

Gordon State College

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2015 | Volume 13, Number 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Jean Smith, Virologist
Military Memorial Dedication
Captain Dan Rainey Jr.
Major Patty Justice
Wendy Martin
Alumni Weekend 2015



Gordon By The Numbers 2014-2015

Resident Student Information (Fall 2014 data)

Resident Students 24%

Atlanta Metro 75 percent • Other Georgia Counties 23 percent • Out of State 2 percent



4,048

Total Student Population

3,068

Number of Commuting Students

980

Number of Resident Students

Number of Lightbulbs
Replaced (FY 2015)

1,830

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On the Cover:

Jean Smith took this photograph of a Great Purple Hairstreak at her home in Comer, Georgia. A virologist, she retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 13 years ago and now pursues her many interests including butterflies and photography.

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

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Amount of Chicken
Served in Highlander
Dining Hall 2014-2015

11,520
pounds

Amount of Water Used
(2014-2015)

12,216
gallons

Make Gordon part of your legacy.
Include the Gordon State College
Foundation in your estate planning.



CONTENTS

Number of Degrees

3 Associate Degrees

Associate of Arts
Associate of Science
Associate of Science in Nursing

11 Baccalaureate Degree Programs

BA in English
BA in History
BS in Biology
BS in Health Services &
Informatics Administration
BS in Human Services
BS in Middle Grades Education
BS in Early Childhood Education/
Special Education
BS in Mathematics
BS in Management &
Administration
BS in Nursing
(ASN to BSN)
BS in Nursing
(pre-licensure)

Total Number of Parking
Spaces on Campus

2,040

(including 66
handicap spaces)



President's Letter	3
Jean Smith: A Good Career	4
Gordon Military Memorial	10
Daniel Rainey: From Cadet to Captain	12
Patty Justice: Nurse in the Sandbox	18
Wendy Martin: It Starts With a Dream	22
Ashley Young: The Art of Being Young	24
André Peterkin: In Class, on the Court	26
Campus News.....	30
Alumni News.....	39
Class Notes.....	47
Donors.....	49

DEDICATION

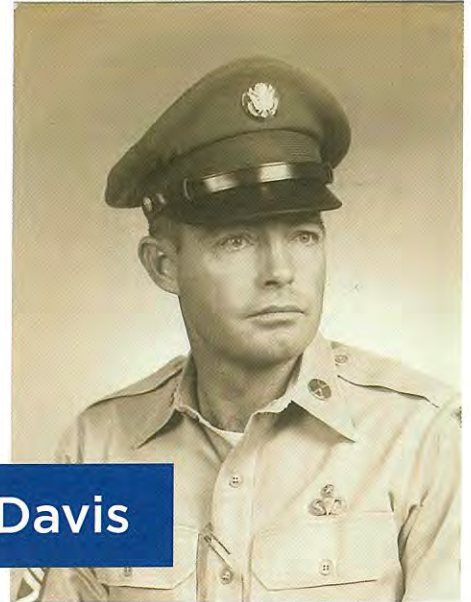
Five years ago when this magazine ran a story about Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Davis, his daughter Kay said that one of her father's favorite expressions was "What, me worry?" made famous by *Mad* magazine's Alfred E. Neuman.

Only after he returned from a 1967 tour of duty in the Vietnam War, did he reveal to his family that he had been wounded in action after a soldier near him set off an enemy booby trap. It's reasonable to think Davis didn't tell

donors, his name is etched into a stone plaque at the entrance to the Memorial.

Command Sgt. Maj. Davis leaves behind many legacies, one of which is the reminder that service members like him put themselves in harm's way, again and again, for the rest of us.

You can find Command Sergeant Major Davis's President's Report story at: www.gordonstate.edu/pdf/PR2010.pdf



Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Davis

his family this because he didn't want them to worry, and maybe quoting Alfred E. Neuman helped him do this.

Richard Spayne Davis died October 1, 2013. He was not only a faculty member of Gordon Military College's military science department, but he was an alumnus, having earned his associate degree from Gordon.

As an instructor of military science at Gordon after his return from Vietnam, he taught Gordon high school cadets about military history and military culture. He also taught discipline and the consequences of poor discipline. Sometimes this meant walking demerits off in the bullring; other times he had cadets edge sidewalks with mess-kit knives.

His wife, Barbara, and daughter Kay, were present for the dedication of the Gordon State College Military Memorial on April 18. Davis was also there, although symbolically. As one of the



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Even in the tough times in higher education, Gordon State College is thriving! The number of our baccalaureate students has grown to almost 20 percent of the student population, and we are on target to increasing this percentage to 35 to 40 percent. Some of these students will be entering one of our three new bachelor's programs, the Bachelor of Science in Management and Administration, the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education or our pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing. These programs join the eight existing bachelors and three associate degree programs we offer at GSC.

This past academic year also saw the fulfillment of a dream held by many Gordon alumni – the completion of a military memorial for Gordon students, faculty and staff who gave their lives in service to our country. The dedication on April 18 was deeply moving and memorable.

The Student Activity and Recreation Center is another change to the Gordon landscape completed this past year. This 55,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is not just the new home of the Gordon State Highlanders basketball team, but a place for students to relax, exercise and study. It will also accommodate the growing size of our December graduation ceremony.

Renovation of our Hightower Library has begun and will be completed in the fall of 2016. During the renovation, our library staff will continue to serve Gordon's faculty and students. As part of the renovation, we have created a book repository in Guillebeau Hall as well as a Special Collections Suite to house the many wonderful historically significant artifacts from Gordon's past.

I'd like to report one more hallmark. Each spring our Gordon State College Foundation awards scholarships to students for the upcoming academic year. This spring we awarded more than a quarter of a million dollars to more than 125 deserving students! We couldn't have done this without the support of the Gordon State College Foundation, and the Foundation could not have done it without your donations. Thank you!

But the work of the Foundation is not over, and we need your continued support. So I am asking you to please take this opportunity to help keep Gordon growing and thriving by mailing a check or making an online donation to the Gordon State College Foundation today. You will find the College's mailing address and web link on the back cover of this magazine.

If you've given before, thank you. If this is your first opportunity to support your alma mater, today is the best day to start. Your financial help is indispensable to the continued progress of this great institution.



Max Burns
President
Gordon State College

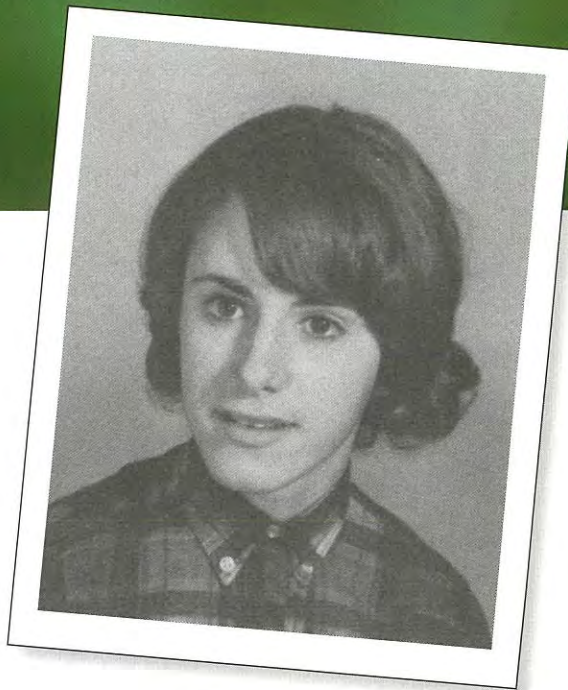


A Good Career

Virologist/Biologist Jean Smith

Blue dasher dragonflies are great photographic models and will hold a dragonfly handstand (called the obelisk posture) for quite a long time.

Some spider families and even some spider genera can be identified by the number of their eyes and the way their eyes are positioned on their head. Not actually easy to photograph, however. The **lynx spider** in this photo has eight eyes, but the row of eyes across the top of his head was missed in all my photos, even though he was a cooperative subject. (Photographs and captions courtesy of Jean Smith.)



by Peter Boltz



Very few people realize that Jean Sparkman Smith has helped protect them from rabies, a frightful disease made all the more frightful by stories of the affliction like Euripides' *The Madness of Heracles*. In the play, the Greek goddess Lyssa drives a man so mad that he kills his wife and children. Lyssa is the Greek word for the Roman word that gave English the word rabies.



Not given to pretense, Jean would likely play down her part in the battle against rabies. That she made significant contributions is still something she considers almost a matter of accident and good fortune — certainly not an act of genius.

Her first success occurred only four years after graduating from Auburn University when she published a scientific paper describing a new method to measure rabies antibodies. Almost 50 years later, the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test or RFFIT, is still in use in laboratories worldwide and, according to the Centers for Disease Control, is “the current gold standard serological assay recommended by both the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).”

Born in Detroit, Michigan, but raised in Redbone after her father died in 1951, Jean was known as one of the “Rusk girls” when she and her mother and sister returned to live in the Rusk family home. She took the bus into Barnesville to attend Gordon Grammar School at a time when Mrs. Estelle Wilson was principal. (“Oh she was fierce,” Jean said.) She also has her particular memories of Marion Bush, Donald Telford, and Reynolds Bush from her time at Gordon Military High School.

“Miss Marion loved the poetry of Robert Burns despite the intemperance that must have offended her good Baptist sensibilities. She would recite a Burns poem (in dialect and with enthusiasm), then end by telling us to love his poetry and forgive his debauchery. She was a formidable presence in the classroom and I think her

emphasis on grammar, sentence structure and the subtleties of word choice helped me with my scientific writing.”

Lt. Col. Donald Telford was Jean’s advanced mathematics teacher, a man who kept a bottle of Pepto-Bismol on his desktop, occasionally taking a swig straight from the bottle during class.

“When he realized that while the math he was to teach was advanced, our class was not, he set out to teach us four years of algebra and trigonometry in just a few months. I suspect the effort took a toll on his digestive tract,” she said. “He wasn’t really patient — the Pepto-Bismol came out when we struggled to grasp a mathematical principle — but he was a really good teacher. I blessed his name with every math class I took at Auburn.”

Reynolds Bush taught her chemistry at Gordon and urged her to study chemistry at Auburn when Jean thought she might major in English. It was also a time when women were encouraged to become teachers rather than pursue a career in science. She still remembers what it was like to seek a science degree in the late ‘60s.

“There were very few women in my classes and no women’s room in the chemistry labs,” she said. “Our bathroom was downstairs in the administrative offices.”

She also remembers her first day of physical chemistry did not augur well for the semester. “I was booed when I entered the lecture hall,” she said. “When I looked up at the sound, I saw only one other woman among the 50 or so men in the room. This professor was known around campus for his ribald jokes, but he wouldn’t tell them if more than one woman enrolled in his class.”

Nonetheless, the story ended well. The other woman soon dropped the class and the jokes were indeed ribald — but mostly apropos to the lecture topic. “He was a good teacher, and kind. On the final exam, he wrote my semester grade across the top page as ‘B++,’ but then striking through that grade with a heavy pen, he wrote, ‘Oh hell, A- -.’”

She takes a humorous view, mixed with a bit of philosophy, of the preconceptions and prejudices a woman of her generation faced in the sciences. Early in her career, when she would present a conference paper, she found the audience as empty of women as her physical chemistry class. And often, when looking out over the sea of male faces looking expectantly in her direction, she thought of what Samuel Johnson said when told of a woman preacher: “Sir, a woman’s preaching is like a dog’s walking on his hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all.”

“Maybe I have something of the showboat in me,” Jean said, “but I wanted to do well — not as a female virologist, but as a virologist. I practiced speaking in public and even to the end of my career always wrote out every word of every presentation beforehand.”

And she had a clear advantage in attending male-dominated events. She could practice the delivery and content of her presentations out loud in the conference’s large, but mostly empty, women’s room, something that Ms. Marion would approve and disapprove of at the same time.

While still at Auburn, her dorm’s housemother asked her what she intended to do with herself after graduation. Jean didn’t know, but her housemother knew Jean to be a serious student — always studying when she wasn’t working — and someone she felt strongly about recommending to a friend at the CDC. After a successful interview, Jean was offered a job in the rabies lab.

“When I got there I realized I had been given CDC’s worst job. My task was to evaluate a new rabies vaccine using a method unchanged since the 1930s. Four days a week, a co-worker and I inoculated a mixture of live rabies virus and serum from vaccine studies into laboratory mice, often inoculating as many as 3,000 mice a week.

To make matters even worse, each test took two weeks to complete, so we were observing and keeping records on 6,000 mice at a time.” Jean did this work for two years, often complaining (and not always sotto voce) that there had to be a better way. When she left on maternity leave in 1971, the CDC hired someone else to do her job. When she returned, she was offered a new job

of fixing what she had been complaining about.

Jean took the job and admits she didn’t actually know how to make the test better. She did, however, know some very smart people who could help her. Her boss, George Baer, found an eight-chambered microscope slide invented by a Miles Laboratories scientist, and her CDC colleague Pam Yager was a genius at using the slides to grow rabies virus in cultured hamster kidney cells.

“We decided the test should not depend on complete neutralization of rabies virus like the old test in mice, which would take a week or more to measure, but rather we would just measure a serum’s ability to inhibit the growth of rabies virus, which could be detected after 24 hours.”

In 1973, Smith, Yager and Baer published their findings in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, announcing they had found a faster and easier way to measure rabies antibodies. The RFFIT was also much cheaper to perform, saving the CDC more than \$50,000 in the first year of its use — a lot of money in 1973!

In the first few years after the test’s introduction, Jean traveled a good bit demonstrating the RFFIT to American and European laboratories. She enjoyed the travel — even the late night trips from New York that deposited her in Paris, bleary-eyed and unkempt, to teach a mid-afternoon class.

One of her favorite trips was to a rabies vaccine company in Lyon, the culinary capital of France. At the end of a week’s stay, her colleagues took her to dinner at one of the city’s renowned restaurants. She remembers little of the night’s menu, but does remember the waiter wielding a small vacuum cleaner to clear the table of baguette crumbs between courses and the chef circling the room at the end of the evening to a round of applause from the diners — a common enough occurrence for her Lyonaise friends, but something she never saw back home at The Country Kitchen.

In addition to a fine dining experience, her early success with the RFFIT garnered Jean a grant from the CDC to attend graduate school at the University of California and later at Emory University. In 1984 she published her first paper in the research area that dominated the last 20 years of her work at the CDC. That work, now called molecular epidemiology, identified small differences in rabies virus samples collected from different animal hosts in different parts of the world and mapped the distribution of these rabies “variants” in nature.

The rabies lab at the CDC was the ideal location for this type of work as it had long been a consulting partner

Top: One of Jean's proudest career moments was to give The Pekka E. Halonen Honorary Lecture, *Bats and Rabies: Myths, Mysteries, and Misconceptions* on May 5, 1999.

Middle: The CDC's Incentives Awards Program announced its 1973 winner, Jean Smith, for her "major breakthrough in testing rabies."

Bottom: Jean Smith made front page news of the *Lawrenceville Home Weekly* on Feb. 21, 1973, for her development of the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test, a breakthrough in rabies research.

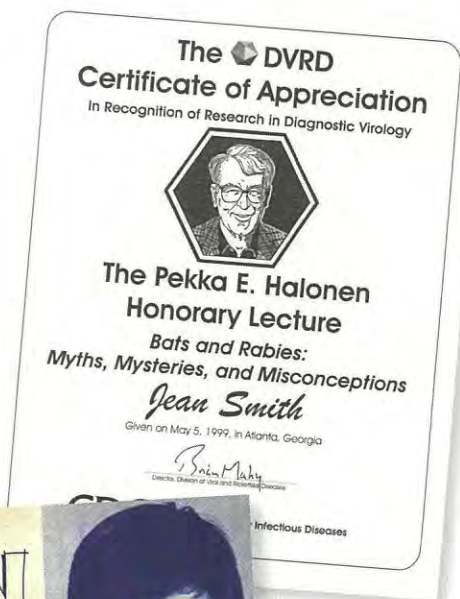
in diagnosing unusual or unexpected rabies cases from laboratories around the world. (One administrative official commented sourly to Jean that molecular epidemiology was a victory for those who had never cleaned out their freezers.)

The virus distribution maps that Jean and her colleagues produced are still included in the yearly national summary of rabies cases produced by the CDC, but more importantly the research helped to clarify some aspects of rabies that had long puzzled the public health community.

One of the first puzzles she examined concerned "cryptic" rabies cases. Almost every year in the United States, one of two cases of rabies would be identified in a person who had no history of exposure to a rabid animal. Jean and her colleagues discovered that rabid insectivorous bats were responsible for almost every one of these human deaths.

Further investigation revealed that in many of the cases, the victim had told family or friends about contact with a bat, but had not sought anti-rabies treatment because no bite wound was evident. This finding led to a new public health recommendation emphasizing extra precautions against rabies when a bat contact is known or even suspected, because a bite by an insectivorous bat's sharp teeth may not leave an obvious wound.

In another set of investigations, Jean and her colleagues provided evidence that although the incubation period for rabies is almost always one to three months (the time between virus entry into a wound and the time symptoms of rabies appear), on rare occasions years may pass before signs of disease appear.



New Test Saves Local CDC \$30,000



A BREAKTHROUGH in rabies research was recently discovered by Jean Smith, a technician at the Lawrenceville Center for Disease Control. She has developed a new test which requires one-twelfth the time of the traditional test for measuring protection against rabies, and the test can save CDC more than \$30,000 a year.

Jean Smith, a technician at the Lawrenceville Center for Disease Control, recently developed a new technique for measuring immunity to rabies which can save CDC alone more than \$30,000 annually. "This is especially important at this time since it looks like some of our budget may be cut," she said enthusiastically. "The test has not been completely proven yet, and some work has yet to be done on it before it is adopted, but we have great confidence in it, and its potential for use in rabies research. Mrs. Smith explained that the currently accepted test for measuring protection against rabies is cumbersome and expensive. The test entails using at least 10 mice (at \$4 each) for each serum, and takes 12 days to complete. The Lawrenceville CDC facility tests five to six thousand sera each year, and this involves over \$30,000 worth of mice. The test Mrs. Smith has developed takes only 24 hours to complete and can be done in a test tube using the cell culture from the kidney of a baby hamster. "The cells

grow rapidly," she explained. "The original work in obtaining the cell cultures was done in Scotland. We can keep using cells from the same line since they grow so rapidly." "And so, in addition to \$30,000 worth of mice a year, the new test will save an untold volume of lab work hours since it requires one-twelfth the time of the traditional test. Mrs. Smith's test is called the "Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test" (RFFIT). The test's most important application lies in determining whether a person exposed to rabies has received enough inoculations. Mrs. Smith said, by measuring the capacity of the person's serum to neutralize rabies infection. The new test will be especially significant for people who receive pre-exposure vaccination because they work around animals, Mrs. Smith pointed out. This included zoo keepers, veterinarians, game wardens, and laboratory biologists. "We assume that antibody levels mean protection against rabies. The higher the antibody level, the better, as far as we

can tell. "To determine the antibody level, we make a dilution of a person's sera by mixing it with saline. We see how far we can dilute the sera and still have it protect against infection. "We made one diagnosis using our test on the sera of a boy in Mexico who later died of rabies. He had not had any rabies vaccine. We checked his blood for antibodies to rabies, and did find antibodies at extra ordinary levels. "Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and central nervous system, and there has been only one human recovery from known rabies. Mrs. Smith said. This was a young boy, Matthew Winkler, who had been bitten by a rabid bat. "Many of the human exposure cases lately have been among people who were camping. There is quite an incidence of rabies in raccoons in Georgia," Mrs. Smith commented. Mrs. Smith's RFFIT technique has not been published yet, but there are plans to publish it in the Bulletin at the World Health Organization, an international pub-

lication. "It is especially helpful to those countries which may not be able to afford mice for research," she said. "The technique is being tried in Tullingen, Germany and at the Pasteur Institute in Paris; Outer Laboratories in California is experimenting with the test, and Mrs. Smith recently demonstrated the test to Dr. Fitzgerald with the Bureau of Biologics in Washington, D.C. She has also demonstrated the test to workers at CDC's main facility in Atlanta. "The technique can be easily learned by technicians with a background in rabies research and entails equipment already present in rabies research laboratories. Mrs. Smith has been involved with rabies research for only three and a half years. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Auburn University before coming to work at CDC and earned ten hours credit toward a master's degree at Georgia State before her daughter Jennifer, now 10 months old, was born. Her husband is an electrician with Cleveland Electric, and they live in Grayson. Continued on Page 3



While she was in Lima in 1999 at a rabies conference, Jean met a Peruvian hairless dog. Important in Incan and other Andean cultures, the breed was nearly wiped out during Spanish colonial times.

Rabies after a long incubation period was suspected in a few rare cases, but could not be confirmed as it was not possible to rule out a second more recent exposure to the virus as responsible for the disease.

Jean was able to examine virus “isolates” from three immigrants to the United States who had died of rabies up to six years after leaving their home country. Virus isolates from each patient matched a rabies variant common in the country in which the patient lived before immigrating and did not resemble any rabies variant found in the United States – clear evidence that their rabies was the result of a long-ago exposure to rabies.

Proof of long incubation periods bolstered a third investigation by Jean and her colleagues to reconstruct an evolutionary history (a “phylogenetic tree”) of rabies virus. After finding a 1935 dog rabies sample from Alabama showed surprising similarity to a virus isolated in the 1800s in Paris, they found similar viruses in dogs in the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America. Their study, and later more conclusive studies, strongly suggest that dog rabies in the Americas was mostly likely introduced with English, French and Spanish colonists in the 1700s and 1800s.

In fact, historical documents record the first U.S. rabies outbreak as beginning in Boston in 1768 then spreading all along the eastern seaboard. Argentina recorded a similar outbreak that began with sporting dogs owned by British naval officers. Although essentially eliminated from the United States in the 1950s, this virus, now called “cosmopolitan rabies” is still circulating in areas of Central and South America and in some parts of Africa with strong ties to Europe in the 1800s.

Then, one day, after writing more than a hundred research papers, review papers, book chapters, conference presentations and at the end, web pages, she realized

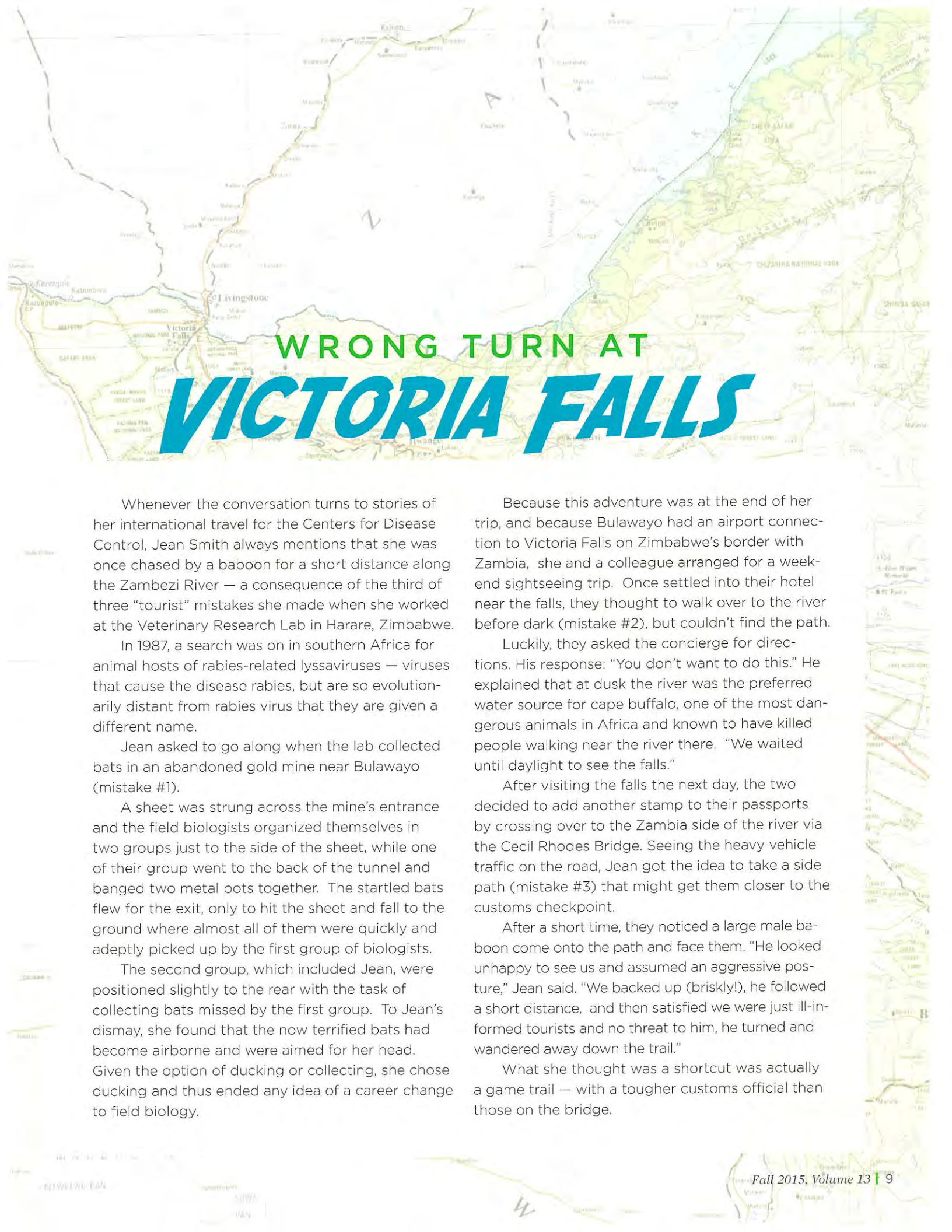
that her work had stopped being hands on and the long hours spent in front of a computer screen and her growing supervisory duties had distanced her from the laboratory work she loved. In addition to these changes, her husband, a wildlife biologist, had retired and she wanted to spend more time with her family, and with herself.

“Without time,” she said, “you miss things, like being able to walk around with a camera taking photographs of butterflies.” Or going to the Annual Snake Day at Sandy Creek Park with her grandsons, 8 and 5. Or sharing with them a perfectly intact molted snake skin she found outside her back door.

So after 34 years as a rabies researcher, she retired, and in 2003 she and her husband moved into the home they had built in the countryside outside of Comer, Georgia.

Already a lover of butterflies (she has photographed and identified 52 species of butterflies in her garden), she noticed a specimen she had not seen on her property before. Her camera always nearby, she snapped off several frames, and went to work identifying it. What she found only increased her curiosity because it was a female great purple hairstreak, a butterfly with the “absolute requirement” for mistletoe to feed its caterpillars. This piqued her curiosity even more since she could not remember seeing mistletoe anywhere in her “Comer habitat.” So she did a little fieldwork and, much to her satisfaction, found one clump high up in a large oak tree growing along the driveway.

When she calls her home her Comer habitat, it’s a reminder that she really hasn’t retired from the field of biology. She just does it on her own schedule and according to her own interests. In a home full of huge windows that leave the outside open to the inside and a garden that keeps her busy outside, she remains the curious biologist.



WRONG TURN AT *VICTORIA FALLS*

Whenever the conversation turns to stories of her international travel for the Centers for Disease Control, Jean Smith always mentions that she was once chased by a baboon for a short distance along the Zambezi River — a consequence of the third of three “tourist” mistakes she made when she worked at the Veterinary Research Lab in Harare, Zimbabwe.

In 1987, a search was on in southern Africa for animal hosts of rabies-related lyssaviruses — viruses that cause the disease rabies, but are so evolutionarily distant from rabies virus that they are given a different name.

Jean asked to go along when the lab collected bats in an abandoned gold mine near Bulawayo (mistake #1).

A sheet was strung across the mine’s entrance and the field biologists organized themselves in two groups just to the side of the sheet, while one of their group went to the back of the tunnel and banged two metal pots together. The startled bats flew for the exit, only to hit the sheet and fall to the ground where almost all of them were quickly and adeptly picked up by the first group of biologists.

The second group, which included Jean, were positioned slightly to the rear with the task of collecting bats missed by the first group. To Jean’s dismay, she found that the now terrified bats had become airborne and were aimed for her head. Given the option of ducking or collecting, she chose ducking and thus ended any idea of a career change to field biology.

Because this adventure was at the end of her trip, and because Bulawayo had an airport connection to Victoria Falls on Zimbabwe’s border with Zambia, she and a colleague arranged for a week-end sightseeing trip. Once settled into their hotel near the falls, they thought to walk over to the river before dark (mistake #2), but couldn’t find the path.

Luckily, they asked the concierge for directions. His response: “You don’t want to do this.” He explained that at dusk the river was the preferred water source for cape buffalo, one of the most dangerous animals in Africa and known to have killed people walking near the river there. “We waited until daylight to see the falls.”

After visiting the falls the next day, the two decided to add another stamp to their passports by crossing over to the Zambia side of the river via the Cecil Rhodes Bridge. Seeing the heavy vehicle traffic on the road, Jean got the idea to take a side path (mistake #3) that might get them closer to the customs checkpoint.

After a short time, they noticed a large male baboon come onto the path and face them. “He looked unhappy to see us and assumed an aggressive posture,” Jean said. “We backed up (briskly!), he followed a short distance, and then satisfied we were just ill-informed tourists and no threat to him, he turned and wandered away down the trail.”

What she thought was a shortcut was actually a game trail — with a tougher customs official than those on the bridge.

THEY ANSWERED THE WAR TOCSIN

by Peter Boltz

Valor is stability, not of arms and of legs, but of courage and the soul; it does not lie in the valor of our horse, nor of our arms, but in ourselves.

— Michel de Montaigne

No one could say for certain in 2007 if a military memorial would be built on the Gordon State College campus. It was just a dream that might come true with enough support and planning.

The dream became manifest on April 18, 2015, when members of the Gordon community including veterans and service members gathered at the newly constructed memorial to dedicate it to the students and faculty who died in the service of their country. The weather, which was initially overcast and threatened rain, ended up being sunny and warm.

Gordon State President Max Burns opened the dedication reminding everyone that they were present to acknowledge those who lost their lives in the service of their nation and their fellow Americans.

Following his introduction, Lt. Mike Bailey, Deputy Maria Gebelein, Deputy Anthony Thompson and Sgt. Cynthia Patten of the Lamar County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard raised the flag over the memorial for the first time. President Max Burns had arranged for this flag to be raised once before over the U.S. Capitol.

The day before the dedication, these four officers practiced for 45 minutes ... in the rain. Their presentation the next day was as sharp and crisp as their uniforms. Until the Pledge of Allegiance, everything was silent and still except for Lt. Bailey's commands and the honor guard's precise movements.

Oliver Halle, a retired FBI special agent and U.S. Navy and Vietnam veteran, recounted how he and Gordon State Vice President of Advancement Rhonda Toon met for lunch at Pero's in Atlanta 10 years ago. What he thought would be no more than an hour-long



visit turned into three hours. He said that when they started talking about how it was “a shame there was no marker, no monument, no nothing to commemorate” those who served and died in the service of their country, an idea was born.

“Rick Hahn and Danks Seel joined us,” he said, and soon more, many more joined.

Then came the “real donkey work of raising money,” which was made all the more difficult with the great recession of 2008.

Retired Army airborne infantryman and Vietnam veteran Rick Hahn came to the podium next to recognize the families of the fallen and recite the names engraved on the memorial’s wall. In a solemn and even voice, he read out all 62 names on the wall from First Lieutenant Tom Reed Beasley killed in World War I to Sergeant First Class Robert Lee Hollar Jr. killed in Iraq.

Dan Rainey Jr., a retired Navy captain, spoke next about the military heritage of Gordon from its beginning to today.

“In 1892, the nation recognized the need for the training of young officers other than at a service academy and assigned 75 officers to cover the whole United States as military advisers,” he said. That Gordon got one of these, Lt. Alex R. Piper, is an indication of Gordon’s place in the military history of the United States.

He said the teachers at Gordon were “our compass, they were our gyro. They kept us on course, men like Congleton, Branch and Wynn.” (Maj. Roy Congleton, Capt. William Branch and Maj. Gerard Wynn were Gordon military science faculty killed in the Vietnam War.)

“I request that all of you, when you see this memorial, look at a name and take it home with you,” he said. “Every one of these people had aspirations they didn’t get to live because they gave them up for us.”

Maj. Patricia Justice, an Army nurse, spoke next about the dedication, strength and sacrifice of service members, especially those she served with at Forward Operating Base Shank in Afghanistan. She told the story of how the base was leveled by a 3,000 pound bomb followed by an attack by Taliban insurgents to overrun the base. As soon as it was repulsed and further danger passed, soldiers started putting the base back into working order.



The Lamar County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard practices the day before the dedication.

She was injured in the blast and evacuated, but three days later, she lied her way out of the hospital so she could return to her unit. Wounded in action, she was awarded the Purple Heart.

Danks Seel, a retired Army officer and Vietnam veteran, gave the prayer.

“This memorial will ever mark the sacrifice of serving the country with honor and bravery,” he said. “We thank You and praise You Heavenly Father for the ways in which they inspired our lives in so many ways. We miss them greatly, may they never be forgotten.”

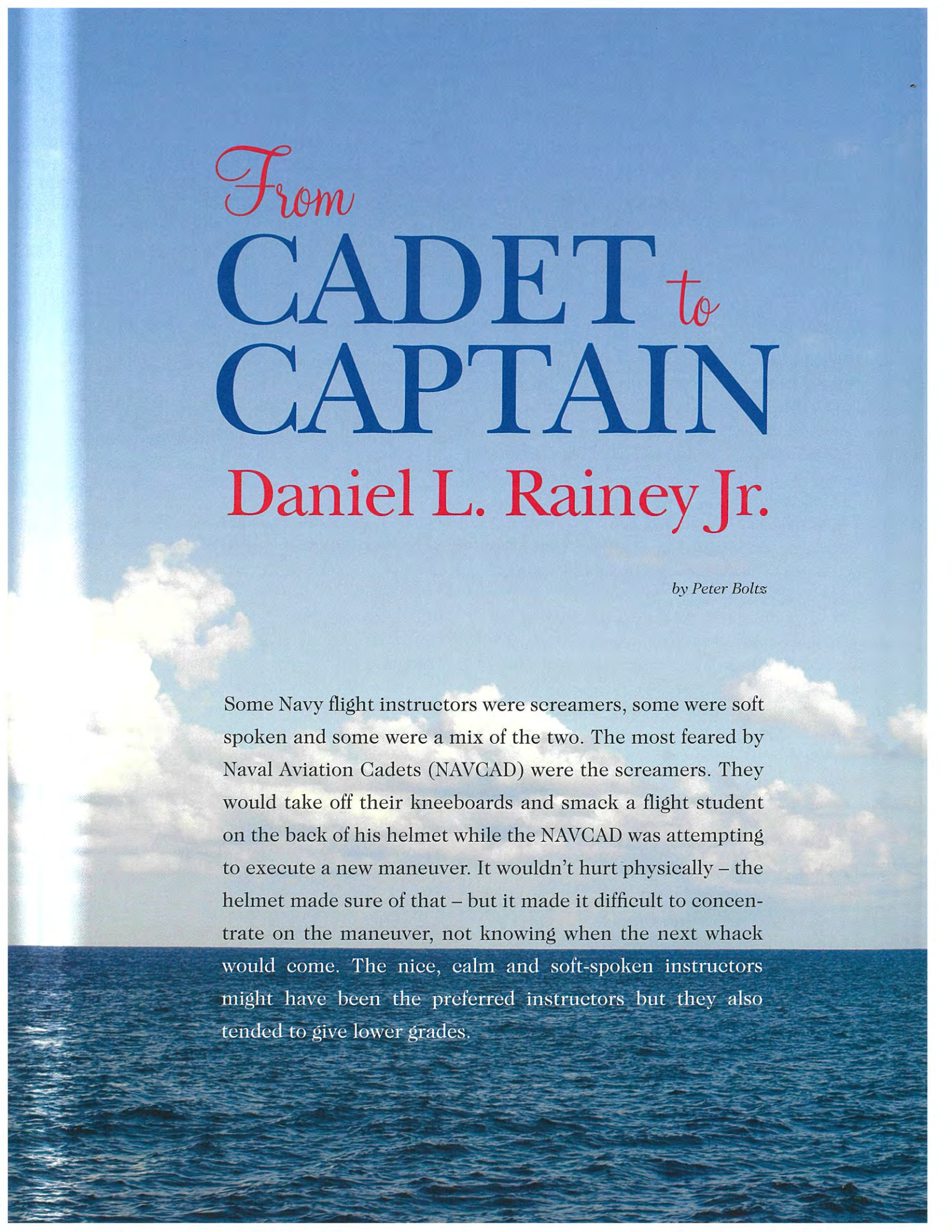
He ended his prayer, “May God bless the United States of America.”

Gordon State student and musician Andrew Price brought the ceremony to an end and its audience to tears when he played the bugle call taps.

Watch the Dedication on YouTube

If you were unable to attend the dedication on April 18, you can watch the full, unedited ceremony at the following web address:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfvkAzqzml8

A shorter, edited video of the ceremony can be found at the following web address:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDZUT_akoic



From CADET *to* CAPTAIN

Daniel L. Rainey Jr.

by Peter Bolts

Some Navy flight instructors were screamers, some were soft spoken and some were a mix of the two. The most feared by Naval Aviation Cadets (NAVCAD) were the screamers. They would take off their kneeboards and smack a flight student on the back of his helmet while the NAVCAD was attempting to execute a new maneuver. It wouldn't hurt physically – the helmet made sure of that – but it made it difficult to concentrate on the maneuver, not knowing when the next whack would come. The nice, calm and soft-spoken instructors might have been the preferred instructors but they also tended to give lower grades.



Capt. Rainey was commander of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk from April 1989 to December 1991.

Daniel Lawrence Rainey Jr. was such a cadet, or NAVCAD. When he arrived at Naval Air Station Pensacola in 1965 for training, his encounter with a Marine drill instructor had him wondering if his desire to be a Navy pilot was not well thought out.

"He had me up against a wall," is all Rainey said about it. But anyone who has seen *An Officer and a Gentleman* or watched YouTube clips of drill instructors can guess how he might be wondering what he had gotten himself into. Today, anyone familiar with the man knows he kept to his decision, eventually becoming the captain of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) after a steady 27-year climb up the ranks. Not bad for a kid who had never been outside the SEC but ended up visiting 21 foreign countries.

Always a Georgian, Rainey entered Gordon Military High School for his senior year in 1960 in an unusual way. Moving several times during his youth, Rainey's father was a railroad dispatcher who also served as a game warden and assistant director of Georgia's Game and Fish Commission; his mother, Bobbie S. Rainey, was a math teacher. They moved from Toccoa where Rainey was born to Ellaville and then to his mother's family farm

in Ball Ground. When Rainey was 10, his father died and his mother decided to move the family to Canton, where she taught at Cherokee High School until 1960. His sister Sue, a year younger, would graduate from Gordon Military High School in 1962 and later teach at Gordon Grammar School. His older sister Nancy was married by this time.

By coincidence, Bobbie's cousin, Emmie Lee, was married to Col. Woodrow Light, dean of students at Gordon Military College. Emmie Lee let Rainey's mother know of an opening for a high school math teacher. In this way, mother and son entered Gordon at the same time. Miss Bobbie, as many called her, would later teach Calculus II, her favorite subject.

"I never had her as a teacher," Rainey said, "but she did tutor me."

After he graduated from high school, he entered Southern Technical Institute (which became Southern Polytechnic State University) and earned an associate degree in industrial engineering in 1965.

At this time in American history, young men were required by law to register with their local draft boards and to report for service when notified. Rainey had something called a 2S deferment that delayed college students from being drafted until they either graduated or discontinued their studies.

"After I graduated in the spring of 1965," Rainey said, "I was scheduled to start school at Georgia Southern in the fall of 1965 and room with Billy Mitchell, another former Gordon cadet. Although I had a 2S deferment, it would have expired before the end of the fall term, and Clarice Walker, who was on the draft board, told my mother I would be drafted before Christmas."

Already having a military background because of his ROTC training at Gordon and having passed the test for Navy flight school, Rainey went to Pensacola to become a Navy pilot rather than be drafted into the Army.

His parents had no particular interest in flying, and Rainey had never been on an airplane until he flew to



The USS Kitty Hawk being refueled by the USS Platte. On the right is the destroyer USS Elmer Montgomery.

Pensacola in 1965, so where did this dream of flying come from?

“There was a farmer named Mr. Wilbanks who lived five miles from where we lived in Ball Ground,” Rainey said, “and he liked to buy surplus World War II material. Out in one of his fields he had a glider that I would pretend to fly.”

This was likely a Waco CG-4A, which had a cockpit and controls similar to an airplane’s. He was just 7 when he climbed into the pilot’s seat and played at flying. Rainey doesn’t claim to have had an inspirational life-changing moment in that glider, but something must have so captured the imagination of the young boy that it stayed with him as a young man. He also admired his Sunday school teacher, Roy Reynolds Jr. of Canton, who was a Navy pilot. When it was time for him to fly to Pensacola, he didn’t go directly from the nearest airport in Macon. Instead he flew from Macon to Atlanta, and then from Atlanta to Pensacola, just so he could experience more of flight.

Rainey spent 14 weeks in Aviation Officers Candidate School (AOCS) where he quickly understood the advantages his military training at Gordon gave him.

“I already knew how to drill and how to break down and reassemble an M1 rifle. I was probably the only Gordon cadet to actually break the stock of an M1 rifle while giving my required class demonstration of how to break down and reassemble it. In my class of 40 aviation officer candidates, we took turns exercising the class at close order drill. Gordon gained me kudos for handling the class during these drills.”

Another advantage Gordon gave Rainey was a sense of the better duties available to a cadet, one of which was being in the Naval Air Basic Training Command Pageant of Flags. According to a Feb. 20, 1964, article in *The Palm Beach Post*, the pageant presented the evolution of the American flag. “The first public presentation of the pageant was during Pensacola’s Fiesta of Five Flags in

1962. The response was so enthusiastic the pageant has been made a permanent adjunct of the base.”

“I learned early on that I could dress up in Revolutionary War through Korean War uniforms and take trips all over the south rather than stand weekend inspections,” Rainey said.

“I was the commander of the Pageant of Flags, Drum and Bugle Corps and Cadet Band which all performed in the Mardi Gras in New Orleans every year. There were about 220 aviation candidates involved in the band, drum and bugle corps, and flag pageant.”

A week of Mardi Gras and New Orleans was the fun part, being responsible for 220 cadets was not. He still remembers getting chewed out for returning one of the cadets to Pensacola with a very disheveled appearance and mismatched uniform.

“But then the Marine drill instructor broke into a grin and said, ‘I can’t believe you got back with all of them,’” Rainey said.

Rainey completed his basic flight training at Saufley Field, Pensacola, in March 1966 and made his first carrier landing on Dec. 12, 1966, on the USS Lexington in a T28 Trojan. A carrier landing is one of the most dangerous things Navy pilots have to do and so it’s likely to be one of the most frightening. But not so, Rainey said, at least not for him.

“My greatest fear wasn’t about getting hurt; it was about washing out, the embarrassment of not making it. If your landing signals officer instructor said ‘You are ready to go the boat,’ you knew that when you went out you could do it. The greatest fear was not killing yourself but failing to be allowed to go.”

The last thing he wanted was to end up with a “paintbrush and hammer” in his hands. This is another way of saying ending up as a deckhand instead of a Navy pilot and an officer, which was the fate of about 30 percent of his AOCS class.

On July 3, 1967, Miss Bobbie pinned her son’s ensign

bars and Navy Wings of Gold on him at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. By that December, he was deployed on the carrier USS Kearsarge which was already deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam. With the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Korea on Jan. 23, 1968, the Kearsarge was redirected to the Sea of Japan where Rainey said everyone and everything froze.

This made flying conditions especially challenging because ice formed on the deck and the wings of aircraft. To make conditions for flight even more hazardous, the Kearsarge and other ships in the task force were under the command of an admiral who was not an aviator and so did not fully appreciate the dangers of icing.

When the Kearsarge's mission in the Sea of Japan was complete, she and Rainey returned to the Gulf of Tonkin where he continued to fly the twin-engine prop Grumman S-2D Tracker. The mission was to track shipping traffic out of North Vietnamese harbors and rivers and to conduct water borne logistics interdiction operations. During this period, then Lt. J.G. Rainey was awarded two Combat Air Medals for combat flights off the coast of North Vietnam. Later in his career, he would be awarded three Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit three times for his performance in leadership roles and as commanding officer.

After a second tour of Vietnam in 1970, the Navy sent him to post graduate school in Monterey, California, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. From there he was sent to Rhode Island to become the aide and flag lieutenant to a two-star admiral. Rainey described this job as a "horse holder" and social secretary for the admiral, a far cry from being a combat pilot but a necessary step in the direction of promotion.

Still a lieutenant, his next step was to join the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise as assistant navigator. In other words, instead of piloting a plane, he was piloting a ship in the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans for 11 months. During these months, the much publicized withdrawal of American personnel and South Vietnamese from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon took place, April 29, 1975.

"We were providing air cover on that last day," he said, "and I remember being on the bridge of Enterprise listening to the radio traffic between Saigon and USS Blue Ridge. It was mayhem."

Although not often enough, he still flew off of the Enterprise, and when he flew, it was to deliver and pick

up mail, hardly a combat occasion. Nevertheless, on one such flight to Bandar Abbas, Iran, he came close to being shot, even though this was during a time when Iran was a country friendly to the United States.

He and his pilot flew off the deck of the Enterprise in a Grumman C1 Trader so crammed with mail that the only way in or out of the cockpit was through the hatches over the pilot's and copilot's seats. When they landed in Bandar Abbas, the pilot, Jerry Willis, at 6 foot 5 inches, easily dropped to the ground. Rainey, at 5 foot 8 inches, had farther to drop. When he landed he lost his balance and fell on his back. A nearby Iranian guard who was watching didn't race over to help him up but rather put the muzzle of his M-16 rifle into Rainey's chest.

He said he never understood the Iranian's reasoning,



Miss Bobbie pinned the Navy Wings of Gold on her son on July 3, 1967, at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

but he clearly understood what a rifle muzzle in the chest meant, so he remained still for a long 30 minutes until he was allowed to move.

During this tour on the USS Enterprise, Rainey became the first naval aviator to be dual designated as a surface warfare officer under the new requirements approved by the chief of naval operations.

When he left for his next assignment at the Naval War College for the command and staff course in Newport, Rhode Island, he left as a lieutenant commander. He was there a year before he was sent to jet transition training in Kingsville, Texas, in the Douglas A4 Skyhawk.



Top: Captain Rainey being “piped over the side,” a Navy tradition on retirement.

Bottom: Rainey receiving a display case of his medals and service ribbons.

After training in the S3 Viking, Rainey headed back to sea on USS Eisenhower where he was a department head in Air Anti-submarine Squadron 31 from 1977 to 1979. This was followed by his tour as executive officer of Air Anti-submarine Squadron 37 onboard the carrier USS Ranger.

He then “fleeted up” to command Air Anti-submarine Squadron 37 on USS Enterprise from 1981 to 1982. He then served as the Enterprise’s operations officer. While in this position, he was selected to become an air wing commander.

In 1984, he completed training to become a carrier air wing commander and was assigned to command Carrier Air Wing 8. Before, as commander of a squadron, he was responsible for 320 people, 15 of whom were pilots, and 10 jets. As a wing commander, he was responsible for nine squadrons. In addition to the greater size of his command, he also flew more types of aircraft: the A6 Intruder, the F14 Tomcat, the A7 Corsair, the S3 Viking and the SH3 Sea King helicopter.

It was during this time (June 14, 1985, to be precise) when he was serving as wing commander on USS Nimitz that TWA Flight 847 was hijacked by Islamic extremists. Throughout the crisis, the Nimitz was on station on a 5 minute alert. Another way of putting this is that the Nimitz was the carrier from which aircraft would be launched against the hijackers – and at five minutes notice to launch. Needless to say, Rainey did not get much sleep.

Promoted to captain, he headed to the Pentagon for one year before he took command of the replenishment oiler USS Savannah, a ship that could hold 6 million gallons of fuel. The ship’s mission was to refuel and replenish the supplies of other ships at sea.

“I really enjoyed taking the USS Savannah into Savannah for the Fourth of July in 1988 and having a number of folks come from Barnesville to visit, many of them former Gordon cadets.”

He added, “Commanding the Savannah was probably the most personally rewarding assignment I ever had because I got to know every guy on ship. I was close to the crew and their families. As a bonus, I had two great bosses.”

It was also a great assignment because it led to his becoming the commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk. He took command of the ship while it was in dock in Philadelphia in April 1989. He left the Kitty Hawk

in December 1991 to become chief of staff for Naval Education and Training Command back in the place where he started in 1965, Naval Air Station Pensacola. He retired in October 1992 to work for Crown Castle International and lived in Cumming, Georgia, putting his management skills to work helping the company to build and buy many of the 30,000 cell towers it owns today.

During the 27 years he served in the U.S. Navy, Capt. Rainey found himself in harm's way at times, but he also has fond memories of ports of call like Mombasa, Kenya; Haifa, Israel; and Lisbon, Portugal. And, he had the esteemed pleasure of having lunch with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca, and "too many United States politicians." The fun of flying the F14 Tomcat and the challenge of flying the A6 Intruder at night only 400 feet from the ground were personally rewarding and challenging. Early in his career, Rainey learned that airmanship was the only thing for which he could take personal credit; everything else he accomplished relied on the skill and dedication of those with whom he served.

"More important than flying," he said, "I was able to serve with the finest young men and women this nation has to offer. They taught me more about leadership and the value of family than I could have learned anywhere else in a lifetime. Unless you've experienced it, you could never understand the depth of meaning to the terms Navy family and shipmate.

"In the end, I wasn't afraid of my own failure, but of failing others, shipmates, squadron mates and my Navy family."



FROM CAPTAIN TO CAP

by Dan Rainey

My kids and all of their friends always called me captain but when grandchildren came along, I thought Cap would be an easy name for them to say and still maintain my identity. Now that I am married to Linda Milam Butler Rainey, also a former Gordon student, we are known almost as one word to our combined five kids and eight grandchildren. It is Cap'n'Gigi or Gigi'n'Cap. We were both fortunate enough to share over 37 years with our deceased spouses, the late Bobby Butler and Georgia Roueche Rainey.

After returning to Barnesville in 2007 and marrying Linda, I have tried to stay active in local community activities having served as president of the Rotary Club, chairman of the administrative board at First United Methodist Church, and currently I serve on the Board of the Industrial Development Authority. I am active in a number of military organizations and frequently speak at memorial services and dedications. I was also the founder of a scholarship that provides \$3,000 per year college tuition assistance to sons, daughters and grandchildren of active duty, retired or deceased naval service members.

NURSE IN THE SANDBOX

by Peter Boltz



After so many women have served in America's armed services and after so many wars they have fought in, the idea of women in combat is slowly becoming commonplace.

But Maj. Patty Justice of the Army Nurse Corps is not commonplace, nor is that purple ribbon on her dress blues.

Patty returned to her alma mater, Gordon State College, at the beginning of April for an interview and a visit after an absence of 19 years. She earned her associate of science in nursing from Gordon, and while she will tell you that she cannot say "it was a good time," her memories of former professors are fond.

Professor Pat Brown, who she calls Mrs. Brown, is one of them, despite the professor's strictness.

"She told us, 'As a nurse, you are always to be here to class early, never late. If the door is closed, you don't knock, you don't come in.'"

And yet Professor Brown would bend for students like Patty who had proven themselves but had fallen prey to faulty alarm clocks. This is how she showed up late for

one of Brown's pharmaceutical tests and found the door shut. Patty did as she was instructed – she didn't knock, she didn't enter, but she did wait outside the door. For some reason, Brown stepped out, heard Patty out, and allowed her to take the test with a reduction in grade.

"I passed by one percentage point," she said.

She also recalled how many students discovered they were not meant to be nurses when sent out to experience firsthand in a clinical what it meant to be a nurse. To this day, she remembers the awakening, and subsequent leaving, of a little blond Southern girl.

"I didn't know I would have to touch people," the girl said at her first clinical. "I don't like to touch people."

It's not clear what this student thought nursing involved, but it is clear that if she had spent any time in a hospital, even just to visit a sick relative, she would have known better.

"Nurses are a different breed," Patty said. "Their minds think differently; they work in a different world. They have perseverance and have the idea they must be perfect. By the time they finish nursing school, the



idea of perfection (in a good way) is so ingrained in them that if they deviate from it in the least they feel they are cheating themselves and their patients.”

One of her classmates was so driven by this ethos that she pulled out her IV and left her hospital bed to show up for her final exam. Other than looking unwell, no one, including the professor, had any idea of what she had done.

“That’s the fear of God they put in us,” Patty said.

While walking across the quadrangle in front of Lambdin Hall, she asked if Dr. Richard Schmude was still at the college, and as if by magic, when she looked across the lawn, there he was.

For a second he didn’t recognize her, but in the next second he was giving her a hug.

“If it wasn’t for you and your chemistry class, I would not have been able to get into nursing school,” she told him. Then she asked him if he still allowed students to bring notes to his tests, just as long as all the notes were on one 3x5 notecard, front and back.

Yes, he said, but so far none of his students had

caught onto Patty’s method of fitting more notes per card by using a computer to print them in a small font.

From the quad he joined her to walk over to the Gordon Military Memorial where she spoke at its dedication on April 18.

Curious, he asked her if she had been in his morning or afternoon class those 21 years ago.

The afternoon.

“Ahh,” he recalled. “The smaller class.”

After she earned her ASN from Gordon, she went on to Brenau University to earn her BSN in 1998, and then she went to work.

After 9/11, she received a postcard from the Army Nurse Corps asking if she was interested in becoming an Army nurse. Her answer to herself was a short and immediate yes.

She was so committed to joining that the recruiter thought she was part of a prank by his guys. “You’re kidding me, right?” was his response.

But she had her BSN and was ready to go and did the paperwork on the spot. She was inducted into the reserves



1. Patty had a chance reunion with her former chemistry professor Richard Schmude during an April 2014 visit to Gordon State College.

2. Patty with the Lamar County Sheriff's Department color guard: left, Deputy Anthony Thompson, Lt. Mike Bailey, Deputy Maria Gebelein, and Sgt. Cynthia Patten.

3. Justice with an Afghani girl, 4, and her father. The girl was shot by the Taliban while herding her goats and had to have surgery to remove a bullet from her abdomen. Patty bathed and changed her dressing everyday. Her father said he had 13 children but only five were living because of the war.

4. Maj. Patty Justice with Spc. Mark Brown, one of two surgical technicians in her unit and her Battle Buddy. Battle Buddies work together in and out of combat.

5. Col. John Eddy pins the Purple Heart on Maj. Justice. She served under Eddy in Afghanistan in the 7301st Medical Training Brigade when he was the brigade's commander.



"It was like a war zone," Justice said. "It was as if we were in the 'sandbox.' Severe, severe wound training."



and about a year-and-a-half later she was mobilized and sent to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. During her time at BAMC she helped treat the wounded coming in from Iraq and Afghanistan.

After her 18 months on active service, she returned to the reserves and her work as a civilian nurse until four years later when she got a call from San Antonio. The Army needed an experienced surgical/operating room nurse. Would she go to Afghanistan?

Without hesitation she said yes, and within a month she started her training in two stages. First as a soldier, learning how to defend herself, how to wear ballistic proof armor and how to convoy. Second as a nurse, treating severe trauma injuries at Ryder Trauma Center, part of Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. While working at Atlanta's Piedmont Hospital, she had seen some trauma, but it didn't compare to what she saw at Ryder.

"It was like a war zone," she said. "It was as if we were in the 'sandbox.' Severe, severe wound training."

Her team's mission (think final exam) was to take over the role of Ryder's regular staff 48 hours before "graduating" to Afghanistan.

"What we learned at Ryder proved true in Afghanistan," she said.

The "sandbox" was Forward Operating Base Shank north of Gardez, Afghanistan, where she and 13 others served in the 628th Forward Surgical Team.

If her team could treat a soldier within an hour of injury, he or she had a 90 to 95 percent chance of surviving to the next level of care – it's called the golden hour.

According to Patty, the golden hour has gotten even shorter because when a combat medic comes in with a wounded soldier from the field, he or she learns new methods from teams like Patty's. When a Special Forces medic comes in with his injured, he is more likely to be the one instructing a forward surgical team because of his advanced training and equipment.

Water was at a premium at FOB Shank, and much of the water that was used came in bottles, and it was used for more than drinking. Soldiers "showered" by poking holes into bottle bottoms, putting their heads over a basin and squeezing the bottle. Water also came into the base by a water tanker driven by contracted

Afghan men. One day the truck was hijacked and the drivers beheaded.

Patty remembers the date when the truck showed up, Aug. 7, not much more than 30 days before she and the rest of her team were to return to the United States.

No one had any doubt about the danger the truck posed, but since it was outside the base's perimeter, it could not be fired upon because of the rules of engagement. The truck, driving around *but not into* the base, could not be fired upon. Inside the truck's cab were drivers, likely chained to the steering column, and off in the distance was another Afghan insurgent with a remote detonator. Inside the water tank were explosives, later to be estimated at 3,000 pounds worth.

Patty said that when it detonated, it leveled the camp and blew a 75-foot hole in the barbed wire fence that protected the base. Exposed, Patty was "launched" 12 feet by the concussive wave into a concrete barrier. Unconscious for the next 45 minutes, she was unaware that after the blast the enemy followed up with a rocket attack and an attempt to enter through the tear in the wire.

"Fortunately, Special Forces and Rangers were embedded with us," she said. "They had been out in the field and were relaxing when the attack happened, but when it came, they came out fighting and the attack failed."

She was medevacked to Bagram Air Field where she was treated for a dislocated shoulder, an injured hip and traumatic brain injury. There she remained for 10 days until she lied about lingering symptoms so she could finish out her 12-month tour with her team at FOB Shank.

Wounded in combat, she was awarded the Purple Heart.

Today, 2½ years later, she is thinking about returning to school for a master's degree, moving to New Mexico with her husband, teaching in a nursing school and eventually retiring from the Army.

Whether or not she will return to the sandbox is anyone's guess. From what she has said she brought a good amount of it home with her. A fine, powdery sand, she said she still finds it in her gear. Maybe by the time she retires from the Army in seven years, she'll have gotten rid of it all.



It Starts With A DREAM

Wendy Martin, Assistant Professor of Nursing

by Tamara Boatwright

It was really just a piece of paper, but the piece of paper a nurse gave Wendy Martin years ago was actually a gift. A gift that put Wendy on the path to realizing her dreams.

"I came from mill people. Mill people, solid and hardworking though they are, didn't go to college. We went to work in the mill like our parents did, our grandparents did and our great-grandparents did. We lived among mill people, shopped with mill people, went to church with mill people. The mill was the center of our universe."

Even as a child, Wendy liked to help people, to be there when they were most in need. She knew she was probably destined to spend her working life in a mill, but she really, really wanted to be a nurse – to help people.

But getting married at 16, having a baby a few months later and walking away from school at the end of the ninth grade didn't bode well for becoming a nurse. Wendy eventually earned her GED, walked in the graduation ceremony with her high school class, and kept her dream alive.

"When I was in the hospital after having my third child I shared my dream with one of the nurses," Wendy said. "She brought me an application to Gordon College telling me about the really good nursing program."

"For two years I thought and thought and thought about it and finally decided to just go for it. So with three babies – ages 2, 4 and 6 – and working as a nurse tech at Spalding Regional Hospital, I enrolled at Gordon. I had to take a year of developmental studies to get me up to speed before I could even begin to take regular classes."

Wendy is quick to point out the help she had along the way: a very understanding husband, her three chil-

dren, her mother who helped with childcare, and the professors who took time to help when she struggled with subject matter.

"I remember Susan Hendricks helping me with writing that first year. She literally molded me into someone who could write a paper," Wendy recalls.

Her hard work led to a nursing degree in 1993, and so her *Dream, Part 1*, came true.

Wendy was working in labor and delivery at Spalding Regional Hospital when she heard Gordon State was teaming up with what was then the Medical College of Georgia to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

"So I came back. Again, I was struggling a little bit with some of the subject matter because it had been a long time since I was in a classroom," she admits. "I recall the help I received from Marvin Thomas, Don Butts, Joe Mayo. I had to take algebra and was just lost. I had Teresa Betkowski and made 60 on a test. I went to her office and sat on a pillow on the floor. She got book after book and tagged pages for me. I went home and studied my butt off. I made 100 on the next test and passed the course. I wouldn't have passed had it not been for her help. Sometimes it's that first failure that sets the pace."

Wendy graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2003, and so her *Dream, Part 2*, came true.

Family has always been first for Wendy. Walk into her office and your eyes are automatically drawn to a decorative plaque emblazoned with the word family. Family photos are scattered around it. So when her daughter Brianna – who was 4 when her mom first enrolled at Gordon – decided she wanted to be a nurse, Wendy was ecstatic. In fact, all three

of her children, including Jasmine and Coleman, attended Gordon State. She's hoping her youngest, John-Mason, will follow in their path.

Brianna graduated Gordon State with a degree in nursing in 2011 and is in school on her way to becoming a nurse anesthetist. Jasmine is a homemaker and mother while Coleman is exploring several career options.

"Helping Brianna study made me realize I loved teaching," Wendy said. "So I enrolled in the master's program at the University of West Georgia – I would have done it here if the program had been available, I love Gordon so much – and in 2014 I earned a master's in nursing with emphasis on teaching."

And this is how her *Dream, Part 3*, came true.

In the summer of 2012, just before leaving for vacation at Panama City Beach, Wendy applied at Gordon State for a teaching position.

"We went on to the beach, but the job was really on my mind," she said. "I got a call to interview. I left the kids down there, came back here to interview and then drove back down to the beach. I got the job a short time later. There are no words for how happy I was. Did I say how much I love Gordon?"

"I think God put that in my path," she said. "I guess He has put everything in my path when you think about it. All those dreams of mine are coming true."

In the coming academic year Wendy will be among a team teaching obstetrics and pediatrics.

"I'm so excited about that," she said. "I'm excited for every new class of nursing students we have. This is a tough program but we produce great nurses. And being able to teach, I feel like I am giving back a little for all the help that was given to me when I first came here as a student. I want nursing students to know that I am here for them."

Despite all the studying, degree earning and family requirements, she has found time to make sure her children have seen a good part of the world.

"I want them to know that there is more out there than just what they see from the back door or read in a book," she said.

A self-admitted "Disney freak," she is planning a visit to Disney World in December while all the kids and her two grandchildren are on break. In the meantime, she is writing curriculum and finding time to sneak in a daily run.

She is still happily married to Jack the man who caught her eye at 16 and is caring for her mother who gave so much of herself when Wendy returned to school.

Dreams do come true.



Top: Assistant professor Wendy Martin instructing a student at Gordon State College.

Bottom: Wendy graduated from West Georgia with a master's in nursing. From left, daughter Jasmine with son Aslan, daughter Brianna, son John-Mason, Wendy, and husband Jack.

The Art of BEING YOUNG

by Peter Boltz



Ashley Young recalls drawing at age 6, but what child wasn't drawing at this age?

At age 12, she got serious about making a career out of drawing, but don't many adolescents say they're serious about what they are going to do with their lives?

The answer depends on the definition of serious. Any 12-year-old can say she or he is serious about following a career path, but can that 12-year-old stick to the path once hard work, study and criticism make the path difficult?

Art is a particularly difficult path, and this is the path Ashley has chosen. Other than the demands art makes on talent, skill and perseverance, art is difficult because it's hard to say what it is.

People know what doctors and nurses do and can say what it is they do in quite specific ways. The same can be said for firefighters, law enforcement officers, plumbers and Major League Baseball players. But what do artists do? A typical response is that artists paint, draw or sculpt. But paint, draw or sculpt what? And a typical response is people, landscapes or something abstract.

But what makes these paintings, sculptures and drawings art?

This question brings even artists up short, so it's no wonder most people don't know something is art unless they are told, and even then will not believe or understand it.

People from inside and outside the Gordon State College community had a chance to puzzle over the meaning of art at Gordon's annual Student/Faculty Art Show held in the Foundation Room during the spring semester. Ashley's works were among them.

One piece, *Lava Blob*, is an abstract color drawing. Her father, Kevin, who attended the show's opening, looked at it with Ashley and her mother, Tammy.

"I remember when you did this," he said. "I didn't know what it was; maybe I'll never know."

He may not have known it at the time, but Kevin touched upon one of the effects of art – it can be frustratingly mysterious.

And art can be downright practical too, as in the case of a poster competition advertised on Instagram for

the concert tour of the Black Veil Brides, Ghost Town, and Memphis May Fire. The competition was for the best hand-drawn image representing the name of the tour, The Black Mass Tour.

When Ashley saw the advertisement for the competition, she went to work, translating an image in her mind that guided her hand working the stylus on her Wacom Bamboo tablet. The image that came to her was that of a black mass rising up, and through some magic or inspiration that happens between her mind and her hand, this became a drawing of hands rising up from a “black goo.” It took her about a week to complete the work.

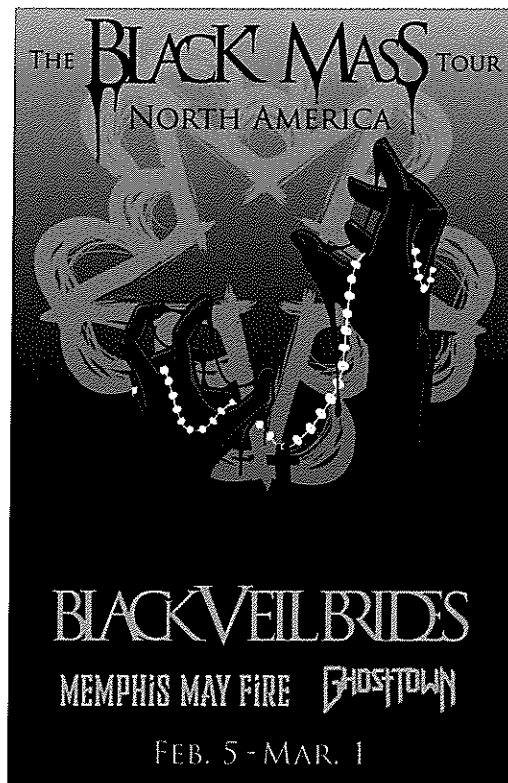
After the deadline for entries, the three bands picked their finalists, of which Ashley was the fifth of five. In the popular vote that followed, Ashley’s was first of five. Her prize was a ticket to any one of the shows on the tour, a print of the poster with the signatures of all the band members, and backstage VIP status.

And whom did she take to the concert at The National in Richmond, Virginia? She took a seasoned concertgoer, someone who knows how to talk her way backstage, someone Ashley often travels to concerts with. She took her mother, Tammy.

“I love hanging out with her,” Ashley said. “My mom always loves to be with me no matter what crazy idea I throw at her.”

She said that she and her mom are close and that going to concerts with her is fun, the two of them often getting themselves backstage simply by being in the right place at the right time, and by gift of gab.

At one concert, Tammy noticed Ashley’s favorite artist, Alister Dippner, in the audience. Ashley was reluctant to introduce herself to him, but her mother wasn’t. She made her way to him through the crowd and introduced her daughter.



Ashley's competition winning poster for The Black Mass Tour 2015.

The fun for the mother and daughter at the Black Mass Tour concert included a meet-and-greet in the VIP lounge and being “treated like royalty.” The pictures on her smart phone convey the fun she and her mother had that evening.

But Black Mass Tour? Isn’t the black Mass a satanic worship service?

This never occurred to Ashley, at least not until sometime later when someone brought it up. She had a ready answer.

“I am a strong Christian,” she said, and her Christian ethic and morals inform her art. When she read the words Black Mass Tour, she thought of a black mass or blob. The idea of a satanic ritual never occurred to her and didn’t influence her winning poster drawing.

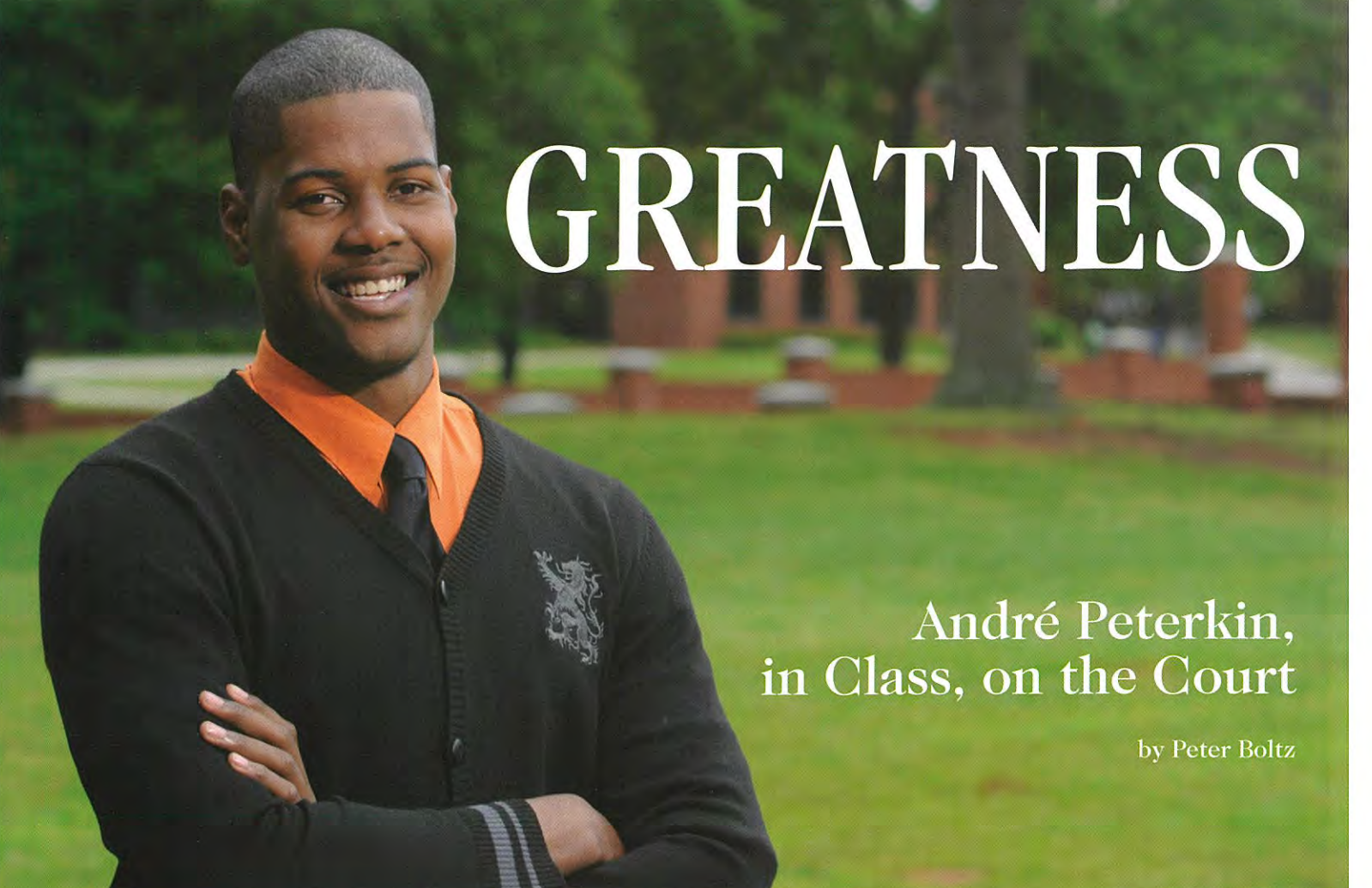
At the art show, she pointed out a piece that fits her Christian ethos, a drawing of comedian Olan Rogers.

“He has good, clean humor, and a strong sense of doing the right thing,” she said. She recommends watching some of his routines on YouTube to see he doesn’t go in for the kind of raunchy humor that many comedians engage in.

Drinking, smoking and cursing – or at least tolerance of them – are often mistaken for being grown up, but Ashley is not of this mind. Rather, she is about holding onto the innocent ways of childhood, a time she enjoyed, well into adulthood and beyond.

Maybe this is why she would like to become an animator and perhaps work one day for Disney or for the producers of her favorite cartoon show, *SpongeBob SquarePants*. She’s already experimented with animation – a three-second clip of her dog, a little white Chihuahua named Kiwi, wagging her tail – but her main focus at present is on realistic drawings of people and of not-so-real creatures like dragons.

And being young.



GREATNESS

André Peterkin, in Class, on the Court

by Peter Boltz

When André Peterkin called his grandfather Errol Peterkin to ask if he could live with him and his grandmother Christine, his grandfather had two conditions: André must study and he must help around the house. And everyone cooks.

André still recalls how he had to make sure his bedroom door was open so his grandfather could see if his grandson was “beating his books and not playing on his iPod.” He had been told that if the iPod were to pose a distraction to his studies, his grandfather would seize it.

At a recent interview with Errol, Christine, their daughter Renée and André, all four confirmed that this was the word Errol used, seize, which one dictionary defines as “to take hold of, suddenly and forcibly.” As striking and stark as the definition may be, for the Peterkins the power of the word isn’t about the actual seizing of anything; it’s about how strongly the family feels about focusing on study and achievement.

Take another of Errol’s expressions: “two kicks.”

According to André’s Aunt Renée, “two kicks” is not

about getting two kicks in the behind for an infraction, it’s an expression of disappointment should André fail to do as well as he could. These figurative kicks are meant to urge André (and Renée too for that matter) to do better, to achieve.

Renée, who is not much older than André, graduated from medical school a little less than three weeks earlier than André graduated from Gordon State College with an associate degree in biology. Anyone might think they were brother and sister by the way they interact.

Like the way Errol responded to André’s telling him he might get all B’s one semester and the way he responded when Renée brought home four A’s and one B.

When Renée discovered her father didn’t quiz André about the reasons he might not earn all A’s like he quizzed her about her one B, she objected, although mildly, to the unequal treatment.

The smile that accompanied her objection is proof she bears André no ill will for the different treatment. In fact she and her parents are quite proud of the 21 year old,

Will Not Fall in Your Lap

and he is quite proud of them. Whatever talk there may be about two kicks, there is a very deep cushion of love to soften the kicks.

André's journey to the family of his paternal grandparents from that of his own mother and father can be attributed to several things, but that his parents never married and didn't stay together has had its impact. Up until the end of his first year of high school, he lived with his mother in Florida, but for his sophomore year he lived with his grandparents going to Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia. For his junior year, he went to Sumter, South Carolina, to live with his father, but his grades suffered because he wasn't getting the support he needed. At times when he needed to study, he had to take care of his stepsister.

He also admits to lacking self-control, something his grandfather noticed and warned him against.

"Greatness will not fall into your lap," Errol said to him. "If you want anything, you have to go for it and work twice as hard as the other guy!"

André added, "My grandfather said I was a bench warmer."

The Peterkins came to the United States from Jamaica, and this is where Renée began her schooling. She explained that students sit on long benches along long tables rather than in single seats at single desks. So, to be a bench warmer in Jamaica is to be someone who isn't learning but rather just occupying – warming – a seat.

For his senior year, André moved back to his grandparents' home in Conyers, returned to Heritage High, and buckled down. He credits his grandparents and his aunt for showing him how to do more in school than warm a bench. His grandfather taught him how to believe in himself; his grandmother taught him that to get ahead he would have to sacrifice; and his aunt taught him time management skills.



When Errol instructed André to study with his bedroom door open, he realized André might just appear to be studying, so he added a touch of wisdom for André to consider: "You can fool me, but you cannot fool yourself."

Another bit of Errol's wisdom helped André come out of his shell to talk about what was going on inside him. "Even the president has advisers," Errol told him, and

André was quick to understand the corollary

that he should also make use of trusted advisers.

Errol and Christine have grown to trust André to make his own decisions, but when he was deciding where to earn his baccalaureate – and also accept a basketball scholarship – they applied a Jamaican saying: "Young bird doesn't know a storm." In other words, they wanted to make sure André made the best decision about his next steps into the future.

Before he started college, he told his grandfather that he wanted to go into psychology, but Errol advised him to find a job that he would enjoy and one that would earn him the living he desired.

An avid reader of *Popular Science* since his high school sophomore year, an article about the growing acidity of the ocean got him thinking about what his grandfather had said.

"The shells of creatures were corroding," he said, and the article linked the increased acidity with global warming.

"People who don't believe in it say that the earth has these cycles, and we're experiencing just yet another cycle. But the point scientists are really trying to make is that we're rushing the cycle."

He added that science's concern about global warming is not about the earth. "The earth will do whatever it has to do to survive. I'm concerned about humanity."

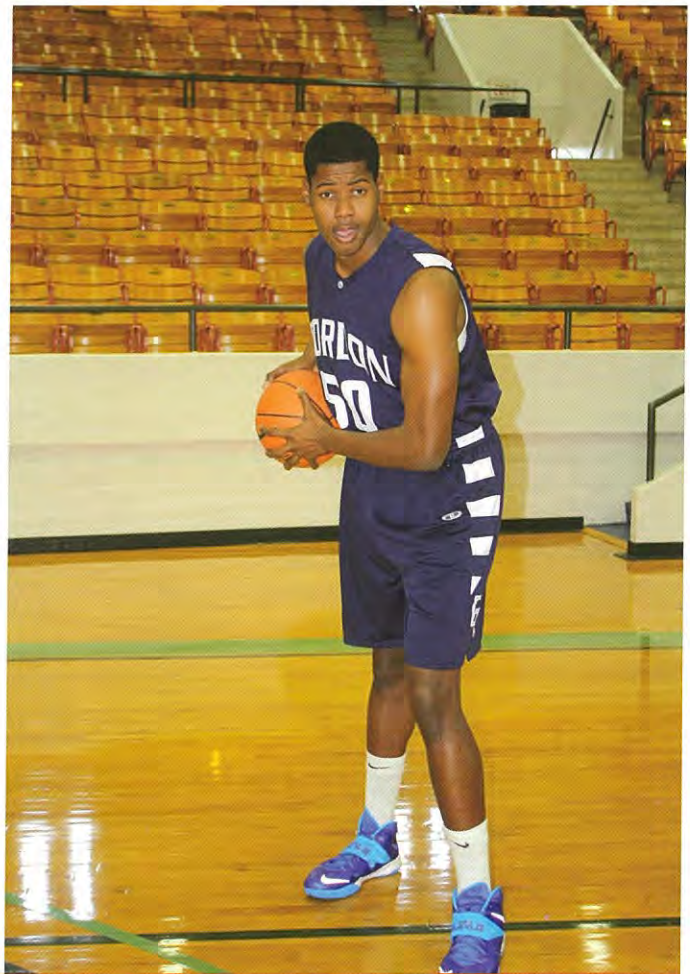


TOP: André with his grandfather, Errol Peterkin, Aunt Renée, and grandmother, Christine.



BOTTOM: André earned his associate degree in biology in the spring of 2015 from Gordon State and is pursuing a career in environmental science.

RIGHT: André played center for the Gordon Highlanders basketball team.



And so he decided he wanted to go into environmental science, beginning this academic journey with an associate degree in biology at Gordon State College.

With the strong encouragement of his grandfather, he also began another journey when he came to Gordon, the journey of becoming a basketball player.

Izzy Ingle, Gordon's head basketball coach when André enrolled, remembers when he and Errol came to see him about playing for Gordon.

"I invited him to campus for a workout with our players and was shocked to see him walk into my office," Izzy said. "Not only was he 6'10", but he had a perfectly sculpted basketball body with broad shoulders and long arms. When we went to the court for an individual workout, it became obvious he had never played a lot of basketball. His techniques and movements were a little off, but there was obviously a lot of potential. He had a very soft touch from the free throw line, was very athletic, and most important he was extremely coachable."

Izzy added that as soon as he met Errol, "I knew André would be a perfect fit for us. His grandparents played an instrumental part in his upbringing and were always supportive of André, our team, our coaching staff, and Gordon State as a whole. I absolutely love André and was extremely lucky to have a chance to coach him."

Izzy left for a position in Utah a year after André arrived, and Bruce Capers was hired as head basketball coach. Bruce was equally impressed with André's potential as a basketball player.

"AP, as we call him, has only been playing basketball for less than two years," Bruce said. "In this business I am known for being a good developer. Once I knew he wanted to be good and had the work ethic to match, I knew I had a solid prospect."

"Tough coaches like tough players, and AP is tough not only physically, but mentally," he said. "He is a hidden jewel, and a coach at the next level is about to get rich."

WEEKEND COLLEGE

at GSC McDonough

Members of the first Weekend College cohort, “Alphas” as they have become known, completed their first semester in May.

“Weekend College has been an amazing experience so far,” said “Alpha” Jennifer Grubbs. “It really works well for me because I am able to take a full course load and continue to work full time. I wouldn’t be able to do this in the traditional college setting. I also like the fact that we are in a cohort with the same group of people. We are able to establish friendships and encourage one another along the way. I’m looking forward to all that lies ahead.”

The second cohort, tagged the “Bravos,” began its journey in August.

“Unlike traditional college degree programs, Weekend College may assign up to 24 credits of prior learning acquired through work experience, educational experience, workplace training or courses that did not carry college credit,” said program coordinator Melinda Hawley, associate professor of human services, business and public service. “The human services bachelor’s degree prepares students for a wide variety of occupations in a fast-growing and diverse field.”

Major employers of human services degree holders include state and local governments and a variety of non-government organizations.

Weekend College classes are held once a month at Gordon State College at McDonough while other work is completed online.

Regular semester day and night classes are also held in McDonough in a wing of Henry County High School, located near the courthouse square. Classrooms, a study room and offices have been provided for use by Gordon students, faculty and administrators.

“The offerings, hours and location are perfect for students who want to return to the classroom,” said Ric Calhoun, director of Gordon State College at McDonough, “but who want the convenience of classes held in Henry County and the convenience of classes offered around their work or home schedule.”



Professor Ric Calhoun is the director of Gordon State College at McDonough.



Communication professor Adria Goldman instructing a class in public speaking at Gordon's McDonough campus.

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR

Amber Byous

Amber Byous is the Gordon State College Outstanding Scholar for the 2014-15 academic year.

Byous, an early childhood education/special education major, began her teaching career with third and fourth graders in the Lamar County school system in August.

"I am so honored to receive this," said Byous. "Education has always been my passion. I have enjoyed my experience here at Gordon. It is an absolute gem of a school, a hidden treasure. The professors are always so helpful and friendly."

Dr. Mike Mahan, dean of the School of Education, said Amber has "been a leader and a role model for her peers."

"Amber has been a solid performer at Gordon during her entire four years here," he said. "Her clinical faculty mentioned her ability to work closely with special needs students and prepare challenging content for all students."

As Gordon's Outstanding Scholar, Byous was recognized along with students from other UGA institutions on Academic Recognition Day during the recent 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."

Also recognized were students and recent graduates David Cromer, an English major; Preston Allen, a human services major; Amanda Ashley, a biology major and Justin Gunnels, a history major.

Cromer, who graduated in 2014, has been accepted to Mercer University School of Law and will begin his studies in the fall.

"It has been a huge honor to be invited back to campus," said Cromer. "Attending college here has given me a great foundation for law school. I feel like I have a leg up."

In recognizing Preston Allen, who will soon enter graduate school, Dr. Barry Kicklighter, interim head of the department of business and public service, said Allen is passionate about his education.

"He has always been a good influence on the students he assists as a tutor in the Student Success Center," Kicklighter said.



A NEW CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION



Despite the misty rain, a crowd of students, alumni, faculty, staff and other friends of Gordon State College were on hand in March for a ribbon cutting that officially opened the Student Activity and Recreation Center.

Participating in the ribbon cutting were Gordon Student Government Association President Ornella Oluwole; Hank Huckaby, chancellor of the University System of Georgia; Dr. Tommy Hopkins, member of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents and Griffin orthopedic surgeon; Max Burns, Gordon State College president; and former Student Government Association presidents Chris Childress and Rachel Adams-French.

Oluwole welcomed the crowd noting that the SARC is the culmination of several years of work by Gordon administration and the student government.

"I want to thank former SGA presidents who, with great passion and leadership, have contributed to us being here today," she said.

Huckaby, a Griffin native, was director of admissions in the 1970s at what was then Gordon Junior College.

"It's ironic that this building is where it is because when I came here the newest building was the gymnasium," said Huckaby in reference to the nearby Alumni Memorial Hall.

Gordon students were involved in development of the SARC from the beginning. Student government representatives visited student centers on other campuses, were involved in its design and approved funding for the facility through student fees.

The SARC is situated on the northeast side of campus at College Drive and Highlander Way and is adjacent to Alumni Memorial Hall. Built in 1963, Alumni Memorial Hall will remain a part of Gordon's campus.

The entrance of the building opens into a spacious lobby/lounge area. Straight ahead is an arena with bleacher-style seating for 2,100. The arena is designed

to also accommodate a stage area and seating for 550 on the floor. Two large video screens dominate the far wall of the arena that can be used for messaging as well as live video of events such as Highlander basketball games.

The SARC also contains a cardio area and weight room with the most up-to-date equipment. Nearby is a game room containing both table games as well as a room dedicated to digital gaming.

There is a multi-purpose room, a lounge area as well as Sandella's, a "grab and go" meal spot operated by Sodexo, Gordon's food service provider.

An office and a meeting room for the Student Government Association as well as offices for student activities personnel are also a part of the building.



Left, former SGA President Chris Childress, USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby, former SGA President Rachel Adams-French, USG Regent Dr. Tommy Hopkins, SGA President Ornella Oluwole, and GSC President Max Burns.

Twenty Gordon State College students and four faculty members spent spring break in Selma, Alabama, participating in an historic event.

The week coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the March from Selma to Montgomery which laid the groundwork for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"It was emotional and slightly overwhelming, but overall the week helped me to better understand civil rights history," said Merissa Cannon, a human services senior.

This was the second such spring break for Gordon State students. Twelve students made the trip last year.

"I went last year and was so impressed that I could not help but be a part of the trip this year," said Raven Willis a senior human services major. "Hearing President Obama speak was a highlight of the trip. Despite the horror of what occurred in Selma 50 years ago, his words moved me and made me proud to be a part of the celebration."

During the week the students attended lectures at the Southern Poverty Law Center by the Equal Justice Initiative, and visited the Tuskegee Airmen Museum. The students also participated with thousands of other marchers in commemoration of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Most of the students who participated in the service learning trip are majoring in human services. A degree in human services prepares a student for work in various fields including social work, psychology, human resources and other similar careers.

Gordon's Second Selma Spring Break



Front row, from left, Raven Willis, Whitney Kimball, Sarah Maddox, Sallie Nowell, Evelyn Roche, Danisha Jordan, Juleia Green, Christopher Onyia, Adrienne London, Juliana Cooper, T'Anna Manning, Dr. Christy Flatt.

Back, from left, Dr. James Awbrey, Alex Todd, Aaron Deaton, Merissa Cannon, Olivia Gunn, Preston Allen, Amanda Petroff, Amber Colbert, Jessica Childers, Shelley Knight, Anissa Howard.

The Edmund Pettus Bridge is in the background.

HISTORY STUDENTS REMEMBER THE FALLEN



Left, Dr. Tom Aiello, Savannah Boyd, Thomas Shedd, Jennifer Grant, Pam Fuentes and Scott Dalton.

Gordon State College history students joined students from Southern Crescent Technical College in honoring local service members who were killed in action from World War I to the present.

The two-part project involved the Gordon students providing the research necessary to document the history of each soldier and then for Southern Crescent Technical College students to create a documentary.

In May the documentary was presented in Griffin in a program organized by the Griffin-based Honor our KIA committee. The program included retired Army Gen. William J. Livesey and the Griffin-Spalding Elementary School Honor Chorus which performed a medley of the hymns of each branch of the U.S. military.

Twenty plaques were also dedicated honoring 19 men and one woman who died in service to the country.

Families and friends of each of the 20 soldiers were recognized during the dedication.

Gordon State College students participating in the project include Pam Fuentes, Jennifer Grant, Savannah Boyd, Thomas Shedd and Scott Dalton. The students were part of Dr. Thomas Aiello's spring semester history colloquium.

Oluwole Tapped for USG Task Force

Recent Gordon State College graduate Ornella Oluwole is serving on the University System of Georgia's New Learning Models Task Force. The task force is designed to identify and quantify forces and critical uncertainties facing higher education for the next 15 years.

"I am honored to represent Gordon State College on this important task force," said Oluwole. "Looking to the future for ways to improve higher education is fascinating."

Having graduated in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree in biology, Oluwole plans to attend medical school. While at Gordon she was the president of the Student Government Association, a math tutor, resident assistant and member of Tau Alpha Tau and an honor student.

Student Government President Ornella Oluwole proudly shows her certificate of membership in the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society.



Left, President of the GSC Student Veterans Association Chris Deal, Dean of Nursing Anne Purvis, Lt. Col. Brian Lassetter, Gordon Military College alumnus Lewis Covin and GSC President Max Burns.



ROLL CALL 2014

Gordon State college alumnus Lewis Covin told a crowd gathered on Lambdin Green last November that 46 years ago he was a young cadet in a wool uniform marching in the pouring rain in a Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Barnesville.

"And we smelled like a pack of wet dogs," he said.

Guests, students, faculty and staff had gathered at Gordon State College to commemorate National Roll Call, a project which began on Nov. 11, 2011, when thousands at more than 180 colleges and universities came together and demonstrated their commitment to remembering those who, as President Lincoln described, "gave their last full measure of devotion" while serving our country.

Special guest speaker for the event was Lt. Col. Brian Lassetter, commander of the 1-108th Cavalry, Georgia Army National Guard.

"Right now there are 1.4 million men and women that fill the ranks of our formation. When you think about it, for the last 14 years our nation has been at war. Every one of your sons and daughters answered when the beat of the war drum was at its loudest," Lassetter told the crowd.

"When you think about it from a voluntary force standpoint, it's one thing to say 'I'm serving'; it's another thing to say at the same time we're expected to send people into harm's way. So when you see someone who is serving, think about that and remember that's the dedication they have made to our country."

Also speaking was Anne Purvis, dean of the school of nursing and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Purvis shared her recollections of serving as a nurse at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and in Germany.

The event closed with the playing of taps by Gordon State music major Andrew Price.



The Ice Bucket Challenge

Members of Gordon State College accepted the ice bucket challenge in August 2014 to help raise money in the fight against ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Among them were Gordon President Max Burns (pictured above), Advancement Vice President Rhonda Toon, Faculty Senate Chairman Jeff White and Gordon State College/Sodexo Chef Bill Littiken, the man who started the challenge at Gordon.

The Claymore editorial board, from left, Megan Etheridge, Charlie McDermitt, Savannah Boyd, Avery Bray and Alec Sosa.

The Claymore, the student newspaper at Gordon State College, won five awards at the Georgia College Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

The staff competed against schools with established journalism programs and enrollments of up to 8,000 students.

This was the second consecutive year that *The Claymore* won first place for most improved publication.

AAMI MEMBERS TUTOR IN COMMUNITY CENTER

During the 2014-15 academic year, members of the Gordon State College African American Male Initiative (AAMI) spent one afternoon a week tutoring middle grade students at the EP Roberts Center.

"I am learning as much from the younger students as I hope they are learning from my tutoring help," said GSC sophomore Jacob Tucker. "It is also a good opportunity to give back to the community."

This was Tucker's second year with the AAMI, a program designed to help improve the retention, progression and graduation rates of African-American and Latino male students by providing academic, personal, social and cultural development. The core components of

the program include leadership training, student advisement and community service.

Tavion Pugh, who is enrolled in the after school program at the center, gave Tucker "two thumbs up."

"I like him helping me," Pugh said. "He is helping me to get my homework done."



GSC sophomore and AAMI member Jacob Tucker with Tavion Pugh.

Claymore Garner Five Awards at GCPA



Recognition was given for:

Improvement:

1st Place, staff.

Best Sports Story:

1st Place, Zachery Findley, "Harlem Globetrotter to Highlander Coach."

Best Sports Photo:

2nd Place, Danielle Samuels, photo of basketball player Reed Dungan.

Best Entertainment Story:

2nd Place, Bridget Ingram, "The Magic of Success."

Best Entertainment Story:

3rd Place, Sharri-Ann Solomon, "A Play for Our Times."

Excelling with Accel

by Tamara Boatwright

For a while now, Ali Goode's ultimate goal has been to get a college degree and a high school degree at the same time.

As part of the Spring 2015 graduating class at Gordon State College, that goal was reached.

Goode came to Gordon in 2013 from Mary Persons High School in Monroe County as part of the Accel program. The Accel program provides academically

Goode started college with the intention of becoming a teacher.

"I always thought my calling was, in fact, to be a teacher. But because of professors like Dr. Richard Schmude Jr., I have found I actually aspire to become a pharmacist," she explained. "In the future, I may want to teach pharmacy or chemistry at a college or university but right now I plan to earn a degree in biology and a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences.

She says her parents, Christopher and Marsha, have "assisted me every step of the way and have encouraged me to strive to reach my fullest potential through it all."

She also credits her academic adviser, Dr. Mike Mahan, dean of the school of education, for helping her to set up everything she needed to achieve her goal.

Although she hits the books hard, she also has found time to be involved in competitive clay shooting and is a registered National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) shooter.

"I am also very active with our local 4-H in which I am a teen leader mentoring the younger 4-H'ers," she said. "I am a part of the 4-H shotgun team, horse team, livestock judging team, and the leadership committee."

Goode also has advice for any student wanting to join the Accel program.

"I would want them to know to never give up and never think you are alone," she said. "Gordon is full of amazing professors and fellow students who will do everything in their power to help you succeed. Always strive to reach your fullest potential and never be afraid to reach out for help. Your professors understand that you are trying your best to go above and beyond, and they will honor that and always assist you. If you need extra help, don't forget about the Student Success Center. The tutors you will meet will become your closest friends and your number one weapon against major exams."



talented high school students the opportunity to accelerate their studies through either joint enrollment or early admission.

"I was drawn into the Accel program at Gordon State because of the amazing opportunity it presented me, as well as the positive feedback I have received from other students who were in the program," Goode said. "To find that I could receive my associate degree before I officially received my high school diploma became my ultimate goal. All of the professors and officials who were associated with the program helped me achieve that goal. I will be forever grateful."

GSC Adds Two New Bachelor's Programs

Gordon State College will begin offering classes that will lead to a Bachelor of Science in Management and Administration (BSMA) this fall.

Since Gordon joined the University System in 1972, an associate of science degree in business administration has been one of the most popular programs on campus. While students received a solid foundation in business administration, they had to transfer to other institutions a bachelor's degree.

With the implementation of the BSMA program, Gordon officials expect more than 100 students in the first cohort. The program will be administered through the department of business and public service.

Gordon State College also received approval by the Board of Regents to establish a Bachelor of Science in Education in middle grades education.

The program will begin admitting students in spring 2016 after it is approved by the Professional Standards Commission of the State of Georgia.

The new BSE in middle grades education will include options in all five areas of middle grades certification - language arts, mathematics, reading, science, and social science.

"There is a shortage of teachers in the immediate region served by Gordon which includes Lamar, Spalding, Henry, Butts, Fayette, Pike, Upson, Newton, and Monroe counties," said Dr. Mike Mahan, dean of the School of Education. "With retirement and replacement, the state now mandates that middle grades teachers hold a clear and renewable middle grades teaching certificate. This new degree will help Gordon address those needs in the immediate region as well as state-wide."

Gordon currently offers a Bachelor of Science in early childhood/special education degree as well as Bachelor of Science degrees in mathematics and biology. There are also Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and history with secondary teaching certification.

These new degree offerings bring to 10 the number of four-year degrees offered by Gordon State College. Other offerings include: early childhood education, history, English, biology, mathematics, nursing, health services and informatics administration, and human services. Gordon also offers 40 fully transferable associate level concentrations of study.

Regents Approve Pre-Licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree

Students attending Gordon State College now have two ways to earn a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree.

Since 1973, Gordon has provided students seeking a degree in nursing a well-established and consistently excellent Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program.

In 2010, the college took the next step in addressing Georgia's need for a better educated workforce by developing a RN to BSN completion program for licensed registered nurses wanting to earn a bachelor's degree.

The newest BSN program is a traditional four-year pre-licensure nursing degree consisting of two years of core requirements and two years of nursing course work.

The ASN program currently admits approximately 160 students per year and the RN to BSN program between 40 and 60 students per year.

A 2014 annual survey conducted by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) indicated that 44 percent of hospitals and other healthcare settings are requiring new hires to have a bachelor's degree in nursing, while 79 percent of employers say they have a strong preference for BSN program graduates.

The first two years of the program can be completed at Gordon State's main campus in Barnesville, as well as on Gordon State's campus in Henry County. The last two years of the curriculum will be taught solely on the Barnesville campus in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Clinical experiences will take place at regional health care facilities and community agencies.

2015 ALUMNI WEEKEND

by Peter Boltz

For all the complex planning that goes into Alumni Weekend every April, its actual start is rather simple. An alumnus, or alumna, walks into Alumni House on Stafford Avenue to pick up his or her registration materials.

This is how Alumni Weekend begins.

Ron Underwood was one of these graduates of Gordon Military College who came from Dublin, Virginia, on Friday, April 17, to attend the 50th reunion of his high school class. The last reunion he attended was 25 years ago.

Retired Alumni Coordinator Lynn Yates, back this year to help the Advancement Office, and alumna volunteer Gaye Kennedy took his registration, and the three of them chatted.

"It still feels like home," Ron said. "It's a shame it took me 25 years to come back, but you know, life gets in the way."

A former administrator for the Pulaski County School System in Virginia for 32 years, Ron worked with the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Now, in his retirement, he substitutes at an elementary school. Lynn and Gaye, a former teacher herself, smiled broadly as Ron talked about how precious little kids can be and how he had to learn to be able to talk to other teachers while he had a child wrapped around his leg looking up at him.

His class, the Gordon Military High School class of 1965, held its reunion that night on the fourth floor of the Instructional Complex like many of the previous high school reunions during Alumni Weekend. It's a premier location because it's the closest thing Barnesville has



to a skyscraper – a four-story building on a hill – with views not only of the campus but well beyond. Most folks, however, were looking for their friends, and every time the elevator doors opened, this is where their eyes turned. Those two elevators may not have been the grandest of entryways, but grand is a suitable adjective to describe what happened when those doors opened. More surprises, smiles and hugs occurred there than any other place on the fourth floor.

After a good bit of time catching up with each other and then having their class photo taken by Alumni Association Chairman Truman Boyle in his role as photographer, alumni made their way to their seats for a meal of either beef or salmon. While servers wound their way through tables, Ann Butler Harden, Viki Maddox Brennan and Johnny Poore spoke.

Ann spoke about the difficulty in locating hard-to-find classmates and how one never quite knows what to expect when using Google. She acknowledged Candi Babcock, the coordinator for the advancement office, and Rhonda Toon, the vice president of advancement, for alleviating her anxieties about the turnout for the reunion.

Registration for the reunion was low to begin with and this worried her and Viki, so Candi and Rhonda kept in close touch with them. When the list grew, she said, “We got so excited, like children.” Still, she added, she wished more could have made the trip.

In her turn at the podium, Viki talked about the special times she and her classmates had at Gordon, and the people at Gordon “who helped us to be better people.”

She encouraged everyone, unnecessarily as it turned out, to spend time talking to everyone in the room. “Our



lifetime on this earth is short,” she said. “Let them know how special they are.”

Johnny Poore said the blessing, but before he did, he cracked an old George Burns joke: “If I had known I’d live this long, I would have taken better care of myself.”

This got some laughs, but most in the room were thinking of something else George Burns said and were acting accordingly: “You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.”

The next big event after the 50th reunion of the Class of ’65 was the Alumni Italian alfresco lunch, which was scheduled for the courtyard of Alumni House but because of threat of rain was moved to Highlander Dining Hall.

It isn’t unusual for alumni who have never been back to campus to return for Alumni Weekend, and this year was no different. Fred Harris was one of these. He graduated from Gordon three years after it became part of the University System of Georgia in 1972 with an associate degree in business. He said he considered going on for a bachelor’s degree in business but at that time Gordon didn’t offer baccalaureates and he got busy in his family’s tree harvesting business.

“It’s been 40 years since I returned to Gordon,” he said. “I had a longing to come so many times. When I got this year’s information, I said I was going if for no other reason than to be at the memorial dedication. My dad was a tail gunner on a B-25 in World War II, and I’m a true blue American.”

Another Alumni Weekend guest who had not been back to Gordon was Mary Ann Congleton Lewis. She hadn’t been back in 52 years.



"I was never a student at Gordon," she said, "but I was a captain's wife." His name was Roy E. Congleton, assistant professor of military science at Gordon from 1961 to 1963, and he lived in Barnesville with Mary Ann and their two daughters, Julianne and Dawn. (A third daughter, Stephanie, was born in 1964 when they were stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.) A by-the-book officer, Congleton was also a caring and loving father who opened his home to many cadets. One such cadet, Danks Seel, remembers being struck by the difference between Congleton the professor and Army officer and Congleton the husband and father.

Maj. Roy E. Congleton is one of the names on Gordon's Military Memorial, killed in action in Vietnam in 1964. The dedication of the memorial is found in a separate story in this year's magazine.

Dinner that night was also held in Highlander Dining Hall with music provided by Junkshun. At one point, while the band took a breather, Ed Guilbeau, high school class of 1960, entertained diners with an a cappella performance of *Heart* from the musical *Damn Yankees*.

A veteran of many community theater productions, Ed threaded his way through the audience singing all the way as if everyone were part of a Broadway production.

Alumni Weekend ended as it always does, with sleepy-eyed alumni filtering in for breakfast in ones and twos, conversation really not revving up until everyone had their coffee. The volume peaks and then begins to decline. Conversations dwindle to a last group of four or five until the only ones left are the cleanup crew and a very tired advancement staff.

Good morning and safe travels until next year.

SAVE THE DATE.

**Join Us for Gordon State College
Alumni Weekend 2016
April 22-24**

Come join us for a weekend of renewing friendships, making new friends, reminiscing, good food and drink, and fun. Alumni Weekend is for all Gordon alumni, no matter what year they graduated.

If you've never been and have questions, let us know. If you've been before and have ideas to share about AW 2016, let us know.

Contact Candi Babcock at candib@gordonstate.edu or call her at 678-359-5739.

We can also be reached by mail:
Gordon State College, Alumni Relations Office,
419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.



Market Day with Jonathan Hudson

by Peter Boltz

On a cool, clear June morning, a convoy of three pickup trucks led by a Ford flatbed drove down 8th Avenue in Columbus, Georgia, took a left on Broadway and pulled over to the curb at 9th.

Hudson's Farm Fresh Market had arrived.

Jonathan Hudson, a Gordon College alumnus stepped out of the lead pickup, double high-fived one of his help and started setting up tables, pulling produce from the trucks, and answering his cell phone.

It was Market Day on Broadway, and he had an hour to get set up. Other vendors up and down the road were just as busy.

One of the six men with Jonathan was his father Charles, a Gordon alumnus like his son.

"I went to Gordon junior high school, 8th grade," he said. "We didn't have to wear the uniform."

The year he went to Gordon was the last year it was open.

"My father joked that the school had been there for a hundred years," Charles said, "and I went there one year and the school closed."

The Hudsons own a farm in the Raleigh community near Manchester, Georgia. Charles said Raleigh used to be a town with its own railroad depot, and that the farm has been in the family since 1838, the year his great grandfather was born on the property.

Not everything Jonathan set out Saturday morning was from his family's farm. All of the melons, blueberries, plums and peaches were his. Many of the vegetables came from other farms that he does business with.

"I know most of the guys who deal with produce and have known them since I was 14," he said. "I can look at produce and tell you what country it's from, or where in the state. For example that yellow squash I brought today is from south of here. It's not ripe yet north of here."

It's this kind of knowledge and longtime business

relationships that give him the confidence to sell another producer's fruits and vegetables under his name. In the same way, other producers feel confident about selling his produce.

"I sell their squash, and they sell my peaches," was how he described this reciprocity between him and other producers, and the trust they have in each other.

Besides produce, he had Wild Bill's Yellow Root Tea, Hudson Farm's Pepper Sauce, and three brands of honey – Blue Ridge, King Mountain and Weeks – for sale that morning. The beat up pair of cowboy boots he stood atop the roof of the Ford flatbed were there for "character" and to sell just like the birdhouse gourds that also adorned the truck.

After everything was unloaded and nearly set for opening, he got into one of the trucks and drove to his business on Veteran's Parkway, Hudson's Farm Fresh, to pick up another table.

On any given day, the entrance to the store is filled with a sea of garden and houseplants with birdhouses standing like buoys among them. The inside is just as inviting with far more variety than what he displays on Broadway on market day, including items of "character."

At one end of the interior is a no longer manufactured bean sheller and a couple of other machines that still work, and he still uses. Behind the checkout counter sits a huge wood stove he used for cooking and heating in his Gainesville State student days. It now serves the same purpose for his store.

He did a quick tour through his store before loading the table to make sure everything and everybody is okay before he headed back out. As he went, he greeted several customers by name, checked on the progress of building a meat locker and butcher's corner, and the hothouse where he has plant starts growing, injured plants recuperating, and an experiment – brown cotton. Such naturally



pigmented cotton may become a big seller.

"The store is a work in progress," he said, "and there is always more to do." Maybe this is why he regularly gets only four hours of sleep a night, works six days a week, and never seems to stop.

By the time he returned to 9th and Broadway, the Saturday market was a churning crowd of buyers, sellers and people just out for a stroll. It's still a beautiful, cool morning, but everyone knows it won't last long, and the shopping is brisk.

Sometimes customers want to quiz him about his produce, and as much as he is patient and courteous with them, his frustration with the food crazes and philosophies that drive their questions can come through.

"Some have taken on these ideas as a religion," he said. "They need to be told what they should eat because they are not confident in their own decisions. If they understood how farming works, they would think differently."

And when he uses the word farming, he doesn't mean



it in some limited sense of growing a great big garden, although growing fruits and vegetables is central to the concept. It's everything a farmer must do to grow crops and then to sell them – otherwise, what's the sense of it?

Of all the things a farmer has to be, of all the things Jonathan has to be to make a living, which does he identify with the most? Salesman? Marketer? Deliveryman? Student? Designer? Philosopher?

"Farmer," he said, not even looking up from arranging pint baskets of yellow squash on the table he just unloaded. "A farmer."

The Return of the

BULLPUPS

Gordon Grammar School's All-Years Reunion



Dee Bankston Kitchings and Midgie McKoy Coddington were the first to arrive at Gordon State College's dining hall that Friday before the big reunion the next day, May 15. They had come to start decorating Highlander Dining Hall with their fellow committee members. Truman Boyle and Kathy Bates Anthony were going to be late, but Lanie Lifsey Long, Jane Roberts Loman and Jolynn Mangham Cichocki were on their way.

"I've got to sit down," Midgie said. She had tired herself with chores all morning and had just left her brother Bill McKoy at Gordon's Military Memorial. Despite needing to sit for a moment, she was too excited to rest for long.

She said that while she was driving around Barnesville she saw people sitting out on their front porches. Had she not been so busy, she would probably have been on her porch too since it was a pleasant spring morning. What excited her were the out-of-the-ordinary faces she saw, the faces of people who had come into town just for the reunion.

Her fellow committee people were just as excited for their own reasons, and they quickly got to work pasting class pictures on display boards, stuffing goody bags, bringing in flower arrangements and refining last minute plans. Even

though they worked into the night, they were still back to work the next day, hours before the 5 p.m. start time.

Flowers still had to be arranged, balloons (in Grammar School colors of red and white) had to be set at tables, registration materials had to be set up in the lobby, and glitches fixed.

And then people started arriving. At first, it was just a car or two coming into the nearest parking lot, and the shuttle started one round trip after another. Soon all four available parking lots were filling up, and the shuttle could not keep up with all the arrivals. The registration tables kept up with the flood and soon the dining hall was crowded with 400+ former students and their spouses.

People ate, people drank, people danced and people had their pictures taken in front of the 10 foot by 20 foot screen print of the Grammar School building, but mostly people found classmates and talked. And when conversations ended, they found other classmates to talk to, again and again until the night ended.

And it's a fairly safe bet that the conversations began again the next morning and continue to this day. See for yourself on the Gordon Grammar School Facebook page.



FROM RADIO TO RAILROAD



Hal Moore, Gordon Military College Class of '67, said he got his start in radio in Gordon's MARS Club, or military auxiliary radio system club in his senior year at Gordon Military High School.

It was in the radio club that he got his first amateur radio operators license. Even though the license is inactive, he can still recite it as easily as his name, WA4GKS.

His next step into radio came when he transferred to what was then Georgia Southwest College in Americus, Georgia.

Working part time as a photographer for the local paper, he was at the scene of a car accident that took down a power pole that in turn took down much of the power to Americus. There he started speaking with someone from the local radio station WDEC who asked him who he worked for. He also told Hal that the station was running on generator because of the outage and that it was running out of fuel.

Hal said he had two empty five-gallon fuel containers in his car and offered to help get gasoline to the station. At the gas station, the man from the radio station noticed the whip antenna on Hal's 1952 MG TD and so knew Hal was an amateur radio operator.

"You know, the station is looking for a part-time employee which would be perfect for a college student," the man said. "You have a decent voice. Maybe you'll end up in radio."

Wanting to learn more, Hal found out from the man that he would need more than an amateur operator's license; he would need a commercial license.

Three days later, he had his commercial license and launched his 21-year commercial radio career.

He said he "basically got tired" of doing radio, retired from it, and began searching around for something else to

Harold "Hal" Gordon Moore, in his senior high school picture, was president of the radio club, on the staff of *Taps* and *Reveille*, a sharpshooter, and an honor student among other things. He would become Gordon Military College's drum major.

Hal Moore said he learned how to play the drums while at Gordon Military High School, and performed with The Gents at the Rec.

do. A model train enthusiast, one day he said to himself, "Let's quit playing around with the models and go toe to toe with the real thing."

As a matter of good timing, Amtrak was hiring, and he was hired as a conductor on the Auto Train, a nonstop train for passengers and their cars from the Washington, D.C. area to the Orlando, Florida, area.

"I first became interested in trains with the Nancy Hanks II which went through my hometown of Barnesville, Georgia, on its way from Atlanta to Savannah. I always enjoyed the man in the blue hat, the conductor, saying, 'All aboard,'" which is something he got to do in his own blue hat.

Today he resides in Baltimore, Maryland, completely retired but staying busy refurbishing reel-to-reel tape recorders, playing his drums, and preparing a trip to Barnesville to research the cannon set at the entrance of Gordon State College's Military Memorial.

At one time he was a cadet on cannon duty, polishing those cannon, but today he is interested in tracing their history through the serial numbers stamped on the mouths of the cannon.

He's also looking for someone to put on cannon duty.

First Place Symposium Award Goes to Allen

Human services major Preston Allen garnered first place in the 2014-15 Gordon State College Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Allen's presentation, *The Effects of Craig Air Force Base on Selma, Alabama*, was developed in cooperation with Dr. Christy Flatt, assistant professor of sociology.

The study detailed the initial impact of the closure of Craig AFB and compared four measures – unemployment rate, poverty level, education level, and median income – before and after the closure, showing the effect it had on the economy of Selma.

"I am excited to have shared this research with the faculty and students of Gordon State College," he said.

Allen, who graduated last spring with a BS, has been accepted into the graduate program at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, where he will study sociology.



CANDI BABCOCK HONORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Griffin-Spalding County Chamber of Commerce recently named Candi Babcock, the institutional advancement coordinator at Gordon State College, the 2015 Jean Gatlin Employee of the Year.

Co-worker Skipper Burns, development officer, nominated Babcock for the award writing, "Candi's title does not begin to describe the actual work that she performs. Whatever task she is asked to do she handles with a high level of efficiency and a quiet enthusiasm. Her talents are many. Much like Jean Gatlin, Candi loves her job, the people she touches every day and the difference she makes in all our lives."

"I echo Skipper's nomination and appreciate the chamber's recognition of Candi's dedication to Gordon State College," said Rhonda Toon, vice president for advancement. "She is an invaluable asset to our department and to this college."

Babcock has been an employee of Gordon State College since 2006.



CLASS NOTES

Elizabeth Hammond Rackley celebrated her 100 birthday on Jan. 12. She attended the Georgia Industrial College, formerly the Sixth District A&M School and now Gordon State College.

James Dawkins, '47, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce. He attended Gordon College after his service with the 787th Military Police Battalion in World War II. A former coach and physical education teacher at R.E. Lee Grammar School, he was inducted into the Thomaston-Upson Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He and his wife, Betty, reside in Thomaston, Ga.

Kent Moss, '60, celebrated his 50th year with New York Life. After he graduated from Gordon Military High School, he transferred to the University of South Florida. He went on active service with the Marine Corps until 1964, and then served in the reserves until 1966. He has been among the top 250 New York Life insurance agents for 30 years. He and his wife of 47 years, Lee, live in Tampa, Fla.

Bill Sanders, '66, won the 2013-2014 Silver Shovel Award from the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce for his development of the Wisdom Project in partnership with Melissa Tymchuck. The Wisdom Project is a senior leadership class for retirees in Hall County, Ga. Bill is the Gainesville district manager for the Jackson Electric Membership Corporation and co-chairs the Project with Melissa who works for the Northeast Georgia Health System, Inc.

David McIntosh, '71, is the news director for the Kershaw Broadcasting Corp. in Camden, SC.

Deanna Brinkley Turner, '79, retired from Lamar County Primary School after teaching second grade for 34 years.

Glenn Polk, '89, received the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award for his volunteer work in educating the public in fire and emergency safety. Polk is Deputy Chief

of the Spalding County Fire Department. He developed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program that he offers to the community free of charge.

Anita S. Harvey, '91, was promoted to vice president at BB&T's Community Banking department in Macon, Ga.

Janice Kent Peek Cranford, '94, was named Employee of the Year for the Jackson Division of United Bank and as overall Employee of the Year for United Bank. She and her husband, Kerry, live in Jackson, Ga.

David Webb, '95, won the Officer of the Year Award from the North American Wildlife Association. Ranger First Class Webb is a 13-year veteran of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division assigned to Towns County. He is also the 2013 Ranger of the Year and Investigative Ranger of the Year in his region and statewide.

Clay Kitchings, '99, received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Georgia at the end of spring semester 2015.

Justin and Heather Duffey Weaver, '00, reside in Nashville, Tenn., where Heather teaches at Heritage Elementary School and Justin works for Cornman Music. Both are graduates of Mary Persons High School in Forsyth, Ga.

Kelly Kitchens, '02, and his wife Jaime are the new youth pastors of middle school and high school students at the Griffin First Assembly of God. Kelly is a 1998 graduate of Griffin High School.

Sean Boland, '05, finished his first season as associate athletic trainer for the University of Georgia baseball program. Sean earned his associate degree from Gordon in health and physical education, his bachelor's degree from Valdosta State in athletic training and sports medicine, and his master's degree from Troy University in sports and fitness management.

Amanda Lonberg, '06, a sixth through eighth grade math teacher, was named Lamar County Teacher of the Year. After she graduated with an associate degree from Gordon State College, she earned a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Georgia. She is married to Jacob Lonberg, and they have two children, daughter Ashlyn and son Avery.

Heather Hall, '08, graduated from Brenau University with a master's of science in clinical counseling psychology. A native of Thomaston, Ga., she is the daughter of Jackie and Tammy Hall.

Mandy Colwell, '09, was awarded the Georgia Agribusiness Council's Joe B. Crane Memorial Classroom Grant. A third-grade teacher at Cowan Road Elementary School in Griffin, Ga., Colwell was awarded \$500 for a project to grow vegetables on the school campus. Students will learn about growing and then marketing fresh vegetables.

Tarah Crooks, '09, has been named coach of the Upson-Lee Lady Knights softball team. Crooks, who played softball for Gordon, graduated from Columbus State University with a degree in secondary mathematics in 2013.

John Paz, '11, an Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class, graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated in 2009 from Luella High and earned an associate degree in 2011 from Gordon State College.

Taylor McKinley, '12, of Thomaston, Ga., qualified for the Spring 2015 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Andrew Henry, '14, created the cover for the September/October 2014 issue of *Kitchen Drawer* magazine.

David S. Cromer, '15, of Thomaston, Ga., has been accepted to Mercer University School of Law.

Blake Watts, '91



Blake Watts, '91, has been named vice president of physician and professional services for St. Mary's Health Care System in Athens, Ga. He came to St. Mary's from Piedmont Healthcare and Piedmont Heart in Atlanta, where he served as senior director of operations/practice operations. He is also a former CEO and COO of hospitals in Winder and Monroe. Watts earned his master's degree from Georgia Southwestern University and his undergraduate degree from Mercer University in Macon. He is board certified in healthcare administration and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). He resides in Walton County with his wife and their two children.

CHARLES H. VAN RYSSSELBERGE, '64

Charles H. Van Rysselberge, '64, and his wife, Joan, took the Turner Classic Movies Classic Cruise in the fall of 2014. The cruise featured TCM hosts Robert Osborne and Ben Manckiewicz and movie/TV personalities Tab Hunter, Shirley Jones, Ann Blyth, Diane Baker, Richard Dreyfuss, Alex Trebek, and Errol Flynn's daughter Rory. Charles retired in 2011 after 40 years working in Chamber of Commerce management, the last nine as President and CEO of the Charleston, S.C., Chamber. He was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership from the Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2012 and Honorary Lifetime Membership from the American Chamber of Commerce Executives Association in 2013.



We Want Your News!

The *President's Report* is a good way for you and your classmates to keep up with each other, but this can only happen with your help.

Share your news with other alumni and friends in our Class Notes section in next year's magazine. Send news of your "doings" to the Alumni Relations Office, Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Ga., 30204 or e-mail us at pboltz@gordonstate.edu or call us at 678-359-5257. You may also fax information to 678-359-5738.



Derrick S. Vaughner, '15

Derrick S. Vaughner, '15, graduated in May with an associate degree in information technology. Vaughner, a Gordon Honors student, gave the benediction at graduation, an experience he described as interesting considering the huge audience before him. "It got to me more than I thought it would, but at least I didn't embarrass myself." In the Honors Program for 2½ years, he recommended it to any qualified student. The activities are fun, he said, and since students have to push themselves a bit more, the learning experience is greater. He works for United Bank at its call center in Zebulon, Ga.

Donations in All Kinds of GREEN

On two consecutive Sundays at the end of March, Bobby Wines (HS '60, C '62) drove from his home and nursery business in Ocala, Florida, to deliver finery of the flora type for the Gordon State College campus.

He made his first run on March 22 bringing with him dwarf camellias, knockout roses, muhly grass, procumbens nana junipers and minima jasmine. On his second run the following Sunday, he brought three willow oaks. These were unloaded with the help of Wines' business manager Laurie Williams and a couple of Gordon facilities staff who gave up part of their Sunday morning, Trent Johnston and Dontavious Hunter.

The three willow oaks are now on the south side of Gordon's Military Memorial, and the roses, camellias, muhly grass, jasmine and junipers are in the flowerbeds around the Memorial.

This isn't Bobby's first contribution of green to Gordon. Since 2010 he has made frequent trips to campus with his living donations from his business Bob Wines Camellia Garden and Nursery. The roses that grace the Alumni House Courtyard, and the camellias and many of the trees that grace the western entrance to campus between Honors House and the Human Resources Office are from Bobby.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$250,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 126 Gordon State College students through the Gordon State College Foundation.

The money will be distributed for use during the 2015-16 academic year.

"These funds show that companies, organizations, families, and individuals have chosen to partner with the Gordon State College Foundation to help deserving students cover some of the cost of attending college," said Rhonda Toon, executive director of the Gordon State College Foundation. "Developing or supporting a scholarship is a perfect way for a donor to connect with the future by making a difference in a student's life."

Human services major Raven Willis agrees.

"It is hard to put into words how much receiving a scholarship means to me," she said. The Gordon senior was awarded the Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Byrd General Scholarship.

"I am determined to finish my degree requirements, but I just wasn't sure where the money was going to come from, and I did not want to go into debt. I can now concentrate on completing college."

More than 20 percent of the students receiving a scholarship are enrolled in bachelor degree programs. Of those students, the average scholarship award totals \$2,000. Other awards average \$1,800 each.

Seven new scholarship endowment funds have been established at Gordon in the past two years.

Among the newest scholarship awards is one given to students who attended the Super Scholarship Saturday event in January 2015. During the event students entered a drawing for scholarships up to \$1,000. Another is the Founders Day Celebration and Scholarship fundraiser event, sponsored by the Foundation, which was first held in Spring 2014 and raised enough money to endow a scholarship. The spring 2015 event doubled that endowment.



The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. 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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Crawford Siblings Establish Scholarship in Memory of Their Mother

The children of the late Betty Smith Crawford gathered at Gordon State College in June to sign a gift agreement to establish a scholarship in her name.

Recipients of the Betty Smith Crawford Scholarship must be students with need who have been accepted into the education program.

"Momma was a teacher before she married my dad," said Christy Crawford, a teacher herself, who joined her brother Brantley and sister Cathy Crawford Sims for the campus visit. "And she was a teacher all her life. She taught Sunday school, Boy Scouts, and was always involved in education in one way or another. What better way to honor and remember her than with a scholarship in her name."

A Lamar County native, Betty graduated from Gordon Military High School in 1943 and later served on the City of Barnesville's Board of Education. Her husband, the late Dr. John Crawford, served on Gordon Military College's Board of Directors as both a trustee and as chairman. When Gordon became a member of the University System of Georgia, he also served on the Gordon College Foundation.

There is also a scholarship in his name awarded annually to a deserving nursing student.

Dr. Crawford died in 2006 and Mrs. Crawford died in 2014.

The siblings gathered at a sun dial which had recently been moved to a location closer to Smith Hall where students can enjoy it. The dial has been a part of the campus since 1919.

"It being here, close to Smith Hall, would have made momma happy," Christy said.

The agreement was signed in Smith Hall, which houses the Gordon State College School of Education. The building was named after Betty's great uncle, Walter Byron Smith, an 1882 Gordon Institute graduate.

Left, Dean of the School of Education Mike Mahan, Christy Crawford, Brantley Crawford, Cathy Crawford Sims and Gordon State President Max Burns.



Gifts were made to continue the support of these funds and scholarships

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Golden Reunion

CLASS OF '65

1st row: Randy Wilson, Johnny Poore, David Potts.

2nd row: Edmond Berry, Carol Barnes Sorrow, Jerry Willis.

3rd row: Ronnie Underwood, Don Joiner, Carol Bush Williams, Kathy Bush Keadle.

4th row: Carl Voelker, Ann Smith Roberts, Ann Butler Harden, David Bankston.

5th row: Nelle Morris Hancock, Bobby Carter, Dianne Waller McKinley.

6th row: Glenda Frost Carter, George Garcia, Jack Deacon.

7th row: Hank Reaves, Viki Maddox Brennan, Frank Bone, Sandra Haywood Recker, Louise Harper Mathews.

8th row: Billy Lawhon, Morris Goodwin, Mickey Howard, Linda Stallings White.

The **PRESIDENT'S**REPORT Is for All Gordon Alumni

Whether you attended Gordon when it was a military school or after it became part of the University System of Georgia, the *President's Report* is for you, and about you. Even if you attended Gordon for only a semester, you are part of the Gordon State College family.

If you know of an alumnus who does not know about the *President's Report*, let us know who he or she is. Contact Peter Boltz at pboltz@gordonstate.edu or call him at **678-359-5257**. You may also fax your contact information to **678-359-5738**. We want you on our roll of alumni. Gordon College, Advancement Office, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.

