said he thinks this may be the reason he toured the bullring so often – the military just didn't have a sense of humor.

Among the audience of about 30 alumni and family were a number of wags who shouted out things while Seda made his way through an impromptu "memorial" speech. One shouted out, "It sounds like you lived on the bullring."

The joking died down and the gathering dispersed, some people heading for the Women's Clubhouse, some heading for the campus tour, and soon, all had left.

For a couple of hours afterward, things were fairly quiet on campus, even at the weekend's epicenter, Alumni House. It too was empty except for staff preparing for the evening's barbeque with musical entertainment by Junkshun.

From 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the courtyard was filled with people eating, drinking, dancing, and of course talking. For many people, this was the only event they attended, and so a new energy was added to the reunion by newcomers sparking new conversations about memories and lives.

Junkshun, already playing one energetic set after another, had people dancing anywhere they could find room to move.

As the evening fell, appetites were filled, thirsts were slaked, and dancers grew tired. But conversations continued until all had left.

Next morning, at the farewell breakfast in Highlander Hall, many of the night's revelers gathered one more time, but inevitably, they had to start their journeys home.

IN MEMORY OF

M. Wallace Smith

IN 1955, THE SMITH FAMILY BEGAN SPONSORING THE AWARD of a sharpshooter medal to a Gordon cadet in memory of M. Wallace Smith, grandson to Jackson G. Smith, Barnesville's notable buggy maker whose building still stands on the corner of Main and Forsyth Streets.

In that year, the presentation was made by Nell Smith, wife of M. Wallace Smith and Jackson Smith's granddaughter-in-law. In the following year, 1956, the presentation was made by his great-great-granddaughter, 5-year-old Cathy Crawford, now Cathy Crawford Sims, daughter of Betty Smith Crawford.

Sims, who has lived in Texas for the last 33 years with James, her husband of 31 years, sent a photo (right) to Rhonda Toon, Gordon State College's vice president of advancement, after one of her visits home to her mother after the turn of the new year.

Sims said she had been to a church function while visiting her mother when she ran into Ed Legge.

"I bet you don't remember when I held you in my arms," Legge said.

Sims told him she couldn't recall when or if that might have been, but then again, as Legge put it, she was "just a little tyke."

Perhaps so, she thought, but just the same, she could not recall the event. Later, she asked her mother about it and was told Legge really did hold her in his arms.

"You even have the photograph at home," her mother said.

When Sims returned to Texas, she searched for and found the photograph, expressing her surprise with one word.

"Wow."

It was then the memory started coming back to her. She was seated with her grandmother Nell watching cadets in formation receiving medals. As best as Sims can recall from the mind of her 5-year-old self, her mother, her Aunt Jean (Smith) and her Uncle Mickey (Milton Wallace Smith III) were seated in the stands.

"I remember being scared," Sims said. She couldn't understand how she was supposed to pin a medal on a cadet when she wasn't tall enough.

When the time approached to award the sharpshooter's medal, commandant of cadets, Lt. Ed Legge, came to the sideline, took Sims by the hand and led her out on the field. Legge didn't add to her fears because his wife, Virginia, and her Aunt Jean were friends. Once they were out on the field and it came time for the cadet to receive his medal, Legge lifted her so that she was almost eye to eye with the cadet.

"I thought he was cute and all grown up," Sims recalled.

Of course the cadet was more young than grown up, she said, but as a little girl, her ability to judge age was skewed.

She cannot recall the name of the captain nor the cadet in the photograph, but Legge researched his library of yearbooks and thinks the cadet was Carl DeWitt Langston of Jacksonville, Fla. He does not recall the name of the captain in the photograph except that he was a judge of competitive squad and platoon drill. More significantly, Legge said, the officer has the Infantry Combat Badge on his left breast. It means he was in active combat, under fire from the enemy.

Class of '56 Mini-Reunions
Periodic Luncheons Keep Classmates in Touch

The Class of 1956 held its Golden Reunion in 2006 at the Griffin Country Club. 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.

FOR SOME ALUMNI, a reunion every five or 10 years seems to satisfy a need to visit with classmates and remember their time at Gordon, but there are some who need more, like those of the Class of 1956. Members of this class, whether they live near or far, have been known to meet several times a year.

According to Catherine Redd Cloud, classmates Faye Littlejohn Frazier and Leta Frances Martin Holder started the practice of reunion luncheons in 2000 when they invited Cloud, Betty Burnette Martin and Nell Wilson Crawford to join them at the Pastime Grill in Barnesville.

"We had so much fun," Cloud said, "that we agreed to start inviting other classmates to join us. By the time 2006 rolled around, it was easy to plan our 50th reunion because we already had the reunion committee in place."

Perhaps one of the reasons for their frequent lunch reunions is that so many of them were classmates from kindergarten through their final year as college sophomores at Gordon. They were eighth graders the year of Gordon's centennial, which was celebrated with a pageant and a parade. They went for pageant rehearsals in Gordon's gymnasium and made red crepe paper roses for Gordon's parade float.

A simpler answer may be that they just like being around each other. This was obvious at their February 2013 luncheon at Maxi's in Barnesville. While eating, they started joking about a story they would call The Sins of '56, and by the time they had finished eating, they started with their stories.

"I was in trouble up until the 10th grade," Dohn Bonner said. "After this, I was alright."

Bonner's sin wasn't all that sinful. He shot a spitball at another boy in Smith Hall, an infraction of the rules, certainly, but not uncommon nor all that terrible. What was terrible was that this bit of "youthful exuberance" caught the attention of Coach Fred Miller. Bonner's punishment was a whipping with a Bunsen burner hose. Miller reputedly weighed in at 346 pounds.

"Like Dohn," Peter Banks said, "I was a pretty good kid after the 10th grade, after I had turned 15."

Banks remembered Capt. C.C. Morgan's history class and how the classroom had an alcove that could hide whoever was coming in, or going out. Cadets, including Banks, would sit near the alcove and when Morgan's back was turned to the class slip out one at a time.

"We'd go from his class to North Barracks and play poker," Banks said. "One day after we pulled this caper several times, he called roll a second time. He called, 'Banks, Banks, Banks?'"

Classmate Ed Craze, outside the barracks under a tree, was supposed to warn the card players of trouble, but Maj. Morris Goodwin got the drop on him.

Meanwhile Banks had his best hand of the day, and just as he was savoring the idea of winning the pot, Goodwin walked in and said, "Gentlemen, this is about to break up."

Banks didn't say what his punishment was other than having to fold a winning hand, nor was it clear what the others suffered. According to Banks, when making his report to President C.T.B. Harris, Goodwin said, "And Mr. Craze was the lookout holding up a tree." So we know Craze at least suffered embarrassment.

Gene Duckett confessed to terrifying Gordon coeds as they came down their separate stairwell in Lambdin Hall. He bought a Class C firework called a cracker ball that would snap loudly when struck against a surface or stepped on. He'd salt the steps with them and when the girls came down at the sound of the bugle, the cracker balls would snap and the girls would scream.

When it became clear that only the men in the class were telling stories on themselves, Bill McKoy asked, "Didn't you girls do anything?"

Faye Littlejohn Frazier quickly answered, "We girls never got in trouble because if we did, we'd have to face Miss Marion. She would just look at you. She played the organ at the Baptist Church, and she had a side mirror from a car fixed to the organ so that she could see if any of the girls were misbehaving in church. If so, on Monday you'd be called into her office."

No one seemed to mind that Frazier didn't answer the question.

And not all, in fact very few, of the stories had to do with misbehaving. Most of the stories were about what made them good, then and now.

T.J. Van Houten told the story of a bully "who would whoop you if you got in his way, and one day, one of our classmates got tired of it, so a fight was arranged on the baseball field at second base. We were on the lookout for teachers and cops, of which there were only two in those days. When the fight started, we heard a whoosh, pop, pop, pop, and the bully hit the ground."

Like a good storyteller, Van Houten let a suitable amount of time pass before he revealed the bully's challenger.

"Peter Banks dropped him."

Conversation then turned to memories of their professors and how each had a unique way of teaching and influencing their lives without them even knowing it at the time.

Cloud remembered Col. L.D. Watson, her math professor.

"Col. Watson played such an important role in giving direction to what my years after Gordon would be," Cloud said. "He would have it no other way than I attend Georgia Tech. I think his goal each year was to see how many students he could encourage and prepare to attend Tech and further their education in his beloved field of math."

McKoy remembered how Watson read the New Testament in Greek every morning.

Others recalled Dr. Frazier who not only taught at Gordon but was also the minister at Fredonia Congregational Church. Bonner said that after church, Frazier would drop his wife off at home and head for the golf course. "He had a wooden Kenneth Smith putter," Bonner added to accent Frazier's dedication to the game. Ann Sullivan Van Houten remembered him as an excellent musician and artist, making Christmas cards for his congregation every year and teaching piano. Van Houten included a bit of contrast to the portrait when she said of Frazier: "He was the first to wear Bermuda shorts with his socks up to his knees."

Lynn Warren said that she knew, even at the time, how good she and her classmates had it. Gordon had a greater variety of classes and a higher quality of professor.

"One of the lesser mentioned teachers we had at Gordon was Marjorie Witcher," Warren said. "She was one of the best Gordon had."

Miss Marion Bush, their senior class sponsor and one of their most recognized and respected teachers, accepted an invitation to come to their first reunion in 1966.

"One memory stands out," Cloud said. "The first thing she did after stepping up to the podium was to just simply say the word personification. The class immediately finished the chant: 'is the giving to inanimate objects the characteristics of life.'"

Cloud said she had no doubt her class could repeat the performance fluently and without hesitation today.

The generosity the Class of '56 experienced as students has been paid forward to future Gordon State College students. In 2006, the class raised the money to furnish Alumni House's parlor, including the four side chairs they decided on at their Maxi's luncheon. In addition, McKoy and fellow classmate Jimmy Stocks donated their sabers. Since 2009, students, visiting dignitaries, faculty and hundreds of alumni, have enjoyed this room.

As a further generosity, the class decided to donate the balance of the fund for the parlor to Gordon's Military Memorial.

As generous as its gifts are, the class makes a more valuable contribution to Gordon and its future. The Class of '56 helps us remember people long gone and things that will never be again.

Faye Littlejohn Frazier recalled one of those things, one of her favorite things – the playing of *Taps* at the end of the day – something that could be heard not only on campus but across Barnesville.

"For 18 years I heard it," she said, "then I moved away. And when I came back I expected to hear it again, but it was gone."

The Class of '56 officers are Bill McKoy, president; Erle Norton, vice president; Lynn Voelker Warren, secretary; and Shirley Sims Knox, treasurer.

Tips for Reunion Success
Tip #1, Let Gordon Help

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> NATALIE RISCHBIETER, THE COLLEGE'S COORDINATOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS, CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH ASSISTANCE USING GORDON'S DATABASE OF NAMES AS WELL AS WITH THE DESIGN AND MAILING OF "SAVE-THE-DATE" CARDS, REGISTRATIONS AND OTHER NECESSARY PARTS OF THE PROCESS.

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

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

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

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

Thomas Petty

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

"In 1963, I was in North Barracks Hall as a high school freshman and made corporal the first year, the highest one could go in rank as a freshman. My sophomore year I was the flag carrier for my company and made it to staff sergeant, the highest rank one could go as a sophomore.

"By that time I was one of a group of guys who formed a fraternity, Sigma E Chi. We sponsored a full-page ad in the 1966 yearbook.

"We would hang out at the canteen and socialize. The canteen had a jukebox and the latest songs would play.

"On barracks inspection days we would go to one of the locals' houses. One of these was Becky Sykes' house. They were good times. Of course we received the demerits for the bullring.

"A few of the names I remember are Danny Foshee, Terry Thrasher, Bill Skaggs, Dee Bankston, M. Ann Meeks, Lester Lifsey, J. McCutcheon, Janice Ball, Ricky King, Bruce Akins, Frank Bone, Wayne Robinson and so many more.

"So, whenever I receive something from Gordon, I get a lump in my throat. I miss Gordon, the people, and the era with my heart and soul.

"I retired from the post office after 35 years and live with my wife, Sandra, in North Miami Beach. I play golf (no longer playing basketball), I go to the horse track and I love to fish.

"I would love to get in touch with old friends."

Thomas Petty is the cadet leaning on the pillar on the right.

The Chafin-Smith Study Abroad Scholarship

by Olivia E. Gunn

In a time when everyone is nervous about the economy, being awarded a scholarship is like finding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

The Chafin-Smith Study Abroad Scholarship was just that for me. Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, this summer was like stepping through a portal of sorts to live in a community across the Atlantic. The Barcelonan community, so rich in history, culture, architecture, and intellect, was magnificent and gracious, allowing me to graze off the wealth of its heritage.

From the moment I arrived to the moment I sadly had to leave, I was in awe at the beauty of my surroundings and intrigued by a people who were carrying out a fast-paced, modern lifestyle in an ancient setting. Studying at Barcelona International College, in the Enforex Program, enhanced the Spanish I learned at Gordon State by providing me an opportunity to speak it on a day-to-day basis.

My Spanish professors at Enforex not only allowed me the opportunity to hone my Spanish speaking and grammar skills but also spoke to me on a personal level about their community and culture with an equal interest in mine.

The only thing greater than receiving this scholarship was receiving one with a friend and fellow English major with whom I roomed in Barcelona and shared the Study Abroad experience, Anna Cogdill.

"Receiving the Chafin-Smith Scholarship not only relieved financial pressure but allowed me the chance to visit numerous museums in Spain," Cogdill said. "My favorite moments were by far the times I looked at original pieces of art that I have studied in books for years. The entire experience has shaped me in more ways than I can grasp just yet. It has been fulfilling, and both my daughters are hearing the praises of studying abroad and all its benefits."

I will be forever grateful to the Chafin-Smith Scholarship for allowing me the chance to experience places like Park Güell, designed by Antoni Gaudí, or the Roman ruins of Barcelona. For me this has certainly been a once in a lifetime voyage.

Manuel Ruiz

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

President Max Burns presents Manuel Ruiz with his diploma.

JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE HIS BIRTHDAY recent Gordon State College graduate Manuel Ruiz learned he had been awarded a $90,000 scholarship to continue his education.

"It was the best birthday present ever," Ruiz said.

Ruiz was one of 73 students from across the nation to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the nation's best college students who seek to complete their bachelor's degrees at selective four-year colleges and universities.

Ruiz is the first student from Gordon to be awarded the scholarship in 10 years of participation.

Not sure how he would pay for his education, but certain he wanted to attend a top school to earn a degree in computer science, Ruiz applied for the scholarship with the assistance of Cris Fermin-Ennis, professor of chemistry and coordinator of the application process at Gordon.

"I can't really put into words how I felt when I learned I had been awarded the scholarship," he said. "I felt like I could fly, like a huge burden had been lifted from my shoulders."

Ruiz discovered computers when he was in the first grade and his father brought one home. "I fell in love with that computer and decided right then that I wanted to play a part in the further development of computers," he said.

He says his parents, who moved to the area from Mexico when Manuel was 4, have always been very supportive of his desire to learn and his chosen career path. He says they are equally supportive of his younger brother and sister.

"My father works in landscaping and I have spent some time with him on the job," Ruiz explained. "I respect what he does, but it is not for me. He understands this and told me that the best thing I could do is get a good education. I am the first person in my family to attend college."

Ruiz graduated in May with top honors and will attend Southern Polytechnic University. He wants to become a software engineer and eventually develop his own business.

"I CAN'T REALLY PUT INTO WORDS HOW I FELT WHEN I LEARNED I HAD BEEN AWARDED THE SCHOLARSHIP. I FELT LIKE I COULD FLY, LIKE A HUGE BURDEN HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS."

MANUEL RUIZ

Graduation

United States Senator Saxby Chambliss addressed the spring 2013 class of Gordon State College graduates advising them to "embrace their humility."

"Why? Because you're going to need it," he said. "Because somewhere along the line you are going to fail and you're going to fail spectacularly."

Chambliss noted three successful "failures."

"Oprah Winfrey was fired as a reporter early in her career for being 'unfit for TV.' Despite finishing third in her law school class, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor couldn't even land an interview with nearly 40 law firms, and was offered a job as a secretary. And Walt Disney was fired from a newspaper job because he 'lacked imagination and had no good ideas.'

"Every successful person has stumbled somewhere along the way. And most successful people have understood that only by embracing humility will they figure out a path to improvement."

At 600 graduates, this was the largest graduating class in the school's history. This was also the first year that students were awarded four-year degrees in English and history. Gordon State offers eight four-year degrees and 40 other programs of study that can lead to an associate degree.

AND **WALT DISNEY** WAS FIRED FROM A NEWSPAPER JOB BECAUSE HE **'LACKED IMAGINATION** AND HAD NO GOOD IDEAS.'

Immediately after the main ceremony, graduates who earned an Associate of Science in Nursing participated in a pinning ceremony. Nursing faculty member Mary Williams was selected by the class to give a special address.

Williams spoke on the theme of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

"Yesterday I watched a nurse to learn, today I practiced what I watched, and tomorrow I will teach what I have learned to give back and help other aspiring nurses grow,'" she told the nurse-candidates.

"It is my hope that you each find the fulfillment that I and my colleagues have found in this rewarding career. Please stay grounded and focused as you begin your new career."

At the same time across campus, graduates who earned a four-year degree in early childhood education participated in a "Bell and Book" ceremony.

During the ceremony the freshly minted teachers were given a bell and book which, since the 19th Century, has been a tradition to help new teachers prepare for their career in the classroom.

Gordon State College President Max Burns addressed the group, their family and friends.

"As teachers, you have been given an enormous responsibility to make a difference in someone's life," he said.

ECE graduate Dara Story said, "I am proud of the person I've become and grateful for the professors who helped me get here."

1991 Georgia Junior College State Champion Basketball Team Honored

IN 1991, WHEN THE HIGHLANDERS WERE KNOWN AS THE GENERALS, GORDON'S BASKETBALL TEAM WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. ON FEB. 2, 2013, THE TEAM WAS HONORED AT THE GORDON STATE-MACON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME.

From left to right: Richard Dodson, #21; Tyrone Prather, #11; Len West, head coach; Jerry Jones #23 with son Kobe, 9; Aaron Hunter; and Todd Davis, Gordon State College's athletic director.

Class Notes

William "Bill" Boggs '44 was featured on the website witnesstowar.org. This organization is responsible for documenting the memories of veterans for their historical value and to make them accessible to the public. After his career in the Army ended, Boggs moved back to Barnesville and went back to work at Carter's where he stayed until the day the mill closed in 1999. Boggs and his wife have two children who gave them numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Julian Williams '56 wrote and published *The Confederacy and Old Jacksonville, GA*.

Alan Giles '60 and his wife, Angela, recently took a cruise down the Danube River.

Thomas Petty '66 lives in Florida with his wife, Sandra. He retired from the post office after 35 years.

Mike Sweat '68, now known as George Scott, competed in the hammer, shot put, and discus at the Ga. Senior Olympics in Warner Robins, Ga. Sweat won the gold medal in his age group in each event.

Jeff Fox '69 is president and owner of Fox Hollow Heaven Timber Farm in Georgiana, Ala., and semi-retired. He served in the Army in Okinawa in 1970 and 1971.

Vickey Vaughan '77 has been named nurse of the year in Women's Health by the Georgia Chapter of the March of Dimes. Vaughan is a labor delivery nurse at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon and teaches at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. She has practiced nursing in Georgia for 35 years.

Tommy Hailey '85 retired after nearly 24 years on the Newton County Recreation Commission. Under Hailey's leadership, NCRC has won 50 awards since 1997 for facilities, staff, volunteers, and Hailey himself. He has plans to work part time, continue to volunteer in the community and play more golf.

Gregory Harold Thompson '88 transferred to Georgia College and State University, where he completed his B.S. in psychology. A year later he completed a B.S. in health and physical education. Among other subjects, he taught special education students English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) at the Crossroads Alternative School. During his 10-year tenure in the Morgan County School System, Thompson coached tennis, baseball, girls' basketball, track and cross country. He and his wife Allison married in 1997.

Stephanie Robbins Stovall '89 graduated from Georgia State University with a B.S. in physical therapy degree in 1991, later finishing her doctorate at Boston University. She lives in Homerville with her family and three children.

Gordon Alumnus Wins
Rotary Award

John Webster '66 was honored with the John A. Corry Leadership Award in June 2013. Dr. John A. Corry was the founding president of the Barnesville Rotary in 1939, and the award bearing his name is given annually to a Barnesville Rotarian for providing excellence in leadership to the club and community. In 2012, Webster, a member of the club's board of directors, won the Service Above Self award for his work in bringing four blood drives to Lamar County.

From Secretary to Assistant Principal

Angela Campbell Gordon of Monticello, Ga., graduated from Jasper County High School (JCHS) in 1979 and then went to work for Jasper County Middle School (JCMS) as a special education aide in 1981. After she earned her associate degree in education from Gordon in 2000, she advanced in her career to the position of alternative school paraprofessional for the county's middle and high schools.

In 2002 she earned her bachelor's degree in middle grade education from Mercer University, again advancing her career and becoming a fourth grade English language arts and reading teacher at Washington Park Elementary School and the teacher of the gifted at WPES and JCMS.

She earned a master's in the foundations of education from Troy University in 2004, an education specialist degree in technology management administration from Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in 2006 and a doctor of education degree in education leadership from NSU in 2009.

She steadily rose in her profession from teacher to assistant principal to Title I coordinator. She retired from the Jasper County School System in 2012 but continues to work for the system as a consultant and teaches early childhood courses at Southern Crescent Technical College on the Griffin campus.

Angela Gordon with Jasper County High School junior Brandi McMichael. Brandi was in Gordon's fourth grade class.

Partners in Marriage and Business

With his associate degree in business from Gordon in 1986, Derek Mills started a full-time job with Hensley Office Equipment in Griffin, Ga.

"That was 27 years ago," he said. "I would eventually come to work for some of the largest distributors in the nation."

Sherrie graduated in 1990 with an associate degree, going on to complete her bachelor's degree from Mercer University and then a master's degree in education (summa cum laude) from Brenau University.

The two of them met in the late 1980s at Hensley, where they both worked. They married in 1990.

Derek's business career began a dual career, one in business machines and one in real estate in the late 1990s. In 1998 and 1999 he was a recognized by the Griffin Board of Realtors as a Million Dollar Club producer.

While still at Gordon, he and others reactivated the College's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, the Future Business Leaders of America club.

"As a club, we sponsored our first John B. Gordon Days in 1986 with events outside of the student center," he said. "We had a great time."

After graduating with her master's, Sherrie taught early childhood education in the Griffin-Spalding County School System for eight years. During her tenure with the school system, she was honored as teacher of the year at Jordan Hill Elementary School.

In September 1999, they started Tri-Copy Office Equipment, Inc., located in Peachtree City. They are authorized dealers of Konica Minolta business machines.

Brenda Brunston '93 has gone from a career in theater, to a career in the Army, to a career in a convent, and back again in theater. She is now on the board of the Dosta Playhouse in Valdosta, Ga. She has a B.A. in theater arts from Valdosta State University and a M.A. in theater arts from the University of Houston.

Brian Smith '97 was hired in January 2012 as the sales manager at ProDrivers in Norcross, Ga.

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

Lewistine "Tina" Andrews '03 was recently named Nurse of the Year at Roosevelt Warm Springs. Since 2009, she has served as first-shift charge nurse in the Rehabilitation Hospital. Andrews is a lifelong resident of Upson County.

Yarden Lewis Hixson '08 earned a B.A. in communication from Georgia State University after completing her associate degree in psychology at Gordon. She is campus director for Brenau University, North Atlanta Campus, and is pursuing her master's degree in occupational therapy. She is a member of the Peachtree Corners Rotary Club and is married to Andrew Hixson.

Benjamin Latham '08 enlisted in the Navy as an aviation warfare systems operator and has completed his certification as a Naval Air Crewman and Rescue Swimmer. He has completed two deployments on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. He married Courtney Elizabeth Rollings in June and now resides in Fleming Island, Fla.

Israel Baryeshua '09 attended and graduated from University of Georgia in May of 2011 with a B.A. in forest resources. He is currently an arborist at Trees Atlanta.

Emily Steele Stanfield '09 is employed by LifeLink of Georgia as a transplant coordinator. Her husband Derriel J. Stanfield of Jackson, Ga., is serving in the Army and is attending Middle Georgia State College to complete his certification as a civilian helicopter pilot.

Tyler Brown '10 was hired at Windsor Academy in Macon, Ga., as its head coach for baseball and softball.

Kahla Franklin '10 graduated from Georgia State University in May 2013 with a bachelor's in political science with a minor in journalism.

Jennifer Harbin '10 graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia at Griffin with a bachelor's degree in business. Harbin is now director of her family's business in McDonough, Ga., Harbin's Mechanical Services.

Kyle Newton '10 was included in the University of West Georgia's 30 Under 30 list for 2013. Newton, who is deputy director of government affairs for the Georgia Department of Education, transferred from Gordon State College to UWG in 2010.

Camilo Caballero '11 is in his second semester at Georgia Tech. He has interned with the U.S. Embassy in Spain and Peru.

Jennifer Risinger '11 graduated with a B.S. in early childhood education, and later published a book as part of her children's literature course titled *Ralfie*.

Amy Betsill '12 received a New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power. Betsill, a fifth grade science teacher at Leroy Massey Elementary School in Summerville, Ga., was among 44 of Georgia's new teachers to receive the Georgia Power grant. The grant can be used to purchase items such as books, educational materials, computers and other supplies.

Pam Fuentes '12 was selected as the Upson County Employee of the Month for January 2013. She is the office administrator for the Upson County Board of Commissioners.

April Gladish '12 after graduation went to work for Henry County Board of Education as a substitute teacher.

Taylor Harrell McKinley '12 will be majoring in commercial music with an emphasis on classical and commercial guitar at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. A Gordon cum laude honor graduate, he was awarded the Belmont Aid Scholarship for fall 2012 and the Ida Koran Scholarship for fall 2012.

Jennifer Holcomb Rosenbaum '12 and **Joseph Rosenbaum** '12 attended Gordon together from 2009-2012, where they both received associate degrees. They married in 2011 and now reside in McDonough, Ga. where they are both very active in the local community.

Aaron Mizell, '12 and '13, played baseball for Gordon State College and earned All-Conference for his performance on the field and Academic All-American for his performance in the classroom. Academic All-American is awarded to student athletes who complete their fourth full-time semester with a 3.6 grade point average or higher.

William Walker, '12 and '13, graduated in '12 with an associate in chemistry and an associates in biology in '13. As a baseball player, he was honored as an Academic All-American in '13 for his academic success in the class room. Academic All-American is awarded to student athletes who complete their fourth full-time semester with a 3.6 grade point average or higher. He is currently enrolled at Georgia State University, majoring in neuroscience with a medical concentration. His father, Harry Walker, also attended Gordon College and graduated in the spring of 1976 with an associate degree in engineering technology.

Stephanie Lauren Hogg '13 is a secondary education/English major who has written and published two novels: *The Unkindly Gentleman* and *Ace of Spaces*.

Leigh Kidd '13 graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in education. She completed her student teaching hours just two days before she gave birth to her second child.

Dara Story '13 is Gordon's first student to earn a B.A. in English with secondary education certification. She is now working at Spalding High School.

Jocelyn Tobias '13 graduated from Gordon with a B.S. in education and has been admitted into Mercer University's law school.

Joining the 350

Donna Abbott has fond memories of her brother Carlton Hood.

"He loved horses. He could handle any horse," she said. "He was an outdoorsman who would sometimes bring wild animals out of the woods, take them to my grandmother's farm out in the Redbone area and tame them."

She said she remembered he once had an owl and a fox.

At 18, he joined the Marines and was sent to Vietnam. One Christmas when he was there, he sent his parents some money so they could buy his present for his sister, a cedar chest, which she still has.

"I don't doubt that he would have had a horse farm, had he come back," she said. He was killed in action at age 19.

Abbott said she had been thinking about becoming one of the 350 to give $1,000 to Gordon's Military Memorial for a while, and when she and her husband Frank came to Alumni Weekend in April 2013, they knew it was time to give.

As a former Gordon student, Carlton's name, along with other former students, faculty and staff of the College who were killed while in the service, will be inscribed on the Memorial's Wall of Honor.

Candi Babcock of Gordon State College's Advancement Office attaches the "I'm one of the 350" ribbons to Donna Abbot's name tag while Gordon's alumni coordinator Natalie Rischbieter looks on.

Those who contribute $1,000 will have their name or their honoree's name inscribed on a plaque that recognizes those who supported the Memorial's construction. So Donna and Frank's name will appear on the plaque, and her brother's name will appear on the Wall of Honor.

For more information on how you can give, please visit our 350 website at www.gordonstate.edu/militarymemorial or call Rhonda Toon at 678-359-5124.

Donor Roll

The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. In preparing this document every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If a mistake was made in the way a donor is identified or if a donor's name was omitted from a gift list, we sincerely apologize. Please report any corrections to the Office of Advancement at 678-359-5124 or rhondat@gordonstate.edu. THANK YOU.

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Donor Roll

Saving Gordon's Past

Gordon State College traces its origin back to 1852 when Charles E. Lambdin started Gordon Institute.

Gordon Institute catalogs are very much like today's Gordon State College catalog. They contain information about course offerings, degrees, facilities, faculty, administration and policies.

For instance, Gordon Institute then, as now, had a no smoking policy: "Prospective students who are habitual cigarette smokers are put on notice that they are not wanted in Gordon Institute if they come with any idea of continuing this harmful practice."

This quote came from the 1916 catalog, but this is not the oldest in Gordon's archives. That honor goes to the 1887 catalog, donated by Mrs. J.C. Collier, née Jesse Stephens.

And herein lies a mystery.

In spring 2013, Linda Dorsey Anderson, Gordon College 1972, donated several large stacks of Gordon annuals, catalogs, photographs, diplomas and other printed material to the College. Among the material was a 1909 Gordon Institute catalog, and on its cover was a label bearing the name of Mrs. J.C. Collier.

"I don't know where my mother got these things," Anderson said. "This is pure speculation, but I think my father Buck and his brother-in-law, Jimmy Burousas, rescued them."

She explained that when Gordon made the transition from private military school to public college, buildings were torn down and printed materials thrown out. Her father and uncle went through the campus, finding things like old annuals and catalogs and taking them home.

But as Anderson repeated again, her explanation is purely speculation. No one knows how these things found their way into the home of Anderson's parents, Eloise Blalock Dorsey and Hugh Radford "Buck" Dorsey.

What we do know is that Buck died in 2004 and Eloise died a week before Christmas 2011 and that it was Eloise's wish that the Gordon of today be reunited with things from Gordon's yesterday.

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Are We in Your Estate Plans?

Include the Gordon State College Foundation in your estate planning.
Make Gordon part of your legacy. For details contact Skipper Burns at 678.358.5839 or skipper@gordonstate.edu.

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High School Class of 1964

Command Sgt. Maj. Steele's Photography

Many Gordon alumni remember Command Sgt. Maj. Steele and know he was a highly decorated World War II soldier. Some may even remember him having a camera and taking pictures.

Just recently his widow, Thelma Steele, contacted Alan Giles, Class of '60, and wrote him that she had been going through her late husband's things.

"I have found gems," she wrote, "lots of slides he made while at Gordon.

"They must have been made in the early '50s as one of the cars looks like a '50 Chevy," she said.

Some of the shots were developed while others had remained undeveloped for decades.

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Ray W. Brinkley
William H. Mitchell
Richard J. Baker
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High School Class of 1963
Richard & Fran Boggs
Frank H. Bone
David B. Haire III
Thomas C. Bolton
Victoria Graves

Class of ’63

GOLDEN REUNION

Front row, left to right: Victoria Graves, Tom Dell, Bob Hanner, Juanita Nicholson and Janice Horton.

Second row: Dan Smoak, Billie Ann Sammons Barefield and Betty Gayle Wimpy.

Third row: Joanne Poore McCathern, Mike Williams, John Dibble and Carmack Garvin.

Fourth row: Phillip Maxwell and John Luke.

Fifth row: Bonnie Emerson Cook and Charlene Hiott.

Sixth row: Margaret Voelker Pritchett, Glenn Rauschenberg, Edwin Foshee and Chuck Antonio.

Seventh row: Sandra Shannon Sims, Jerry Beavers and Margaret Stallings Mosely.

Eighth row: Larry Waller, Bob Baldwin and Bob Chastain.

Back row: Betty Sue Laney, Paul Whitaker, Louise Marshall and Wanda Martin.

What’s New with You?

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

We would like to stay informed about what’s new in your personal and professional activities so we can share your news with other alumni and friends in our Class Notes section in next year’s magazine. Please send your items to Natalie Rischbieter, Alumni Relations Office, Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Ga., 30204, e-mail her at natalier@gordonstate.edu or call her at 678-359-5073. You may also fax information to 678-359-5738. We want to know your news!

The *President’s Report*

Is for All Gordon Alumni

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