

# BRYAN life



expanding bryan's reach more than love "thought on fire" spring 2013

CHRIST ABOVE ALL  
 BRYAN  
COLLEGE

## **Bryan Life**

A publication of Bryan College  
Volume 39, Number 3

### Editorial Office:

Bryan College  
P.O. Box 7000  
Dayton, TN 37321-7000  
(423) 775-2041  
www.bryan.edu

## **Bryan College Board of Trustees**

Mrs. Delana Bice  
Houston, Texas

Dr. Arliss Roaden  
Brentwood, Tenn.

Dr. Robert Coddington  
Hixson, Tenn.

Mr. Jeff Ryan  
Richardson, Texas

Mr. J. Wayne Cropp  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mrs. Betty Ruth Seera  
Dayton, Tenn.

Mr. Ralph Green  
Dayton, Tenn.

Dr. Mark Senter III  
Lake Forest, Ill.

Col. John Haynes  
Lilburn, Ga.

Mr. Mark Trail  
Tyrone, Ga.

Mr. David W. Kinsey  
Alpharetta, Ga.

Mr. C. Barry Whitney, Jr.  
Augusta, Ga.

Rev. Howard Park  
Pelham, Ala.

Mr. James R. Wolfe  
Noblesville, Ind.

Hon. Lawrence Puckett  
Cleveland, Tenn.

\* *Legal Counsel*  
Mr. Glenn Stophel  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dr. W. Gary Phillips  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

### **Cover Photo**

Stephanie (Huskey) Ward '10

Bryan Life (USPS 072-010) is published quarterly for alumni and friends of Bryan College. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Bryan Life, P.O. Box 7000, Dayton, TN 37321-7000. Periodical class postage paid at Dayton, Tennessee, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Bryan Life, P.O. Box 7000, Dayton, Tennessee 37321-7000. Printed in U.S.A.



### **President**

Stephen D. Livesay

### **Editor**

Tom Davis, '06H

### **Designer**

Dean Bell, '11

### **Vice President for Advancement**

Blake Hudson

### **Director of Gift & Estate Design**

Steve Keck

### **Director of Alumni**

Paulakay Franks, '84

### **Director of Marketing & Career Services**

Marica Merck

### **Annual Campaign Director**

David Holcomb, '94

### **Director of Direct Response Marketing/Database Manager**

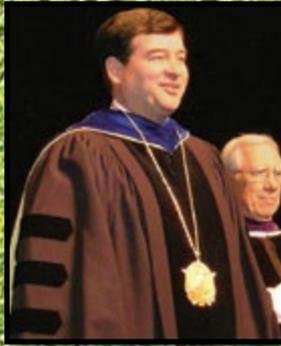
Janice Pendergrass

### **Advancement Assistant**

Tracey Bridwell

### **Assistant Graphic Designer**

Stephanie (Huskey) Ward, '10



**Index:**

**Expanding Bryan's Reach**  
Page 2

**More Than Laws Needed To  
Combat Evil** – Page 8

**Alumni Director** – Page 11

**Campus News** – Page 12

**"Thought On Fire:" WJB and  
the "Cross Of Gold"**  
Page 14

**Lion Tracks** – Page 18

**Alumni Profiles** – Page 21

**Sumner Wemp: A Lifetime  
Devoted To The Lord**  
Page 22

**Scholarship Fund Pays Off  
For Students** – Page 24

**Bryan Friends 'Run and Gun'  
Through Life** – Page 25

**Faculty/Staff Notes**  
Page 26

**Honor & Memory Gifts**  
Page 28

*Educating Students To Become Servants Of Christ  
To Make A Difference In Today's World*

STEPHEN  
LIVESAY:



Expanding  
Bryan's Reach

# Letter from the President

*But let justice run down like water,  
and righteousness like a mighty stream.*

Amos 5:24

For Corinne and me, it does not seem possible that we began our 11<sup>th</sup> year at Bryan on February 1. How faithful our Lord has been to our college, and how His grace and power have been manifested in the lives of so many students through these significant years. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to lead this community, and we are very excited about the coming years.

Certainly the most important responsibility and joy that I have is securing and promoting our mission throughout the Bryan community. We are surrounded by a culture that increasingly believes that God does not exist—as evidenced by the increasing scorn, rejection, and demonizing of Judeo-Christian values—and that our collective wisdom is sufficient to promote the “good life.” In such a time as this, our singular passion on Bryan Hill is to prepare this generation of young people to know Christ in an intimate way and to be those who will boldly share Christ and live out their faith through word and vocation.

In this issue of *Bryan Life*, Drs. Paul Boling and Clark Rose discuss the problem of evil. And as David Kupelian says in *The Marketing of Evil*, “As Americans, we’ve come to tolerate, embrace, and even champion many things that would have horrified our parents’ generation.” Through “enlightened tolerance education” and a host of Madison Avenue tactics, our nation has come to call “good” what God calls evil—and to call “evil” what He calls good. As Amos said to Israel, if there is not a flood of justice and righteousness that inundates our land, there will be a flood of judgment—and God did indeed judge Israel within a few decades of Amos’ warnings.

An alumnus who stood for God’s truth throughout his lifetime and had a heart for introducing men and women to our Savior was Sumner Wemp. Although we are saddened by his homegoing, we rejoice in a life well lived. He encouraged us to remain faithful to our mission a few months before he died when he shared with me how eternally grateful he was for the foundational teaching and education he received at Bryan.

It is essential that we continue to provide for this and future generations of Bryan students the type of life-changing education that our friend Sumner received. So in this issue you will read of our new campaign for student scholarships. The call is urgent for all believers; now is the time for us to stand by our students and prepare them in heart and mind to do battle against all the forces of evil.

I ask that you will pray fervently and give generously for Bryan to continue to live out our mission, “educating students to become servants of Christ to make a difference in today’s world.” Corinne and I eagerly anticipate the next decade because we are convinced that our world needs what a Bryan education uniquely provides.



Stephen D. Livesay

# Expanding Bryan's Reach

I particularly appreciate two of the God-given gifts I see in Dr. Livesay. One is the gift of a visionary. He not only sees the great potential of Bryan College, but is constantly seeking to expand her influence to reach more people for Christ. The other is his servant's heart. He is a tireless worker, going above and beyond what is expected, always with a wonderful attitude, doing his best for His Lord. We are blessed that God has called him here.

Delana (Crosthwait) Bice, '74  
Trustee – Houston, Texas

**BL:** Why did you accept the position as President?

**SDL:** My previous employer gave me the circular regarding the position and he wrote at the top,



“Stephen this is you.” I tried very hard to not come to Bryan because I wanted to make certain it was what God wanted, not just something I wanted. When the opportunity came, I felt that my own values and my own thinking, my worldview were very similar to Bryan, and that was a very strong indicator for me. I liked the fact that Bryan is very orthodox in its position in terms of understanding the priority and position of the Word of God in an

academic environment but yet it's not a cookie-cutter type of school where everyone has to look the same, dress the same, think the same. There's freedom of thought here, there's good engagement in terms of asking questions, learning. At the end of the day we understand that the Word of God is that which is our rule and guide. That to me is the way Christian learning should be.

I felt very much a peace about Bryan from the start. I felt there was a warmth here that was very special. I was really quite surprised that before I even left to go home after the interview they asked me how soon could I come. I said, “Well, this is December,” and they said, “Can you be here Feb. 1?”

**BL:** What has been the biggest surprise since taking office?

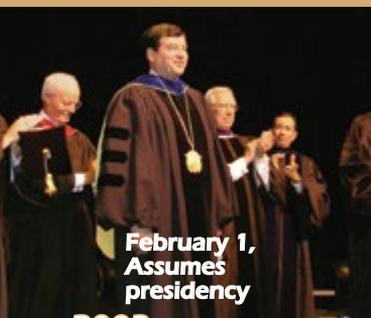
**SDL:** I am continuously amazed at the kindness and the Christian charity that is demonstrated day-by-day by everyone here. It has been so exciting to see the authentic love that is expressed one for another.

It has been a privilege to see first-hand what God is doing through the Livesays' service. We deeply appreciate Dr. Livesay's leadership qualities – especially his spiritual beliefs and practices, and his demonstrated entrepreneur successes advancing Bryan College. In addition, we have great admiration for Corinne's graciousness and friendly interaction with us and others of the Bryan family. Her writing skills have greatly enhanced the promotion of Bryan through its website.

Dr. Tom, '09H, and Mary Frances (Rudd) Carlson, '66  
Knoxville, Tenn.

The love never grows old; as when they did the 10-year anniversary [surprise party] the other day.

## TIMELINE



**February 1,  
Assumes  
presidency**

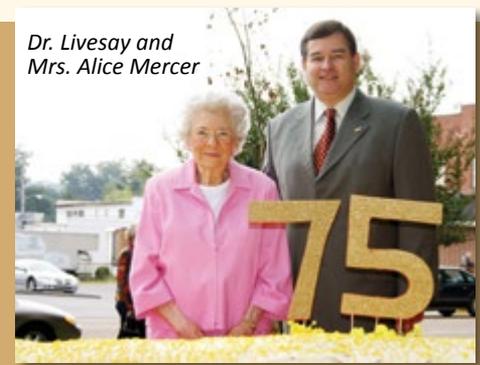
**2003**

October 3,  
Formally  
inaugurated

Spring 2004  
Quality Enhancement Plan, to spearhead academic  
improvements, is adopted  
SACS reaffirms accreditation

**2004**

Fall 2004  
Decosimo Lecture Series on Global Business initiated in  
cooperation with University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Chattanooga satellite campus opens



*Dr. Livesay and  
Mrs. Alice Mercer*

2004-05 school year  
Bryan celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

As a student, I remember we had a snow day one of his first days here and he cancelled classes. I thought, "I like the way his presidency is starting off." Since I've joined the faculty, I have seen him grow in his ability to connect with students. I appreciate his commitment and his responsibility to steward the resources of the college. He has used the phrase "sacred trust" many times, and I think he sees that as his sacred trust.

Pamela (Davis) Hollis, '05  
Assistant Professor in English



To still feel that same response and reception I felt the first day I was here says a great deal about the incredible Christian character of this institution.

Another surprise to me has been the tremendous response from the community and how the community has just melded together with Bryan. I feel free to call upon anyone in the community and I feel they feel the same with us here. We work together for whatever is best for this community.

In terms of dealing with academia and Christian worldview, I've been surprised to see the wonderful unity on this campus even though there are diverse views with regard to various positions on Scripture. I'm not talking about the fundamentals, but the various viewpoints within the church. Those are readily expressed, discussed, countered, and questioned, and yet there is a willingness to appreciate the views of others. To be within a Christian academic community where we have

One big project Dr. Livesay has initiated is the Community Service Day, where hundreds of families and businesses have been assisted by the faculty, staff, and students. Not only has this project provided assistance to those needing help, but has served as a bridge for building positive relationships between Bryan College and the citizens of Dayton.

Lenita Sanders  
President, Dayton Chamber of Commerce

The legacy of Dr. Livesay's 10 years is all around us and is unmistakable as one moves about the campus. New residence halls, a new entrance, a renovated chapel, immaculate landscaping, attractive campus video screens everywhere, and attention to interior detail down to the pictures on the walls all speak of the master planner that is Dr. Livesay.

Dr. Ken Froemke, '68  
Accreditation Liaison

that kind of opportunity to engage in that kind of dialogue in a very transparent way I think is unusual for colleges. That's one of the reasons I believe God has his hand on Bryan College because there is that faithfulness to represent the body of Christ in that way. I think that's what a good education that is centered in a biblical worldview should be.

**BL:** What do you consider the biggest challenge you have faced?

**SDL:** The greatest challenge is the reality of change. Bryan has certain qualities that I hope we always have: we have community, mentorship, discipleship. Relationships are very important inside and outside the classroom. Those are things that are integral to what historically has been Bryan. Bryan, however, needs to grow. In today's environment, schools with fewer than 2,000 students are probably going to have



**Fall 2005**  
College dedicates WJB statue at Rhea County courthouse; Rankin Center, honoring the memory of alumna Dr. Joanne Rankin, '56, dedicated at homecoming; Groundbreaking for North (later named Robinson) Hall; Summers Gymnasium enlarged to house new athletic training facilities; A practice gymnasium with two basketball courts opens; Cross Country program restarts



**2005**

**2006**

**Spring 2005**  
Community Service Day launched on the MLK holiday

**2006**  
Politics and Government and Christian Thought added as majors; Bryan offers first online courses

Undoubtedly the very best decision the Bryan College Board of Trustees made while I was chairman was the selection of Dr. Stephen Livesay as president. My confidence in him has continued to grow as he has implemented his own tactical strategy for carrying out the mission of Bryan College and the policies established by the board. His strong leadership skills have enabled him to attract and keep talented executives and faculty members, thus strengthening both the administration and the academics of the College.

Glenn Stophel, '01H  
Bryan College Legal Counsel

to merge or go by the wayside. We need to grow. But at the same time we have to make certain that we keep Bryan what we are. I believe we have made good progress in that. Good enrollment numbers as well as being able to retain our Bryan distinctives has been something that has been the greatest challenge, but I think we have been able to meet that challenge.

**BL:** In your time at Bryan, of what are you most proud?

**SDL:** The growth in opportunities for many students of different situations and many different ages and stages in life, to be able to imbibe a Bryan education is most gratifying. We've been able to reach many many more persons who never would have had the opportunity to engage with our faculty. We can literally take our programs around the world, programs that are developed and taught by our faculty, whether to a high school student through dual enrollment, or in our Master of Arts in Christian Studies program where vocational and bi-vocational pastors have the opportunity to come back to school for enhanced growth and learning.

It has been most gratifying to see Bryan's influence grow. To have persons say to me in the community and in the surrounding communities, "We didn't really know what Bryan is all about, we didn't know



Dr. & Mrs. Livesay with  
Dr. Tony Evans

much about Bryan," and to have them make it a household word. That's gratifying.

I've also been very pleased with the fact that so many of our alumni share with us the enthusiasm for what God's doing on this hill, and to see them live out Bryan's mission—serving Christ and truly making a difference for Christ's kingdom through multiple vocations around the world.

I'm really excited – beyond excited – that we have the new entrance to the college. We all know of persons in the Bryan community who prayed literally for half a century that we would see this direct entrance off U.S. 27. To be able to see in my tenure what many of my predecessors have worked for brought to fruition is a blessing.

"Mover and shaker" is a good description of Dr. Livesay for the past 10 years. There are many examples, like the new entrance, new dorms, improved enrollments, and scholarship work. But one of the most impressive things is to see much improvement in community relations. Working with him during my mayorship has been a joy. The next 10 years are going to be fun to watch.

Bob Vincent, '12H  
Dayton Mayor

**BL:** Where do we go from here?

**SDL:** Higher education is facing a great tsunami,

## TIMELINE



2007

The Bryan Polyclinic, an on-campus health facility, opens; Vision 2020 strategic plan introduced; Bryan's MBA degree, its first graduate program, approved by SACS; The William Jennings Bryan Opportunity Program (now the Bryan Opportunity Program) is initiated to fund scholarships for Tennessee students from families of limited financial means; New locker rooms and coaches' offices added to Summers Gymnasium; Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons, an organization to combat human trafficking, organized on campus



2007

2008

2009

2008

Theatre becomes Bryan's 18<sup>th</sup> major; Bryan holds its first fall commencement service in December

and the waters are coming deep and strong. What are the future requirements, the expectations for higher education? How do the governmental entities and accrediting folks view the work that we do? How do we proceed? First, we maintain and strengthen our mission. Second, we have to engage students creatively through different modalities of education if we are going to not only ride the tsunami but remain on top of it. We MUST be creative in how we provide opportunities for a vast number of students so that they will be able to participate in a Bryan education. We have to think outside the box. We want to provide the same benefit of a Bryan education in as many different modalities as possible so that students will be able to afford a Christian higher education. It's not inexpensive, but we have to provide value in such a way that we can still attract many individuals to the school. We're going to have to network with other schools, colleges, and universities, other agencies to be able to provide education. We're going to have to be very strong in our internship programs because education today is taking on more and more of an outcomes paradigm. We have to reach out, get outside the ivory towers, break down those walls and we've got to come along side and help one another to be able to provide the kind of education that young people need.

**BL:** *What else do you want to say?*

**SDL:** For Corinne and me, it is still the greatest honor and privilege to be at Bryan. That's not something that we take lightly. I've said many times that I think it's true that Bryan remains a mile deep and an inch wide. There's a lot of room to grow on a very strong foundation. I'm excited about the international opportunities for our students, how God has opened up the world to our students through a host of programs that we have not only overseas but also in terms of those whom we have been able to bring to campus.

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary as president. On numerous occasions leaders in our community have expressed to me their positive impressions of Dr. Livesay and the progress the college has made under his direction. I am always encouraged for Bryan's future when community leaders express their positive impressions of our leader. Patty and I thank you for your service to Bryan and consider our knowing you and Corinne a very cherished gift from God.

Larry Puckett, '73  
Trustee

For a smaller school we have an education that takes students who come here on average in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile and in MANY of our disciplines graduate in the 80<sup>th</sup> or 90<sup>th</sup>-plus percentile. That is a testimony to our faculty and staff, all of whom feel called to this ministry and called to invest in these students.

Bryan for a smaller school has such an incredible footprint. It's amazing the persons that look to Bryan for all kinds of resources and help. It's proof that you don't have to be big to have an influence. What you need to have is a heart and mind for God and allow Him to use it in whatever way.

The best is yet to come. I like to say I'm bullish on Bryan. We are weathering the tsunami that's coming. We are putting ourselves in a position to weather it while growing and strengthening our mission. We have been blessed this past decade with incredible grace and goodness from our Lord, and I know that what He requires of us is faith and faithfulness.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of truly getting to see my wife, her talent and abilities, in ways I probably would not have seen had we not had the opportunities that are here for us. I'm so appreciative of her and appreciative of the fact that I have had the opportunity through this decade to see a depth and richness in her that perhaps I would not have known. For that I will always be grateful.



**2010**  
Construction begins on two townhouse buildings to provide housing for upperclassmen; Bryan's second graduate program, a Master of Arts in Christian Studies, begins; Undergraduate Research Conference inaugurated



**2012**

**2009**  
Groundbreaking for new entrance off U.S. 27; Golf, softball, cheerleading added to athletics program

**2011**  
Office and classroom facilities open in Knoxville

**2012**  
Rudd Auditorium undergoes major renovation

# More Than Laws Needed To Combat Evil



**A** Friday morning shortly before Christmas found children in school focused on education – or perhaps the coming holiday – when a gunman shattered the festive mood of the country.

Twenty children died at Sandy Hook Elementary School and eight adults including the gunman were killed that day in Newtown, Conn. A national debate over “gun control” has ensued, and politicians have used that horrific event to expound on a variety of issues.

Largely missing from the pundits’ analysis of the Sandy Hook shooting has been a discussion of the spiritual implication.

Dr. Clark Rose, professor of psychology, said, “I don’t think you can segment the psychological, physical, and spiritual in cases like this. To really hope to understand something like this you have to take a multifaceted approach. There probably are familial, social, mental,

possibly physiological issues, and there is the spiritual aspect and the problem of evil.”

Dr. Paul Boling, professor of philosophy and Bible, said a tragedy such as Sandy Hook almost always raises the question of why is there

***We are going to ask “why?”  
“Is there any meaning to this?”***

evil in the world. “The question of innocent suffering, evil in the world, is a common question,” he said. “We deal with that every day. It almost always comes up in the context of personal pain. I think pain just increases the difficulty of the question.”

In cases such as this, where innocents suffer, terms like “gratuitous evil,” “senseless evil,” or “unnecessary

evil” are tossed about. Atheists argue, “There is no good reason for this [event]; there can’t be a good reason, therefore God probably doesn’t exist.’ But you can’t prove there is no God; you can’t prove this evil makes sense. Something like this is almost beyond comprehension to explain.”

Psychologists may examine an event or the perpetrator of an event according to the parameters of their discipline, but without understanding the spiritual aspect an incomplete understanding may result. “Any time you separate the various aspects from each other I think we’re treading on dangerous grounds. Sometime it is helpful to evaluate different parts of the problem, but I don’t believe you can separate evil and sin from the act itself and have a true picture,” Dr. Rose said.

Dr. Boling suggests that the spiritual dimension – the question, “why?” – is naturally going to surface. “We are going to ask ‘why?’ ‘Is

there any meaning to this?" he said. "Worldview questions start coming up."

Our response often resembles a grieving process – grief, sadness, and loss. "At that [initial] stage, we don't need a lot of Bible verses or philosophy. We just need someone to hold our hand. As time goes on, we may get to a point of asking questions."

Answering those questions starts with our view of God. "We as Christians believe in a God who is omnipotent, perfectly good, and in control of His creation," Dr. Boling said. "I believe God has a reason for doing what He does. We have to believe he has a reason for what He does. He has not lost control. He is consistent; He does not change. Therefore, I have to believe He has a reason for what he allows or directs. As a Calvinist, I believe everything is in his sovereign eternal plan and has a reason."

Determining exactly *what* that plan is may be another matter. "We have access to what He has shown us in Scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ. But I can't say why that happened to these children that day. We don't have THE answer. We have some ideas and we can give arguments. At this point, philosophy and theology start to matter more."

Still, Dr. Boling argues, "The only hope we have is that He is the Sovereign Creator of the universe. That is our security in the midst of suffering and grief."

Skeptics may use tragedies such as Sandy Hook as a platform to question the character or very existence of God, but their very questions exhibit an innate sense of right and wrong.

Dr. Boling said, "I think when something like this happens we have a reaction, our moral sense kicks in and says 'that's wrong; that's evil.' That's because we are created in the image of a moral God. How does this make sense unless the Christian worldview is correct? I believe there is a response in the human soul that looks at what happened in Connecticut and says

'this is not wrong just because I think it is, it is evil incarnate.' That is the

## ***I don't believe you can separate evil and sin from the act itself and have a true picture.***

human gut-level reaction to something like that.

"I think our thirst for justice in a case like this speaks to something transcendent. What is your basis for justice? I think the Christian worldview is the only one that can give a foundation for these judgments."

Because we live in a pluralistic society, Christians may not be able to argue persuasively for laws or policies by appealing solely to biblical injunctions or principles. But we can lobby on moral grounds for laws, institutions, and principles that help us function. "Hopefully, our laws will be driven by our moral beliefs. That's why we have laws against murder," he said.

And while there may be an instinctive reaction in some circles to say "we need new laws" to address a tragic situation, the immediate aftermath may not be the time to make far-reaching decisions.

"This is a time to look at our laws," Dr. Boling said. "Are they just? Adequate? Do we need to address something? Can we improve certain things? But will what we do make sense, based on sound moral conviction? We don't want to do something immediately, off the cuff, without reflective thought."

In all of this, "it is naïve to believe that laws are going to solve the problem," Dr. Boling said. "We live in a free society, and freedom entails risk, as does faith. We are not going to be able to stop evil acts. Individuals are free to make choices. No law is going to stop a lawbreaker from getting a gun. That's why they're criminals.

"But the bigger answer depends on our view of God. How big is God? And does He really have the universe under control?"

A practical application of our faith may be the most effective response to those suffering loss, Dr. Rose said. "Loss is occurring daily around us, whether it's loss of income, loss of health, or loss of life. We need to remember we live in a fallen world that's decaying. We need to be sensitive to those around us, to be loving, to be 'there' for them.

"There's nothing magical we can do to relieve their grief, but our presence can help. I think less is better. We have the example of Job's friends. I can't imagine sitting there for a week without saying anything; that seemed to go well. Then things went downhill after they started to speak. And there is the example of Jesus when Lazarus died. He wept and grieved even though He knew what He was going to do.

"We need to continue to place our faith in Him Whom we can lean on rather than in things in this world which are passing away, so when loss hits it does not shake our foundation. That can be an example and an encouragement. People tend to focus on 'why.' I think that's too short-term. Our focus should be on God and on His plan."

*Dr. Paul Boling*

*Professor of  
Philosophy  
and Christian  
Thought*



*Dr. Clark Rose*

*Professor of  
Psychology*

# Sandy Hook: An Alum's Perspective



In the predawn hours of Dec. 15, 2012, Gregory, '84x, and his wife, Suzanne (Sheppard), '92, Bacon, woke up in their home near Sydney, Australia, with a troubling feeling that "something's not right."

It wasn't.

Half a world away, a gunman had killed 26 children and adults in

Sandy Hook (Conn.) Elementary, early in the school day of Dec. 14 Connecticut time.

"We checked our phones, and I saw a half dozen alerts about a shooting in Sandy Hook," Gregory said. "We said it's too small a town for that not to have affected our family." They were right.

Gregory's parents and his brother Joel and family live in Sandy Hook, and his 6-year-old niece, Charlotte, attended the elementary school. "Sandy Hook is in a typical New England area – little towns connected by winding roads, stone fences, forests, white-steepled churches. It's easy to get lost without a GPS," he said. "I would describe Sandy Hook as a middle class or upper-income affluent area."

The couple spent a "hard four or five hours glued to the TV watching and waiting to hear back from our parents." He finally reached his father, who had no encouraging news. "It was close to midnight [Connecticut time] that we learned Charlotte was one of the victims."

As they waited, "Suzanne and I obviously were praying and hoping she somehow had survived the shooting. When it didn't turn out the way we expected, there was no anger or bitterness, but a sense of grieving and loss. Knowing that we would not be able to see her again hurt. At the same time there was a sense of peace and hope that she is with the Lord. That's what gave all of us hope."

Gregory and his family never lived in Sandy Hook, as they moved periodically for their work in ministry and missions. Three years ago they moved to Australia where they work with WorldShare, a Christian development and mission organization. But before they moved, Gregory was able to spend two weeks caring for Charlotte and her older brother Guy.

"Charlotte was a precocious child with an IQ off the charts," he remembers. "Even as a small child you could have good conversations with her; she was very articulate. I had an incredible opportunity to interact with them, to minister to them, to share

my beliefs. Charlotte asked very good questions."

She wanted to be a veterinarian when she grew up. She loved stuffed animals and the color pink.

When Charlotte's death was confirmed, friends in a Bible study in Chicago paid for Gregory to fly to Sandy Hook to be with his family. "The biggest struggle for us was we wanted to be there with family. It was extremely hard to comprehend that it was our niece. Most of the reports were alphabetical, and Charlotte Bacon was generally the first one listed. That's when it really sank in."

During his time in Connecticut his family had numerous opportunities to share their faith and hope. "I was amazed at the level of personal support and care we received from the state troopers, political leaders, our local pastor, and the general community. A lot of people showed up for the wake and funeral. Those were times when we could share the hope we have in the Lord.

"While we were in the eye of the storm we could see the confusion all around us, but we as a family had the peace of God. I know it was because literally thousands of people around the world were praying for us. We have always had a sense of peace knowing God is in control of the whole situation. What was intended for evil God is turning into something good. I can honestly say that not only do we believe it, we have experienced it. Even here in Australia God has given us so many opportunities to explain why we have hope that we will see her again.

"The message we want to convey is that prayer does make a difference. Even though we didn't understand the things we experienced we know that all things work together for good. Already we are seeing how that is happening. That has been so encouraging to us and our extended family."

*To learn more about Charlotte Bacon and a foundation established in her memory, visit [www.newtownkindness.org](http://www.newtownkindness.org).*

*Gregory Bacon & Family*



## Alumni Director



It is with humility and great joy that I have accepted the position of director of alumni relations for Bryan College!

As a 1984 alum, I have been associated with Bryan for more than 30 years and look forward to strengthening the bonds that have already been formed and to forging many new ones. I love this college; it has been a second family to me and my children. It truly is the Body of Christ at work.

One of the things I will be focusing on is connecting with our legacy students [those who have parents or grandparents who have attended Bryan]. We have about 35 legacy students on campus this year. I look forward to building relationships with them and their families. We always want Bryan to be a student's first choice; now we need to learn how to make that happen.

I also want to build our alumni chapter program, focusing here in Dayton and moving outward. Our highest concentrations of alums are in Dayton, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, and Atlanta. We need to have vibrant chapters there so our alums can connect, network, and become a support to each other. From there I would like to see our team work its way out so most alums will have a Bryan support system wherever they go.

These past seven-plus years at Bryan as alumni event planner have allowed me to experience the vibrant community we all love. I look forward to expanding on the solid work that has already been done in the alumni office. It is with your help we can make the alumni office a transformative department for alumni and current students alike.

*Paulakay Hall*

## Remember When?

What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Bryan? Maybe it is living in the old Octagon, The White Chapel, strolling around the Triangle, dorm pranks, or maybe it was a favorite professor who impacted your life.

My freshman English professor, Betty Brynoff, always had the sweetest smile and her countenance reflected our Savior so well. She gave me the confidence I needed to finish well in her class and during my years at Bryan. Her life has influenced me to this day.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11





## Freedom Matters

Human trafficking in the United States was the focus of a conference, Freedom Matters, sponsored by the Bryan chapter of Students Stopping the Trafficking of Persons in February.

Ben Norquist, who coordinated the conference with student leaders, said, "In the U.S., we have both foreign nationals and our own citizens enslaved. Our citizens tend to be minors forced into prostitution, while foreign nationals often are in forced labor in agriculture or factories, or in domestic service."

Keynote speaker was Katherine Chon, senior advisor on trafficking in persons in the immediate office of the assistant secretary, administration of children and families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and co-founder of the Polaris Project, one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in



Katherine Chon

the United States.

Bryan Professor of Bible Dr. Ken Turner opened the conference with a chapel presentation on the spiritual foundation for fighting human trafficking. Students also were able to view presentations by a number of anti-trafficking and after-care organizations, mainly from Atlanta. "Atlanta is one of the top cities in the U.S. for trafficking in and out of the country," Mr. Norquist said.

"We want to ask the question, 'As believers who live in a world that includes slavery, what is God calling us to do; how should we respond?'"

## Men's Volleyball Returns

Bryan College will bring men's volleyball back as a club sport this fall after a 20-year absence, this time with its own coach.

Alison Williams, now assistant coach for the women's volleyball intercollegiate team, will coach the men's club team.

"Volleyball is a growing sport in the Southeast, but there are not a lot of opportunities in this area for men to play volleyball at the collegiate level," Coach Williams said. "This will give players a chance to play close to home."

For much of the past year, Coach Williams has been developing a plan to implement the club sport. In addition to

convincing the administration to take this step, her efforts will serve as a template for future additions to the club sport lineup, Vice President for Enrollment Management Michael Sapienza said.

She already has been recruiting and hopes to have between 12 and 15 players for the team for the fall. Scholarship assistance will be available for players.

Resurrection of the men's program brings back fond memories for Bryan Vice President for Operations Tim Hostetler. "In 1980, there was a bunch of missionary kids here who liked to play volleyball," he recalled. "We set up a team in the spring of 1981, my freshman year, and played in the SEC Invitational Tournament."

For information about the new club sport, contact Coach Williams at [alison.williams@bryan.edu](mailto:alison.williams@bryan.edu).

## Bryan Welcomes High School Guidance Counselors

A dozen high school guidance counselors got a close look at Bryan College Feb. 1, as the admissions office began a series of introductory luncheons.

Campus Visit Coordinator Janine McCurdy said counselors from Rhea and surrounding

counties were introduced to Bryan College distinctives, academic programs, scholarship opportunities, and dual enrollment programs for high school students. Following the lunch, they were escorted on a campus tour by a student ambassador.

“Many of the counselors have heard about Bryan, but we wanted them to be familiar with what we have to offer their students,” Ms. McCurdy said. “A lot of



them didn't know about our dual enrollment program and that the cost is slightly less than what is charged by an area community college.

Admissions Director Aaron Porter and Vice President for Enrollment Management Michael Sapienza gave an overview of the college and emphasized the focus of the college to be faithful to its motto, Christ Above All, and to its mission statement, “educating students to become servants of

Christ to make a difference in today's world.”

Ms. McCurdy said available scholarship programs helped the counselors understand that a Bryan education is not out of reach of their students. “We hope they may steer students who would be a good fit to Bryan,” she said.

## Survey Finds Bryan Students Satisfied

Results from a national survey indicate Bryan students are more satisfied with their college experience than are their counterparts at other four-year private schools. For the 15th year Bryan students have participated in the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory completed by 259,740 students from 355 private colleges and universities.

In all 12 scales on the survey, Bryan students indicated greater satisfaction with their Bryan experience than do students at other institutions.

Matt Johnson, director of institutional effectiveness and planning, said information gained in the survey helps the college administration in three areas. “It lets them know what our students value in terms of the services we offer, it lets them know what

students think we are doing well and not so well, and it gives an indication of how we compare with other schools similar to Bryan.”

Overall, he said, results of the survey should be used by college officials “to help us improve the services we offer to students. These data serve as a tool for future planning and improvement.”

Questions in the survey were ranked on a seven-point scale, with “7” indicating the highest satisfaction. Among Bryan students' top items are:

- Nearly all of the faculty are knowledgeable in their field 6.32
- I am able to experience intellectual growth here 6.18
- My development of a Christian worldview has been enhanced at Bryan 6.10
- The institution shows concern for students as individuals 6.09
- The quality of instruction I receive in most of my classes is excellent 6.06



Bryan students and friends visited Israel and Jordan during the Christmas break. The group is pictured at the Petra treasury.

# "Thought on Fire:"

William Jennings

Bryan

and the

"Cross of Gold"

by Michael Palmer

In the *Cross of Gold* speech William Jennings Bryan embodied his own claim that "The speech of one who knows what he is talking about and means what he says—it is thought on fire." Delivered at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1896, the speech is considered to be one of the best examples of American political rhetoric. This is arguably true because of its eloquence, big ideas, altruism, the power of well-used words, its effect on the listeners, and the credibility of the speaker.

## A man of a large pattern

WJB was a man of a large pattern, a social and political force to be reckoned with. His life and work put him in select company with the likes of Ivan Turgenev, T. E. Lawrence, and Alex Dumas. Henry James wrote of the Russian writer Turgenev, that "like all men of a large pattern, he was a composite of simplicity and variety; both aristocratic and democratic; he was imaginative, speculative, and not merely literal; possessing a sense of beauty, and love of truth and right." Of T.E. Lawrence Winston Churchill said, "He was strangely enfranchised, untamed, untrammelled by convention... independent..." As for Alex Dumas, he was the father of Alexander Dumas whose classic pieces of literature were based on and inspired by his father:

a man of mixed race, described as the black count, a famous swordsman, who rose to the rank of general in Napoleon's army, popular, and also betrayed, ending up in an island prison off the coast of Italy. As such he was the inspiration for his son's stories about D'Artagnon and the Count of Monte Cristo. People of a large pattern have impact that cuts a wide swath in diplomacy, the military, private life, and politics.

Credibility is crucial to these types. They are flawed people to be sure, but less concerned with themselves and more concerned with making a difference. This is amplified when you add good rhetorical skills, which in turn deeply affect others for the better. It is a humane form of what the Christian mystic Thomas Merton contended are the two engines that drive good communication: having something to say, and being able to say it in sentences that aren't half dead. WJB was a great communicator because he possessed



these, along with the earned title of the “Great Commoner,” because he championed the concerns of the everyman.

Bryan was elected to the House of Representatives from Nebraska, was a three-time Democratic nominee for the presidency, and served as Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson. He saw politics as one form of applied Christianity, and as such also worked in the advocacy of women’s rights, anti-imperialism, consumer protection, and campaign finance reform. His political life and language rivaled George Orwell’s cynical remark that “political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.” He would have sided with the fictional president in the television show “West Wing” when he complained after hearing a poor sermon that words were supposed to be rich and meaningful, not mangled... that “words when spoken out loud for the sake of performance are like music...they have the properties of music, rhythm and pitch and timbre and volume, and can take us to places that literal meaning can’t.”

## The Cross of Gold speech

Following the financial panic of 1893, the country was in serious economic trouble. Small businesses and farmers preferred the silver coinage, of which there was plenty, to the gold standard. Opponents argued that the silver standard would possibly add to inflation and to added economic instability. The trade-off was that silver would make it easier for all to both stay in business and to pay debts because more paper currency would be backed by silver than by gold. Bryan supported silver, arguing that the small and independent businessmen were just as important as the larger corporate structures.

At the 1896 convention, after four ballots to try to determine a presidential nominee, Bryan delivered his “Cross of Gold” speech, after which, on the fifth ballot, he was voted as the nominee. It was the first of three such nominations; he was 36 years old. What he said, in dramatic speaking style, roused the crowd to near frenzy. It was reported that the response “came like one burst of artillery,” with men and women waving their hats and canes, and that “like demented beings, divested themselves of their coats and flung them high in the air.” His appeal



to the masses was evident, resonating with their concern that ordinary people were being sacrificed for the commercial interests of bigger business.

With impassioned oratory, he claimed the gold standard amounted to “pressing down on the brow of labor a crown of thorns, and a crucifying of mankind on a cross of gold.” His use of this twin metaphor is not meant as mere ornament, but as extraordinary language as a rhetorical



device to communicate an idea....the injustice of sacrificing the good of the ordinary person for the sake of the larger corporate interests. The metaphor is a powerful device of poetic imagination. It is based on analogy and similarity, talking about one thing in terms of another. Another effective imagery used was that of battle, showing that citizens clad in armor could resist big government. His appeal is to labor and the farmer, to industry and agriculture, set alongside the applauded notion of the pioneer spirit.

The spirit of the speech matches Gandhi’s view that “a nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.”

## Modern inferences from a 117-year-old speech

**Political life and language:** The rough-and-tumble world of politics can be self-serving, nasty, low, cunning, and corrupt. This speech and the messenger serve up a different message in miniature. They combine to suggest that politics can be noble, intelligent, spiritual, and driven by the public’s well-being. It is evidenced in a life that shows a character-building trajectory from “the boy orator of the Platte” to the halls of national power in Washington. WJB and this speech showcase the fact that real change, no matter how polished the delivery, or rehearsed the rhetoric, is lacking unless it is anchored in something bigger than we are, and accompanied by a deep desire to inhabit a big story.

WJB managed to succeed, not by empire-building,

but by developing a reputation as one profoundly concerned for citizenry welfare. He wasn't interested in shadow boxing; instead he was energized by sparring with life's real difficulties. To do this he was also intentional and skilled as a wordsmith. He understood that skill with words is indispensable to colonize a nation's thinking. He grasped what Toni Bambara said about words, that they conjure and "set up atmospheres, electrical fields, charges." He searched for charged words that work.

**Tikkun Olam....the work of social mending:**

Good and big ideas, along with verbal prowess, are "thought on fire" and are core. But to this must be added the "so what...to what end?" The consequence of all the mental and linguistic effort and skill must be for the common good. In this regard, WJB shines. His efforts are aimed at ennobling the democratic process, with fairness and the greater good for the common man realized. This aid to others resembles the Jewish notion of "tikkun olam" as an ancient ideal with modern relevance, aiming to leave the world a slightly better place giving form to what Laurens van der Post described as "the immense longing not just to protect but to rehabilitate the earth." It is a Hebrew phrase meaning "to repair the world." It is imbedded in the notion that whatever is right with the world,



there is also so much that is broken. This deep rupture in the universe elicits the imperative to repair, especially as a reflection of a sense of justice, compassion, and peace. It means being charitable and kind, and is driven by a deep caring about the welfare of the other, especially the disadvantaged. It has everything to do with mending and with righting social vertigo. The shades of dark and doubt in our world are challenged by the presence of dappled lights.

## Social Oxygen

Moses wanted his words "to soak in like the rain." Solomon wanted his words "to go in like well-driven nails," and WJB wanted his to do more than embroider reality. He wanted the words to find their way into the crevices of the mass of ordinary men and women and breathe social oxygen into people, some of whom felt trapped in air-tight economic and personal boxes. On a broad political and social landscape, and also in the "Cross of Gold" speech, he gave vocal version to "thought on fire." He was an early example of Reid Buckley's claim that "cases are not always won on their merits and truth does not always transpire through the candle power of her virtue. When one's object is to persuade people of what one thinks right, it is legitimate to employ all the powers of persuasion that God gave him, and within honorable bounds, seek to discombobulate the opposition. In all forms of warfare, it is a time-honored strategy to draw one's foes into the canyon and there destroy them" ... and win them.



*Michael Palmer is associate professor of communication studies at Bryan.*



Dr. Jeff Myers is the new president of Summit Ministries, the author of many books on leadership, mentoring, and communication skills, and the Distinguished Service Professor and Senior Fellow of Leadership Studies for Bryan College and CollegePlus.

**“For good or for bad,  
everyone influences.”**

As a student I was headed in the wrong direction and Summit helped me become a bold influence for truth on my campus. The rising generation desperately needs that kind of leadership. Come study with me at Summit this summer and begin your leadership journey.”



**CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP**  
[summit-bryan.org/jeff](http://summit-bryan.org/jeff)

**10% conference discount for friends of Bryan College.**



*The Hall Family*

## 60s

**PAUL, '68**, and Sandy **TIMBLIN** continue their ministry in Germany, where they have served for 36 years, the past 31 with Word of Life Fellowship, teaching at Brake Bible Institute. Paul served for 23 years as academic dean, and has taught New Testament and systematic theology, and Sandy taught English. They helped start Andreas Church in Lemgo, Germany, about eight years ago, and Paul serves as an elder and Sandy works with women. Three of their children live in Germany with their families, and their fourth is a pilot with United Indian Mission in Mexico.

*Paul & Sandy Timblin*



## 70s

**MIKE WOOD, '78**, cross country coach at McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn., was named Coach of the Year by the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* in December 2012. Mike's team won the state cross country championship, as well as several other prestigious titles during the season.

## 80s

**PAULAKAY (FRANKS) RICKETTS, '84**, and William David Hall were married Nov. 2, 2012. PK's maid of honor was her daughter, **EMILY GRACE**

**(RICKETTS) RIVERA, '09**, and the best men were PK's son, Jakob Ricketts, and Emily's husband, Luis Rivera. Paulakay is the alumni director for Bryan College and David works in contractor sales for The Home Depot.

## 90s

**ANITA (REUTER), '90**, and Bob **URBAN** live in Fillmore, Ind., where Bob is an aircraft mechanic for FedEx and Anita continues as a home school mom to their children, Anna Beth, 15, and Peter, 14. In addition to teaching, Anita is a taxi driver for Anna Beth and Peter.

**SCOTT CUNNINGHAM, '93**, had the opportunity to conduct a choir in Carnegie Hall in New York City in November 2012.

*The Urban Family*





*Scott Cunningham*

Scott is praise and worship leader at Central Baptist Church in Crossville, Tenn., and also works as a registered nurse at Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville. He and his wife, Darlene, have a daughter, Kali.

**JIM** and **JULIA (BRUEHL) TAYLOR**, both '98, announce the birth of their fifth child, Brielle Rae, on Oct. 6, 2012, in Greenville, S.C. Brielle joins siblings Auburn, 11; Dayleah, 8; Jent, 5; and Yara, 3. Jim is a pastor at Grace Church in Greenville, and Julia helps with women's ministry and curriculum development in addition to being a stay-at-home mom.

*The Taylor Family*



Christ Above All



*Sahar & Kimmie Sa'ado*

## 00s

**RACHEL (HELD) EVANS**, '03, published her second book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*, in 2012. The book was featured in multiple media outlets including the "Today" show, "The View," National Public Radio, CNN, *People Magazine*, and the BBC network. The ebook version was named a *New York Times* bestseller. Rachel and her husband, **DAN EVANS**, '02, live in Dayton, Tenn.

**KIMMIE HILL**, '03, and Sahar Sa'ado were married Jan. 1, 2013, in Jerusalem, Israel. Kimmie works with the sports business operated by her parents, **TERRY**, '71, and Dianne **HILL**, and Sahar is a tour guide. Kimmie and Sahar live in Jerusalem.

**BARTON STONE**, '05, and Sarah Johnson were married Nov. 20, 2012. Alumni in the wedding included groomsmen **DANIEL GLEASON**, '05; **ANDREW SEWELL**, '05; **DANNY HARVEY**, '05; and **ROBERT PALMER**, '06. **BEN WILLIAMS**, '04, officiated. Alumni in attendance included **JESSICA WILLIAMS**, '05; **PETER** and **JEN (PARKS) SCHOTTLEUTNER**, both '05; **NATHAN DEWHURST**, '05; **BETH (STARBUCK) PALMER**, '07; **DAVE** and **MEG (TYSER) SHIFRIN**, both '05; **JOEY RABOIN**, '05; **KATHLEEN (FISCHER) GLEASON**, '03; **BECCA (RUSCH) HARVEY**, '05; **RANDI (MELLON) SEWELL**, '05; and **DREW PHILLIPS**, '06. The Stones live in Englewood, Colo.

**CHUCK**, '08, and **ASHLEY (MARKUSSON)**, '09, **ROSE** announce the birth of their son,

*Liam Charles Rose*





*Blake Marshall Villanueva*



*Owen Patrick Roberts*



*Rowan Brey Lawrence*

Liam Charles, on July 4, 2012. Liam weighed 8 lbs, 3 oz., and was 21.5 inches long. The Rose family lives in Decatur, Ga.

**DAVID and JANA (WATSON) VILLANUEVA**, both '09, announce the birth of their son, Blake Marshall, on Oct. 5, 2012. The Villanueva family lives in Blacksburg, Va., where David is in medical school.

**PATRICK and ALICIA (SCHULZE) ROBERTS**, both '11, announce the birth of their son Owen Patrick, on Nov. 3, 2012. Owen weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz., and was 20.25 inches long. The Roberts family lives in Dayton, Tenn.

**JOSH RAGLAND**, '12, and **LAUREN SIMPSON**, '10, were married June 11, 2011, in Lilburn, Ga. Alumni in the wedding included groomsmen **CALEB RAGLAND**, '08; **LAWRENCE LAPLUE**, '08; **RYAN SMITH**, '10; **CLAYTON SCHMIDT**, '12; **TREVOR HAUGHT**, '12; **JUSTUS STOUT**, '12; **NICK TUTTLE**, '12; **STEPHEN BRYAN**, '12; and **GLADE SMITH**, '06; bridesmaids **ERICKA SIMPSON**, '12; **HALEY KAYE**, '09; **JENNIFER (COCKS) YODER**, '08; **ERIN ROSS**, '12; and **BETHEL (RAGLAND) SMITH**, '08. **DAVID RAGLAND**, '83,

was an officiant. Current student Gideon Ragland also was a groomsman. Josh and Lauren live in Magnolia, Ky.

**JORDAN**, '10x, and **LAUREN (PAGE) LAWRENCE**, '10, announce the birth of their son, Rowan Brey, on Dec. 16, 2013. Jordan works for Voss Lighting as an inventory control manager, and Lauren is enjoying her new job as a stay-at-home mom. The Lawrence family lives in Acworth, Ga.

## 10s

**KATHRYN (DERHODES)**, '10, and Jimmy LI announce the birth of their daughter, Rose CenLing, on Jan. 19, 2013. Rose weighed 8 lbs., 8 oz. The Li family lives in Waxhaw, N.C.

*Rose CenLing Li*



*Ragland Wedding Party*



# Alumni Profiles



## Jennifer (Parks) Schottleutner

I graduated from Bryan in 2005 with a degree in biology, then earned a Master's degree in physician assistant studies. Because I particularly studied the disparity of HIV / AIDS in minorities in the U.S., God led me to a job at an HIV / AIDS clinic in South Carolina.

I describe my job to others as "ministry on a platter," because almost daily I am able to share the Gospel with my patients in one way or another. My patient population is hungry for hope, love, and very often, a second chance. It's amazing to care not only for physical needs, but deep-seeded spiritual and emotional needs as well.

Two years ago, my husband, Peter, '05, and I moved into a lower income neighborhood, where we could live out the Gospel more practically. We hold a weekly backyard Bible club for about 20 kids, treat illnesses, tutor, house people who need a room, and share meals whenever possible.

While at Bryan, I was taught that my spiritual life could not be separated from my career or my home life. Christ, the hope of glory, is "above all, through all, and in you all"...Christ is the way...Christ is life. The "already, but not yet" kingdom of God will come. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

## Emily (Ricketts) Rivera

For Emily (Ricketts) Rivera, '09, dreams of becoming a dolphin trainer have come true – after a detour through Disney World bringing Mickey, Minnie, and other characters to life.

Emily practically grew up on the Bryan campus, playing hide-and-seek in Rudd or hanging out in the Lion's Den. When it came time for college, Bryan was the obvious choice. "My degree was awesome," she said. "No school has better communications teachers than Bryan. Mr. Palmer tells the best stories ever, and Dr. Hollingsworth can make Aristotle surprisingly entertaining."

During her senior year she was accepted into an internship at Walt Disney World, where she performed in shows, in parades as various characters, or in dancing roles. After graduation she moved to Florida and worked for Disney for two years, playing characters including Mickey, Minnie, Daisy Duck, and Stitch. During that time she started working at Clearwater Marine Aquarium with Winter, the "tailless" dolphin, rekindling her childhood love for dolphins. "These creatures are so smart and relational," she said. "It proves to me we have a Creator Who is so detailed and cares so much about His animal creation."

She applied for an animal training position at Sea World Discovery Cove, and credits her professors and the skills she learned at Bryan with helping her shine in the interview process. Today, as a dolphin trainer, "I do animal interactions all day with the most amazing creatures. I use all my talents – acting, animal training, and on a good day I even might do a little dolphin dance.

"I have learned that God has given me the best family, husband, and friends a person could ask for. He is so good!"



# SUMNER WEMP: A LIFETIME DEVOTED TO THE LORD

Sumner Wemp, '45x, finally discovered the full meaning of "Well, Glory" on Christmas Day 2012 when he entered the presence of his Lord.

Bryan President Dr. Stephen Livesay said he remembers Dr. Wemp's using that phrase "time after time" when both worked at Liberty University.

"You never had to wonder where Sumner stood with regard to his faith," Dr. Livesay said. "I always admired his constant reminder of why God placed us on this earth, and his unflinching desire to see souls brought into the Kingdom and disciples made around the globe. Sumner had an infectious smile, a contagious joy, and his 'Well, Glory' always served as a reminder of what his life was all about. Sumner was down to earth and could relate with any person of any age or station in life, and God used him in a powerful way. Many souls are in the Kingdom today because Sumner believed God and spoke His truth in a winsome way. Rare gems are hard to find; Sumner was one of them, and his life was bright with the glow of Jesus Christ."

Perhaps it was recognition of the reality of his life before he met Christ that made him appreciate the reality of his salvation. In a note he sent to Bryan College several years ago, Dr. Wemp said, "At 17 years of age I had never heard 'Jesus loves me, this I know,' nor ever held a Bible. (But) at 4 a.m. in a newspaper station amid my terrible profanity, Gene Gaskins asked me to go to church with him the next Sunday. Three weeks later I was saved."

In 1941 he entered Bryan, where he was grounded in Scripture. "In class 'Pop' (A.J.) Levensgood made the Bible come alive. He burned into us a hunger to know God's Word. He taught it with passion." At the same time, "Dean Ryther challenged me as no one had, to be my best for God. He was a perfect example, as were all the faculty."

Dr. Wemp graduated from Howard College, now Samford University, then earned degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, California Graduate School of Theology, and Liberty University.

"Sumner understood that an ax that was sharpened would be far more effective, and he encouraged all of us to continue in our education, in sharpening the ax, and he strongly believed that all education should be in the context of a biblical worldview," Dr. Livesay said.

He pastored churches in Florida, Alabama, and Illinois before joining the faculty at Moody Bible Institute as director of practical Christian work. Nine



years later he became president of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Ala. In 1973 he joined Lynchburg Baptist College, now Liberty University, as vice president of spiritual affairs.

"Sumner reminded the students that an education of the mind that did not also stir their hearts would lead them away from lives of faith. He implored them with great passion to give every part of their lives to Christ, and to be engaged in sharing the gospel."

While he was mentor to thousands of students and pastor to a number of congregations, his influence reached millions as Gospel tracts he authored were distributed around the world. His tract, "Your Ticket to Heaven," has been printed in many languages and more than a million copies have been distributed worldwide.

Even after he retired from Liberty University, he kept busy as a mentor to pastors, missionaries and evangelists. Weekly until shortly before his death at age 90, he continued to email messages of encouragement to thousands of individuals.

His obituary notice included the testimony that he "challenged everyone he came in contact with ... to live life under the influence of the Holy Spirit and to share with everyone you meet the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Wemp was married for 64 years to Celeste Magee Zimmerman Wemp until her death in 2010. He is survived by five children.

"Up until a few weeks before his death, Sumner would faithfully write to encourage me and all of us at Bryan to press on with living our lives for His glory—to keep the main thing the main thing," Dr. Livesay said. "Just this past year, he sent me three of his books on soul-winning, pastoring, and the Christian life. Unlimited energy, constant study, a passion for life and souls, and a wonderful encourager—all come to my mind when I think of him. Thank you, Sumner. Well done now that you have entered into 'glory.'"

*Wemp in his office at LU, then Liberty Baptist College, in 1997*



*Photo courtesy of Liberty University*

taxes

wills

JOINT OWNERSHIP

Trusts

charitable gifts

POWER OF ATTORNEY

“I know I should have an estate plan, but I’m  
confused about how to get started.”

LIVING TRUSTS

# RELAX....

## WE’LL HELP PLAN YOUR ESTATE

Whether old, young, rich, or just comfortable, you have an estate. Your home...your business...savings... investments...and important personal items have been accumulated as a result of your labor and God’s blessing.

Planning for the distribution of your estate at death, in harmony with God’s plan of stewardship, is one of the most important decisions you will make. Plan it carefully

To do so, you need to be informed about complex issues of estate planning.

Many individuals — in circumstances similar to yours — have found our **Guide to Planning Your Estate and Estate Design service**, to be valuable tools in the estate planning process. Not only do they provide the background information you need but also give you complete directions on how to get started and finished using our **Estate Design service**.

**Why not get started today?**  
**Contact us for your free copy today.**

**BRYAN  
COLLEGE**

STEVE KECK, CAP

*Director of Gift and Estate Design*

721 BRYAN DRIVE

P.O. BOX 7000

DAYTON, TN 37321

423.775.7581

Steve.Keck@Bryan.edu



## Scholarship Fund Campaign Has Payoff For Students

Rhea County Volunteers

- Nate Synder '91
- Ralph Green '69
- Dr. Chris Horton '98 CN
- Lebron Purser '93 UTK
- Rick Farney '76
- Carter Johnson '81 UTK
- Paul Ardelean '55 UofM
- Richard Fisher '69

2013 Campaign Phases

Internal Campaign

- Faculty
- Staff

Rhea County Campaign

- Alumni
- Friends

Tennessee Campaign

- Memphis Region
- Nashville Region
- Chattanooga Region
- Knoxville Region
- Tri-City Region

National Campaign

- Northeast Region
- Mid-Atlantic Region
- Southern Atlantic Region
- Midwest Region
- South/Southwest Region
- West/Northwest Region

A lofty goal, a detailed plan, and enthusiastic volunteers are combining to make a Bryan education possible for deserving students who need financial help.

Annual Fund Director David Holcomb said he is enlisting volunteers on campus, in the Dayton community, and throughout the nation to help raise \$450,000 for student scholarships this year. At the same time, the organization that is being developed will provide a way for alumni and friends "to have meaningful interaction with the college, not only through giving but through sharing with current students' hopes and dreams," he said.

Fundraising efforts began with requests to faculty and staff in February. "I've been thrilled with the response," Mr. Holcomb said. "Faculty and staff members have significantly increased their giving, demonstrating their commitment to Bryan through their gifts as well as by their service. It is so encouraging to be able to show friends and alumni that the college staff is firmly behind this effort as well."

With the campus phase of the campaign complete, attention turns to Dayton and Rhea County. "Rhea County has always been a vital part of the life of the college, and we deeply appreciate the support we have in our home town," he said. "I hope the annual fund campaign will be another way we can strengthen the ties between the community and the college."

At the same time, groundwork is being laid to expand the campaign to Tennessee and nationwide. "We have 11 regional chairmen for the national campaign, men and women who will be the voices and sounding boards for this fund-raising movement.

"Bryan's Annual Fund campaign is not just about raising money for scholarships," Mr. Holcomb said. "We are creating a way for alumni and friends to have relevant, impactful, purposeful contact with the college and other alumni and friends in their communities. This will be a way for alumni to reconnect with the college and other alumni and to encourage high school students to consider Bryan as a primary option for their college education."

- |  |                                       |   |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Barbara Howard Prosser '73</b><br>Memphis | <b>Mark Robbins '80</b><br>Nashville  | <b>Gary Phillips '68 VU</b><br>Chattanooga      | <b>John Stone '67</b><br>Knoxville     | <b>Terry Puckett '82</b><br>Tri-Cities    |
| <b>Shawn Wolf '86</b><br>Northeast           | <b>Herb Sierk '56</b><br>Mid-Atlantic | <b>Eugene Bengtson '65</b><br>Southern Atlantic | <b>Don Reed '63</b><br>South/Southwest | <b>Matt McClain '95</b><br>West/Northwest |
|  |                                       | <b>Jim Wolfe '78</b><br>Midwest                 |  |   |

*"Educating students to become servants of Christ to make a difference in today's world."*

2013 Bryan College Scholarship Fund Campaign  
 P.O. Box 7000 ■ Dayton, TN 37321 ■ 423.775.2041 ■ 423.775.7330 (fax) ■ [bryan.edu](http://bryan.edu)

# Bryan Friends "Run and Gun" Through Life

Fun, food, fellowship, and a soul-level connection have made Bryan alumni Runners and Gunners look at their annual get-together in Miami as just a fringe benefit.

Like many alumni, these former cross country and basketball athletes forged friendships in classes, residence halls, and on competitive venues during college. After graduation, life drew them closer.

"Founding members" Mike Wood, '78, and Eric Clarke, '80, both members of the cross country team, wound up marrying sisters. "Mike and I got together to do a golf outing in Miami," Eric remembers. "My dad had cancer and I went home to see him; Mike came along. It was not so much golf as spiritual and emotional support."

Eric and Mike agree on the event, but even this story produces some of the good-natured ribbing. "It has been about 14 years for Mike and me," Eric said.

"I think it's more like 20 years," Mike counters. "Eric and I saw the Miami Dolphins play the Buffalo Bills in the AFC championship game, and that was 1993."

Whatever, they agree that from the small beginning at Eric's home, the group has grown to eight.

"Mike and I decided to keep it up. The second or third years another brother was struggling and we thought we'd invite him to come along and spend time fellowshiping," Eric said. "That's hard to do just sitting on the porch sipping iced tea, so we golf, go to the beach, have dinner."

Over the years the group has grown to include two foursomes, plus a few others from time to time. Dean Ropp, '81, said, "The fact that we're all athletes – or maybe ex-athletes now – gives us a degree of camaraderie, and competition as well. The competition is our excuse, but we've established that if we couldn't swing a golf club we would still do it."

As it has worked out, the regulars are cross country runners Mike Wood; Eric Clarke; Mike Smith, '82; and basketball "gunners" Dean Ropp;

Rick Torbett, '79; Jerry Cline, '78; Gary Conner, '79; Bo Clem, '83; Skip Cline, '77; and Steve Hine, '79. On the organizational side, Gary serves as scorekeeper, financial manager, and photographer.

Even the serious aspect of the gathering has a light touch. "Fortunately, we have Dean Ropp to keep us straight on theology," Mike said. "We keep him straight on everything else."

Dean said the heart of the gathering is prayer and encouragement for each other that continues throughout the year. "That week serves as a focus for what we do the rest of the year. Knowing that I have guys praying for me encourages me. I don't have to wonder, and I know they're counting on me as well. We're available for each other, and we all benefit."



Year-round, they stay in touch, praying for and encouraging each other. Eric, who was recuperating from surgery this winter and swimming for exercise, used his time in the pool to pray. "I have to swim instead of run,

so I pray for my guys, one guy in each lap," he said.

Benefits the Runners and Gunners have experienced have been noticed by their wives as well. "Cherie (Watkins, '80) recognizes the value in me having these close friends," Dean said. "When you spend a week away from your family it has to be with your wife's blessing."

And Eric said his wife, Leslie, even has started to bring some of her friends from Covenant College together for weekend retreats.

As the year goes on and encouraging phone calls, texts and emails are exchanged there's good-natured banter that goes along.

"Remember to let everybody know that the runners have been dominant," Mike said. "The gunners have their work cut out for them."

To which Dean replied, "That's the runners' fantasy. The hardware is proof, and it goes home with the gunners. But they do have an active imagination, and that's much to their credit."

# Faculty/Staff Notes



**Dr. Matt Benson, Dr. Bradford Sample, and Mr. Ben Norquist** convened a roundtable discussion with professionals from the counter-human trafficking world in Washington, D.C., in October, soliciting input for new Bryan initiatives in counter-trafficking education.

**Dr. Daryl Charles** authored essays on "Humanity's Nature" (*Touchstone*, November/December 2012) and "Burying the Wrong Corpse: Second Thoughts on the Protestant Prejudice toward Natural-Law Thinking" (in *Natural Law and Evangelical Political Thought*, edited by Bryan McGraw and Micah Watson). He also spoke at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on "Justice, Neighbor-Love, and the Permanent in Just-War Thinking: Why the Professional Military Ethic Must Transcend Social-Cultural Currents" in December.

**Dr. Gary Fitsimmons** attended the American Library Association's fall planning meeting in October. He is section representative for the library leadership and management association division of ALA, and chairs the library organization and management section.

**Ms. Vonnie Johnson** attended webinars including "Transforming Discovery and Resource Sharing with OCLC: FirstSearch, WorldCat Resource Sharing and More" in November; a demonstration of World eBooks Library in November; WorldShare ILL Lending" in December; and on EasyBib in January.

**Mr. Andrew McPeak and Mr. Jason Glen** attended the 2012 Biblical Worldview Institute conference, "Christians Confronting the Culture," in Plano, Texas, in November.

**Mr. Ben Norquist** attended a justice advocate training program through International Justice Mission in Atlanta, Ga., in November. He also attended the Southeast Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare in December.

**Ms. Keri-Lynn Paulson** attended the Appalachian College Association Summit XV in October in Knoxville. She attended webinars in December on "Embracing the Dark Side: Using Wikipedia to Teach Information Literacy" and on digital literacy.

**Mr. David Perron** has completed a five-week course, Foundations in Online Delivery, presented by The Learning House – Online Training Center.

**Ms. Connie Sanders** attended a Money Smart Week webinar in January.

**Dr. Roger Sanders** and student Michael Bautista attended the 2012 annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences at Vanderbilt University in November. Michael presented their jointly authored paper, "Analysis and Mapping of Soils in the Bryan College Arboretum."

**Dr. Adina Scruggs** has transferred from her administrative responsibilities in the School of Adult and Graduate Studies to a full-time faculty position as associate professor of business.

**Mr. Tim Shetter, Mr. Bruce Morgan, Mr. Brad Gatlin, Mr. Ben Norquist, Dr. Matt Benson, Mr. Andrew McPeak, Mr. Jason Glen, Mr. Aaron Porter, and Dr. Scott Jones** attended the "You Lost Me. Live! Nashville" conference in October. The conference dealt with insights on shaping the next generation.

**Dr. Mel Wilhoit** attended an Archeological Institute of America lecture on music of Ancient Greece at the Nashville, Tenn., replica of the Parthenon. He led the Bryan Brass and Flute ensembles in a program of Christmas music for the Rhea Medical Center Healthcare Foundation's annual fundraiser in December.



# THINK & DO

**BRYAN COLLEGE OFFERS AN ENVIRONMENT** where critical thinking within a Biblical framework and a spirit of serving in excellence help students develop habits they will carry through all of life. We are actively preparing students to **THINK**—really think—and therefore better equipping them to **DO**—to make a difference in their world as servants of Christ.

Plan to visit Bryan's 128-acre hilltop campus, located in Dayton, TN. Here you'll find ample room to learn and grow, and plenty of opportunities to think and do.

BRYAN COLLEGE / CHRIST ABOVE ALL

[www.bryan.edu](http://www.bryan.edu) • 800.277.9522 • Dayton, TN



# Honor & Memory Gifts

"The LORD wraps himself  
in light as with a garment; he  
stretches out the heavens like a  
tent."

Psalm 104:2

Photo by Stephanie Huskey '10

<i>Received From</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>In Honor Of</i>
Jerry & Brenda Parker		Robert J. Simpson
Bill Ketchersid	Lee Ketchersid	
Jack & Karin Traylor	Lee Ketchersid	
Blair & Louise Bentley	Donna Cornelius	
George & Joan Harris	Donna Cornelius	
John Mercer	Donna Cornelius	Richard Cornelius
Celia Dixon Wipf	Donna Cornelius	
Bob & Nan Simpson	Donna Cornelius	Richard Cornelius
Winnie Davey	Donna Cornelius	
Ted & Shirley Klingsmith	Donna Cornelius	
Jack & Karin Traylor	Donna Cornelius	
Phil & Darlene Lestmann	Donna Cornelius	
MaryLou Black	Donna Cornelius	
Sandra L. Black	Donna Cornelius	
John & Lucy Hoffhines	Donna Cornelius	
Rick & Kathy Farney	Donna Cornelius	
Ed & Jane Ellen Farnsworth	Donna Cornelius	
Charles & Carole Thomas	Donna Cornelius	Richard Cornelius
Ted & Kathleen Draper		Richard Cornelius
Dawn Hoffman		David Tromanhauser
Dawn Hoffman		Karin Traylor
Stephen & Cheryl Hoffman Little		Karin Traylor
Dawn Hoffman		Jim Barth
Charles Robinson		Charlotte & David McSpadden
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Clyde Boeddeker	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Linda Minter Peterson	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Mildred Ross	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Theodore C. & Alice Mercer	
Donald & Evelyn Freeland	Theodore C. & Alice Mercer	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Malcolm J. Hester	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Keith Kiser	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan	Steve Goehring	
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan		Constance M. Boeddeker
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan		Daniel C. Boeddeker
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan		Timothy M. Boeddeker
Thomas & Elizabeth Sullivan		Andrew L. Boeddeker family

*Received From**In Memory Of**In Honor Of*

David &amp; Charlotte McSpadden

Anna C. Robinson

Robert &amp; Nona Bitner

Fred Bedford

John Mercer

Rachel Morgan

Jean Sentz Tobelmann

John Bartlett

Ted &amp; Kathleen Draper

Ruth Kantzer

Donald &amp; Evelyn Freeland

Ruth Bartlett

Jack &amp; Karin Traylor

Martha Owsley

Roger &amp; Paulette Simon &amp; friends &amp; family

Inez Simon

Vance &amp; Charlyne Fry

Kimberly Keck

Tony &amp; Kathy Woods

Dorothy Tewis Fleck

Miriam Levengood

Al Levengood

Barbara B. Halsey &amp; James L. Mahan

Mark Senter, Jr.

Cyndi Jakel, Chris Owen,

Paul Sheehan &amp; families

Mark Senter, Jr.

William &amp; Judy Dick

Mark Senter, Jr.

Janice Ayers

Mark Senter, Jr.

Pete McDonald

Mark Senter, Jr.

Lexington Baptist Praise &amp; Worship Choir

Mark Senter, Jr.

Charles &amp; Peggy McCreight

Mark Senter, Jr.

Wilson Hall family

Mark Senter, Jr.

Thomas O. Duff

Mark Senter, Jr.

Aubrey &amp; Becky Daniels

Mark Senter, Jr.

Paul &amp; Delana Bice

Mark Senter, Jr.

Denette Rimer

Mark Senter, Jr.

Michael &amp; Susan Payne

Mark Senter, Jr.

Edward &amp; Nelda Cockman

Mark Senter, Jr.

Marshall &amp; Sarah Peterson

Mary C. Taylor

Paul Ardelean

Jane Ardelean

Jim &amp; Priscilla Anderson

Mrs. Harriet Anderson

John C. Anderson

William A. Venable III

Rev. &amp; Mrs. William A. Venable, Jr.

Craig &amp; Stephanie Walvatne

Vivian Walvatne

*With the Lord*

**Dr. C. SUMNER WEMP, '45x**, of Tyler, Texas, died Dec. 25, 2012.

**Dr. H. BLAIR BENTLEY, '73H**, of Jackson, Tenn., former professor of history, died Feb. 6, 2013.

**ELEANOR RAYE (HUTCHESON)**

**WILLIAMS, '61**, of Dayton, Tenn., died Dec. 29, 2012.

Mr. Mark H. Senter, Jr., trustee emeritus, of Lexington, S.C., died Feb. 6, 2013.

**Dr. STEVEN D. LILLY, '69**, of Oakvale, W. Va., died Dec. 18, 2012.

P.O. Box 7000  
Dayton, TN 37321-7000

# *Homecoming 2013*

## *October 11-13*

Introducing ***The Paw Pounder 5K***

**COLOR RUN!**

More information coming  
[bryan.edu/homecoming](http://bryan.edu/homecoming)

