

# FRONTIERS

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

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Fall 2017



SMC Welcomes

**largest**

Freshman Class  
in College History



## ■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# A Message *from* President Scott Cochran



**A**s we kick off a new academic year at SMC, one that has already been made noteworthy by the presence of the largest freshman class in our history, I am excited by the growth taking place at the college. As you read through the pages of this issue, I hope you'll feel the same.

I'm excited because I believe it's the right time for SMC to explore the expansion of its academic programs, both traditional and online. It's exciting to envision a campus master plan that will allow us to better serve a growing student population over the next decade. When I speak with a student

planning her first research trip abroad or with a faculty member embarking on an ambitious oral history project, their excitement is infectious.

When I consider all of the change happening at SMC in a relatively short period of time, I'm also encouraged. The students, faculty and staff of SMC have reacted boldly and positively to a rapidly changing higher education landscape and will continue to do so. It's encouraging to work alongside people who give everything they have to their education, their students or their work – and then to watch them give even more.

If you're reading this issue, you already know and love SMC, just as I have come to know and love it. It's my privilege to help guide the college into the next phase of its history. It's a journey well worth taking, and I hope you'll join me on it by getting involved in an area of the college – programs, athletics, arts, alumni events – that is close to your heart.

All the best,

*Scott*



## FRONTIERS

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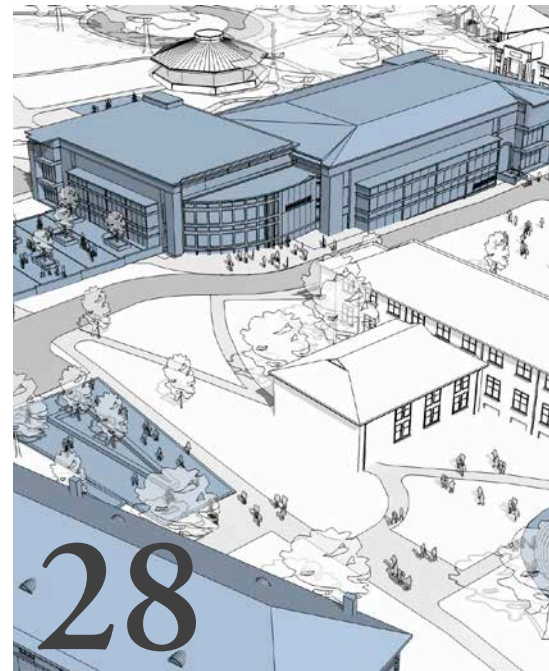
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# Faculty NEWS

Dr. Jill A. Coyle

## Communion

*On the patio after a rain  
a snail moves across the flagstone stage  
like an ancient priest*

*finding another's discarded shell  
he solemnly stretches out his body  
and seems to sniff the ghost inside  
with all his senses trembling*

*He thrusts his thin bulk  
in a swooping arabesque  
around the spiral  
to regard this husk of life  
from a novel angle*

*He shrinks back  
and braces against the hard earth  
his body like a root of mandrake  
while with brazen force he raises up the shell  
reaching to heaven with half his length  
he tests the weight of the thing  
then down he sinks*

*Now he rotates the piece  
and peering into the opening  
he sets to work at something hidden*

*It is then I realize –  
he is softly eating*



**Dr. Cole Cheek**

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Dr. Cole Cheek is the recipient of a 2017 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation grant for advanced study in Marine Corps history. This summer, Cheek traveled to Quantico, Virginia, to conduct research in the Marine Corps Archives related to research and development since the Korean War.



**David Gibson**

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

David Gibson received the 2016-2017 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Exemplary Teacher Award. The award recognizes outstanding faculty members at United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities and theological schools. Winners receive a certificate and a cash award.



**Dr. Adam Siegfried**

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Dr. Adam Siegfried received a National Science Foundation grant awarded by Furman University's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. This is Siegfried's second consecutive REU grant. From May to August, Siegfried supervised freshman Fabian Salinas and sophomore Vladimir Zotovto as they continued work on a solar cells REU project begun by Siegfried and two different SMC students last summer.



**Dr. Jill A. Coyle**

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Dr. Jill A. Coyle won the Hub City/Emry's Prize for Poetry in April. The prize includes a scholarship to attend the weeklong Wildacres Writers Workshop in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Coyle's poems and essays have appeared in *Blueline*, *Avocet*, *Main Street Rag*, *The Independent Weekly*, *Pinesong*, *Raleigh Review*, *When Women Waken*, and *Emrys Journal*. Coyle's winning poem is printed to the left.



**Dr. J. Kristian "Kris" Pratt**

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND CHAIR OF THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Dr. J. Kristian "Kris" Pratt received the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award on April 4. The Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes dedicated and committed faculty from 20 SCICU member institutions. The award includes a \$3,000 professional development grant.



**Dr. Benjamin Sloop**

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

Dr. Benjamin Sloop is the 2017 recipient of the Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Award. The award is given to a Spartanburg Methodist College faculty member who exemplifies outstanding professional qualifications and teaching ability. Sloop was presented with the award during the college's Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 6.

# New Faculty



## Teresa Ferguson promoted to Dean of Students

As chief of campus safety at SMC for the past decade, Teresa Ferguson – known affectionately around campus as “Chief” – encountered all sorts of situations. Most interactions with students, staff members and visitors were positive and friendly. Occasionally, she had to put out the metaphorical fire and manage in-the-moment crises. And all along, she thrived in her work by building strong relationships and becoming immersed in the culture of the college.

The experience was a great foundation for Ferguson’s new role: serving as SMC’s dean of students, effective May 1. In her new capacity, she is a member of the college’s senior leadership team and oversees the departments that make up student development: student activities, residence life, campus safety, health services, career development and counseling.

Ferguson handled the transition with her legendary calm and thoughtfulness, making the move to a new office, establishing management of her new staff and planning for the coming academic year look easy. “It was important to me to spend the first few weeks listening and learning from the student development staff,” she said. “I have also reached out to other departments on campus to see how we can collaborate more in regards to student success.”

In addition to serving as chief of campus safety, Ferguson has been an instructor in SMC’s Freshman Year Experience classes, a program she now manages. She has encouraged students to maintain strong communication with professors and to use the college’s tutoring center as a resource when needed. She believes it’s important for students to join organizations and get involved in campus activities, as research indicates that students who are engaged in campus life tend to be happier and more academically successful.

SMC boasts a wide variety of clubs, service organizations and sports teams. Ferguson said she is excited about working with the leaders of campus groups and supporting their efforts to enrich students’ experience.

Since coming to SMC in 2006, Ferguson has made her mark on campus life. In 2015, she received the J.L. Geddis Award for outstanding service to the college. She was, at the time, one of the few female police chiefs in the state of South Carolina (including municipalities). She brought valuable experience to the job, having worked for five years as a community patrol officer and for six years as a school resource officer. Working with young people in an educational setting provided insights into situations she would encounter at SMC. ■

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Ferguson received a B.A. from Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina. She earned an M.S. degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Cincinnati.

As dean of students, Ferguson’s role will involve more big-picture planning and management. But she will continue to enjoy one-on-one relationships with students and campus employees – and to take a hands-on approach to helping those in need. “I feel as though my role is still a crisis manager and servant leader,” she said.



## Jennifer Hyder *joins SMC as* Professor of **Biology**

**G**rowing up in western New York state, Dr. Jennifer Hyder enjoyed spending time outdoors in the foothills of the Allegany Mountains. “It fostered an appreciation and curiosity for both plants and animals,” she said. “Biology has been my passion since I was a child.”

Hyder went on to earn a doctoral degree in biology from the University of South Florida, where she also worked as an instructor prior to joining the SMC faculty as professor of biology in August. She brings a strong background in scholarship and research to her role, along with a love for teaching undergraduate students.

“It’s very rewarding to make biology concepts tangible, allowing students to apply what they learn to their everyday lives,” she said. “I enjoy giving undergraduate students tools to succeed not only in my class, but in their other classes and even in their careers.”

Hyder teaches general and introductory courses in biology and has particular interest in conservation biology and community ecology. “While I enjoy teaching all facets of biology, I am particularly interested in how environmental variability mediates species interactions in threatened ecosystems. My research tested the Stress Gradient Hypothesis and

investigated the effects of tidal increases on salt marsh and terrestrial fringe plants in coastal Florida by examining the interplay between physical stress and plant interactions.”

The biology department at SMC fulfills general education requirements for nonmajors while preparing majors who go into medicine and other areas of healthcare, research, teaching and more. Hyder is impressed by what she has seen at SMC so far. “When I first arrived at SMC, I was immediately struck by a deep sense of community,” she said. “SMC is blessed to have such dedicated faculty and staff, as well as a beautiful campus with so much history. SMC provides such a wonderful learning environment for students.”

Hyder said she has found the Spartanburg community to be warm and welcoming. “I’m happy to call Spartanburg home,” she remarked. ■

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Hyder is a member of the Entomological Society of America, the Florida Entomological Society and the Ecological Society of America. She has won research grants and awards and has authored portions of numerous textbooks for McGraw-Hill Education. Away from work, she enjoys yoga, gardening, cooking and spending time with her family.

“I enjoy giving undergraduate students tools to succeed not only in my class, but in their other classes and even in their careers.”

SMC

# *Appoints* Lashley as Director of Criminal Justice Program



Spartanburg Methodist College boasts a rich tradition in the field of criminal justice education. It was one of the pioneers among colleges in South Carolina and claims numerous law enforcement leaders among its graduates, including Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright.

Dr. Summer Lashley is excited about building on this strong foundation as the new director of the criminal justice program and professor of criminal justice. She came to SMC in July from Campbell University. “I fell in love with SMC. The campus and the community here – it just felt right,” said Lashley, whose father and grandfather served in the military. Their service, she said, was one of the factors in her decision to focus her studies in the area of criminal justice.

Lashley has a broad base of scholarship in the field. She received her Ph.D. in public safety with a criminal justice specialization from Capela University. She also holds an M.S. degree in criminal forensic studies from Florida Gulf Coast University and a B.S. degree in exercise science from Florida State University. In December, she will complete an M.S. degree in veterinary forensic science from the University of Florida.

Pursuing the veterinary forensic science degree feeds a professional and personal interest. Lashley has a passion for protecting animals, and points out a “direct correlation between animal abuse and human violence.” She explains that serial killers, for example, were commonly cruel to animals as children. And organized crime and drugs are frequently linked to dogfighting or cockfighting.

Among those majoring in criminal justice at SMC are students who have decided on a career in law enforcement or other areas of the legal system. The college’s new online degree, in fact, serves students who are already working in the field (see page 32 for story).

criminal justice education as vital to the development of effective police agencies, Lashley says. Courses at SMC provide training and insights into key areas: police ethics, understanding the experiences of victims, juvenile relations, the corrections system, forensics and more. Officers with this broad educational base should be well equipped to handle a wide variety of complex situations requiring specialized know-how as well as compassion and good judgment.

Lashley looks forward to working with aspiring and current law enforcement professionals, but she also enjoys teaching young people who are not yet certain about career goals or who have only recently become interested in criminal justice issues.

“Freshmen and sophomores come to us largely with impressions of the criminal justice system forged by either contemporary news or by popular culture and entertainment entities,” she said. “It is our job to help students engage in higher-order critical thinking regarding possible misconceptions and teach them how to apply practical and theoretical knowledge about the ‘real world’ of criminal justice. Watching this transformation is something I truly enjoy.” ■

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Lashley is active in professional organizations including the American Academy of Forensic Science, American Society of Criminology, Graduate Women in Science and the Southern Criminal Justice Association. She is also involved in several animal advocacy organizations.



# Living History



Dr. Kirk Hansen, left, and Dr. Cole Cheek, right, interview Korean War veteran Gerald Abraham in his Spartanburg home.

## SMC history professors *and* students collect **WAR VETERANS' STORIES**

by Heather Hilliard

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One of the most quoted statements regarding war is attributed to Sir Winston Churchill: “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Yet he wasn’t the author of the quote; it was George Santayana in his philosophical book published in 1905, “Reason in Common Sense (Volume I)”. The argument was (and remains, in paraphrase) that to progress as a society, we need to learn from the past.

This is exactly what SMC history professors Drs. Cole Cheek and Kirk Hansen are accomplishing with rising sophomore students as they record spoken-word interviews with Spartanburg County war veterans from every major conflict over the past 75 years.

### A chance to tell their stories

The working title for the oral histories is the Hub City Veterans Project, says Cheek, who got the idea for capturing the memories as he thought about his father’s service in the United States Marine Corps during Vietnam. “He never got a chance to tell his story.” Cheek’s grandfather, a World War II veteran who retired from the Army after 35 years of service, also never spoke of his experiences.

When Cheek shared the idea with Hansen, the project began taking shape. Hansen also comes from a military background: his maternal grandfather served in the Air Force, and his dad and paternal grandfather were in the Navy during the Second World War. Like Cheek, Hansen never heard his family’s stories and wanted to make sure the ones they capture now are available for others to hear.

Initially, the historians relied on word of mouth to recruit interview subjects. Through staff and student contacts, they interviewed veterans of the Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam wars, as well as the civil war in Kosovo. Realizing they’d need to notify a broader audience to meet their goal of at least 50 interviews (enough to fill a planned book), Cheek reached out to Lisa Ware, SMC’s vice president for marketing. Ware invited a Spartanburg Herald Journal reporter to sit in on an interview with a Korean War veteran who had served in the Air Force.

“The Herald Journal ran the story on the front page, which generated quite a few phone calls, including one from our local television station, who decided to do a feature that weekend, which generated even more phone calls,” says Cheek. Community members embraced the project, including Dr. Craig Burnette, a clinical psychiatrist who specializes in treating veterans with PTSD. Burnette, who is also a Vietnam veteran and Spartanburg native, is recruiting additional interviewees through Veterans of Foreign War posts.

“This project allows us to give a voice to the unheard...”

– Dr. Kirk Hansen

Shelbie Richardson interviews Kosovo War veteran Craig Williams.



Garrett McKinney assists during an interview with Gerald Abraham.



## A student learning opportunity

The Hub City Veterans Project is also a learning opportunity for SMC students, Cheek notes. Students accompany the two professors on nearly every interview and learn a variety of research techniques and communications skills, including interview development, direct transcription and prioritization of story capture.

Hansen points out that the students are also helping give a voice to people within the community who haven't had an opportunity to be heard. Many of their interview subjects have admitted they've never been asked about their experiences. Politics were often to blame for muting their voices, he explains. "This project allows us to give a voice to the unheard, one of the key principles of the mission of SMC and the ideas of its founder, Dr. David English Camak. It helps the community to understand the people that are represented in our area and to bring them closer together."

Rising sophomore Shelbie Richardson, who plans to get a Ph.D. in history, says the chance to hear the first-person accounts are more valuable than reading

them in print. "We can learn things from them that we may not have had the opportunity to read elsewhere," she says. "Getting it firsthand and hearing what they saw there is really great to pass on to other students, but I also get to sit down and get to know the subjects as people. It gets me out of my comfort zone, pushes me to improve my communication skills."

Getting involved with the project is one of the experiences Richardson will treasure from her time at SMC, she says. She enjoys SMC because "it's small and tight knit, where you can know the professors and the students. The professors really care about your success." For her, this opportunity has opened new ideas and new doors to her future as she learns about victims of war and its effects on the lives of these veterans and their families (read about Richardson's summer research trip to Germany and Poland on page 16).

In addition to Richardson, Cheek and Hansen have the assistance of several other sophomore students: Garret McKinney, from Inman, South Carolina; Meghan Thompson, of Greenville, South Carolina; and Dennis Slusser, from Spartanburg (who recently

**Do you know**  
a veteran or Blue Star Mom who is either currently living in Spartanburg County or was born in the county?

If he or she would like to share their story, please contact Dr. Cole Cheek, Professor of History, at [cheekc@smcsc.edu](mailto:cheekc@smcsc.edu).

returned from active duty in Iraq and will be interviewed for the project).

## Seeking Spartanburg County veterans and Blue Star Moms

The Hub City Veterans Project isn't stopping with those who fought and came home. The team is also seeking out Spartanburg County Blue Star Moms, women who are mothers of veterans or who have children in active service, to broaden perspectives on the effects of war on the home front.

Interviews will be conducted through April 2018, but there are discussions about having some of these veteran interviewees come speak on campus during the year to allow an open forum for more students, faculty, staff and community members to honor their service and their stories. An additional feature that may expand into another project could be the creation of oral history podcasts. ■

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Cole Cheek, Isaac Bryant, who served in World War II, and Meghan Thompson.



# SMC welcomes Chaplain Tim Drum

by Lisa Mincey Ware

Growing up in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, Rev. Tim Drum never considered a life in the ministry, even though he says his family was closely connected to their local Methodist church. “My parents always had us at church,” he says. “We only missed two Sundays a year, and one of those was spent at my grandmother’s church instead of ours.”

As a boy, Drum served his church as an acolyte, reader, usher, member of the choir and even part-time janitor. When he was 15, his pastor suggested he consider the church his calling. “I said, ‘No, I don’t think so,’ Drum recalls. Undaunted, his pastor convinced him to take the pulpit one Sunday and speak to the congregation. To Drum’s surprise, he liked it. “I was quiet and didn’t enjoy talking, but I discovered I liked talking to people about scripture.”

In spite of that positive experience, it wasn’t until years later, when he began taking classes in journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill, that Drum finally committed to the church. “I had struggled on and off with deciding between journalism and ministry but decided that journalism was something I should do as a career,” he says. “But I hated the classes; they

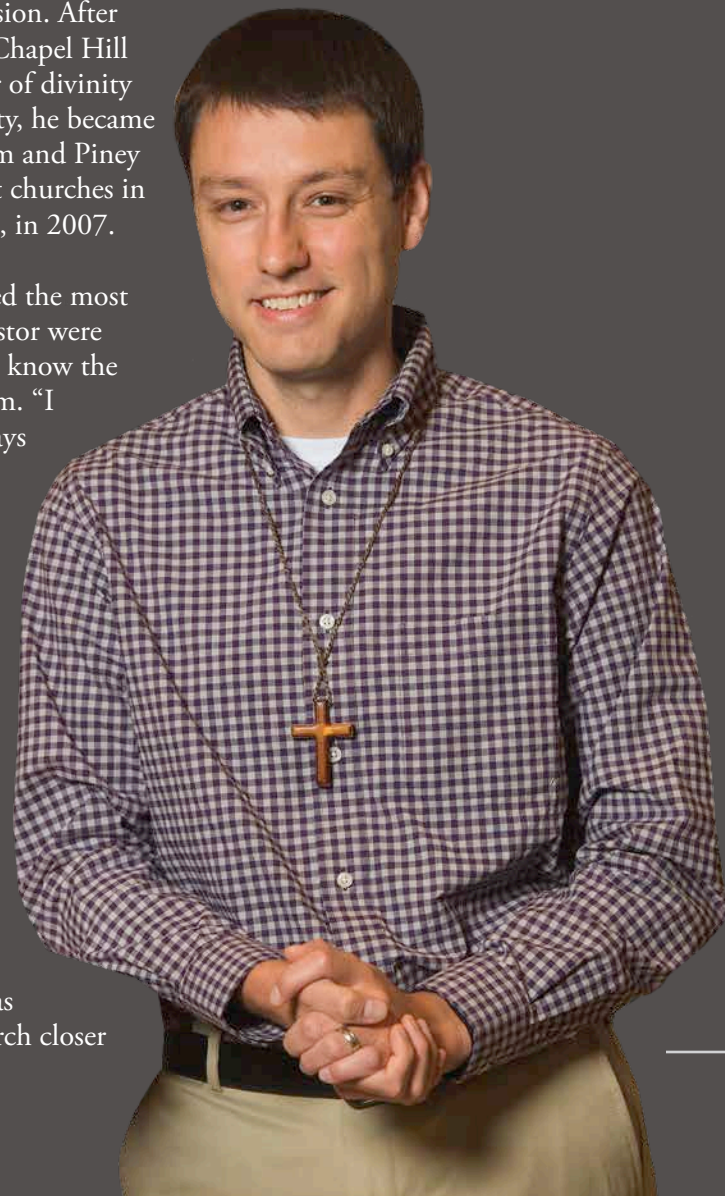
were so awful. Finally, I said, ‘Okay, God, I hear you. I’ll listen. You win.’”

Drum switched his major to religious studies and immediately knew he’d made the right decision. After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill and completing a master of divinity degree at Duke University, he became a pastor at the Beaverdam and Piney Grove United Methodist churches in Canton, North Carolina, in 2007.

“The two things I enjoyed the most about being a church pastor were preaching and getting to know the congregation,” says Drum. “I loved finding creative ways to explain the word, and I loved knowing our members, the young and the elderly... hearing their stories and learning about their lives.”

Ten years passed, and Drum realized he was being pulled toward campus ministry. It was good timing for SMC: The Rev. Dr. Candice Sloan, SMC’s chaplain for 15 years, was leaving to serve in a church closer

to her family. When his district superintendent told him about the opening, Drum saw SMC as a great fit.



“When I came down for the interview, it seemed like such a family atmosphere here. And the mission of helping students who might not otherwise be able to go to college resonated with me,” he says. “When I tell people about Jesus, what I tell them is that his disciples weren’t the important folks – they were on the fringes. The idea of working at a school that reaches out to students who need help, that was fantastic to me.”

With wife Kristen and two-year-old daughter Harper (named after “To Kill a Mockingbird” author Harper Lee) in tow, Drum started work as SMC’s new chaplain in July.

“We couldn’t be happier to have Tim and his family here,” says President Scott Cochran. “He brings a passion for involving students in the planning, implementation and leadership of their campus Christian development. He has a strong commitment to higher education and to ministry among students and faculty.”

For Drum, religious activities play an important, if sometimes overlooked, role on college campuses. “We want to educate and train students for what comes next in their lives. But focusing only on learning isn’t necessarily healthy. We also need to worry about their souls and their hearts,” he says.

Having access to religious life, whether it’s through chapel services or with one of the religious organizations on campus, says

Drum, can ease the transition to college. “Even if you’re moving from a large high school to a small school like SMC, it’s still a transition. It’s helpful, I think, to have some spiritual guidance during that time.”

A priority for Drum is helping to introduce students to different styles of worship during his weekly chapel services. “Not every student here is a Southern white Methodist like me. I want them to experience something familiar but also something different. I want to know what they would like to see happening in chapel services.”

In addition to his responsibilities of leading worship, taking care of the chapel, providing counseling and organizing campus religious activities, Drum says he also wants to help interested students learn what it means to work in a church.

“When I was a student, the only thing I knew about being a minister was that you were at a church,” he notes. “I want our students to leave SMC knowing how to serve as a trustee or on the administrative council – to learn about how a church operates rather than just attending on Sundays.” ■

“When I came down for the interview, it seemed like such a family atmosphere here. And the mission of helping students who might not otherwise be able to go to college resonated with me.”

# Trustee Spotlight: Carol Burdette

“The quality of what goes on is eye-opening. SMC provides an experience for students that is life-changing.”

As the former mayor of the town of Pendleton, South Carolina, and now as CEO of the United Way of Anderson County, Carol Burdette knows about bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and interests for a common purpose. “I love working within a community and seeing people benefit,” she said.

It’s a strength she brings to the Spartanburg Methodist College Board of Trustees, on which she has served since 2011. Like Burdette, board members contribute a wealth of experiences and perspectives to the job of setting the institution’s direction. It’s a group of leaders who have expertise in business, law and education as well as experience in philanthropy and community volunteerism.

Helping others has been Burdette’s passion throughout her adult life. She was known as a passionate and committed leader in Pendleton, and her 12-year tenure as mayor was highlighted by collaboration and problem solving. A case in point: facing the need for a new town hall,

she and other elected officials decided to renovate an old school building to use for offices and meeting space. The move saved a community landmark while providing a cost-effective solution for the town’s facilities challenge.

Following Burdette’s time as mayor, town leaders voted to name the building for her. “That was one of the greatest honors of my career,” she said.

Like all colleges, SMC is embedded in a community. It interacts with local governments and partners with social service agencies. It’s affected by state legislation and bureaucratic initiatives. It’s important for institutions of higher learning to build and manage relationships while taking advantage of beneficial opportunities.

Burdette’s background in local government and nonprofit work have been of enormous value to the college. Under her leadership, the college pursued an Advance SC grant offered by Duke Energy to support education and business development.

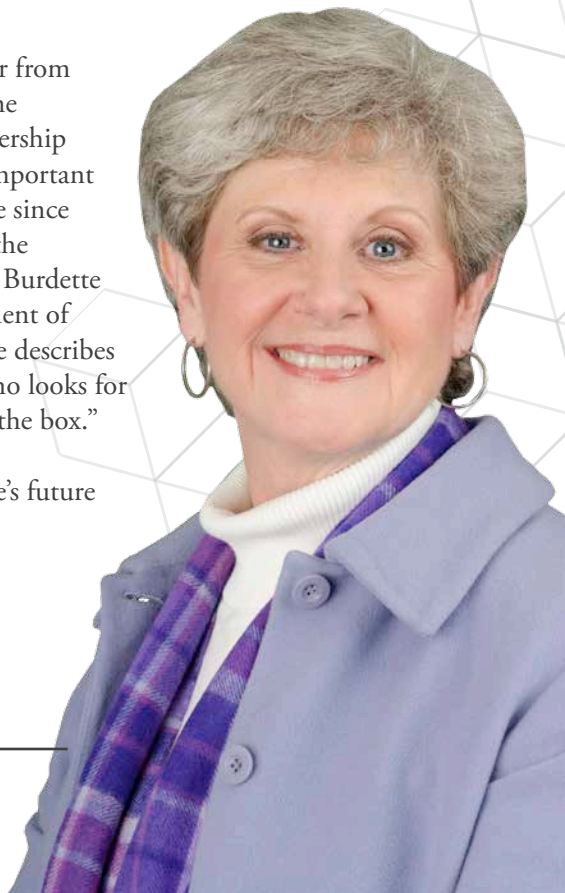
“I love working within a community and seeing people benefit.”

Burdette is proud to contribute to the success of SMC and is excited by what she sees taking place at the college. “The quality of what goes on is eye-opening,” she said. “SMC provides an experience for students that is life-changing.”

In 2017, Burdette ran for state Senate. During the campaign, she touted her experience in local government and described herself as “a get things done leader.” She suffered a narrow defeat, but that has not slowed her down. She is enjoying her work with the United Way of Anderson County, where she leads fundraising initiatives and supports the efforts of other nonprofit organizations to address community needs.

Meanwhile, SMC is never far from Burdette’s mind. She takes the responsibilities of board leadership seriously. One of the most important decisions the board has made since she has been a member was the selection of a new president. Burdette is thrilled with the appointment of president Scott Cochran. She describes Cochran as “an innovator who looks for solutions that are outside of the box.”

In all, she believes the college’s future is bright and is pleased to be playing a role. “It’s been a great experience.” ■



## 2017-2018 SMC Board of Trustees

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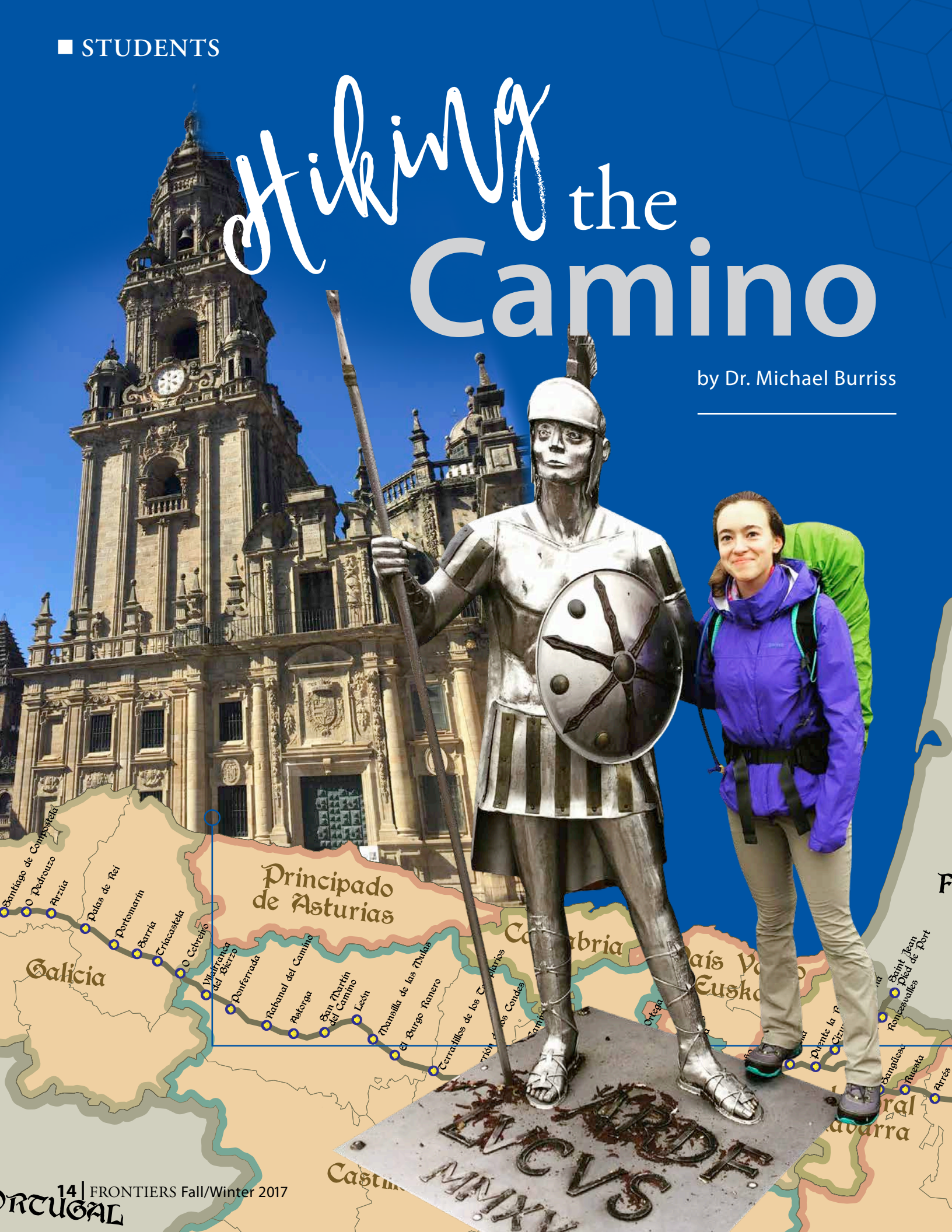
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Mr. Robert Webb “Bret” McAbee Jr. '16  
*Student Representative*

# Hiking the Camino

by Dr. Michael Burriss





The Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) is a medieval pilgrimage that wends its way through Northern Spain. Since the turn of the second millennium, pilgrims from across Europe have walked the Camino, enduring harsh conditions, to reach the legendary resting place of Jesus's apostle St. James (son of Zebedee) in the city of Santiago de Compostela.

According to Christian lore, St. James proselytized throughout the Roman province of Hispania (Spain). After his martyrdom in Jerusalem, his body was carried to the area now known as Galicia, where his remains lay forgotten until 815 A.D. A small chapel, which eventually became the world-famous Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, was built on the site.

Over the centuries, pilgrimage to the cathedral ebbed and flowed during times of war and peace. However, in 1993, UNESCO declared the Camino a World Heritage Site, and a veritable renaissance was started. Many of the amenities pilgrims now enjoy (including lodging, food and directions) owe their existence to this revival.

In March 2017 (SMC's spring break), I traveled with three intrepid SMC students to walk a 77-mile section of the Camino. To endure five days of walking 15+ miles with heavy packs, Tania Drahun, Hannah Bublitz and Samantha Jane Hughston-Varnum began training (physically and mentally) during fall 2016. The traditional route, known as

the Camino Frances, is 500 miles long and typically takes five weeks to walk. Because we didn't have that much time, we did a portion of the Camino del Norte and met up with the Frances trail in Arzua.

We started walking on Sunday, March 5, in the town of Lugo and finished on Thursday, March 9, in the town of Santiago de Compostela. The students learned what it means to be a modern-day pilgrim and how difficult it must have been for earlier pilgrims who didn't have fancy boots, packs and other equipment.

This was the first trip overseas for Bublitz and Hughston-Varnum. While there was some culture and physical shock (even with training, nothing can prepare you for walking about 25 kilometers a day in the rain and mud), all three students endured and persevered. They practiced their classroom Spanish in real-life situations (finding lodging and food). They saw a part of Spain that most people will never get to experience. Walking across a country allows you to know it much more intimately than going with a tour group because it forces you outside of your comfort zone. While this was challenging at first (and, at times, throughout the trip!), our students returned home feeling almost nostalgic for the country they left behind. This is the kind of travel that changes you forever. ■

“ Our students returned home feeling almost nostalgic for the country they left behind. This is the kind of travel that changes you forever. ”

**FAR LEFT:** A side view of the Cathedral of Santiago where St. James is buried. The front was undergoing renovations when the SMC group visited.

**LEFT:** Tania Drahun poses next to a statue of a Roman soldier in Lugo, Spain.



The SMC peregrinas (pilgrims) holding their Compostela, a document historically given to pilgrims as evidence of their completion of the pilgrimage. From left to right, Tania Drahun, Hannah Bublitz and Samantha Jane Hughston-Varnum.



Typical directional markers along the Way. The scallop shell, one of the most often used symbols to mark the trail, is a metaphor. It's said that the lines represent the different routes pilgrims travel from all over the world.

# Never Forget

## SMC student makes summer research trip to HOLOCAUST SITES

by Lisa Mincey Ware

“I went into the trip intending to use my history major for politics; I came out of it wanting to teach...”

For freshman students, the first year of college is spent getting acclimated to a new campus and new expectations. Most students don't pursue original research in their chosen majors until their junior or senior year.

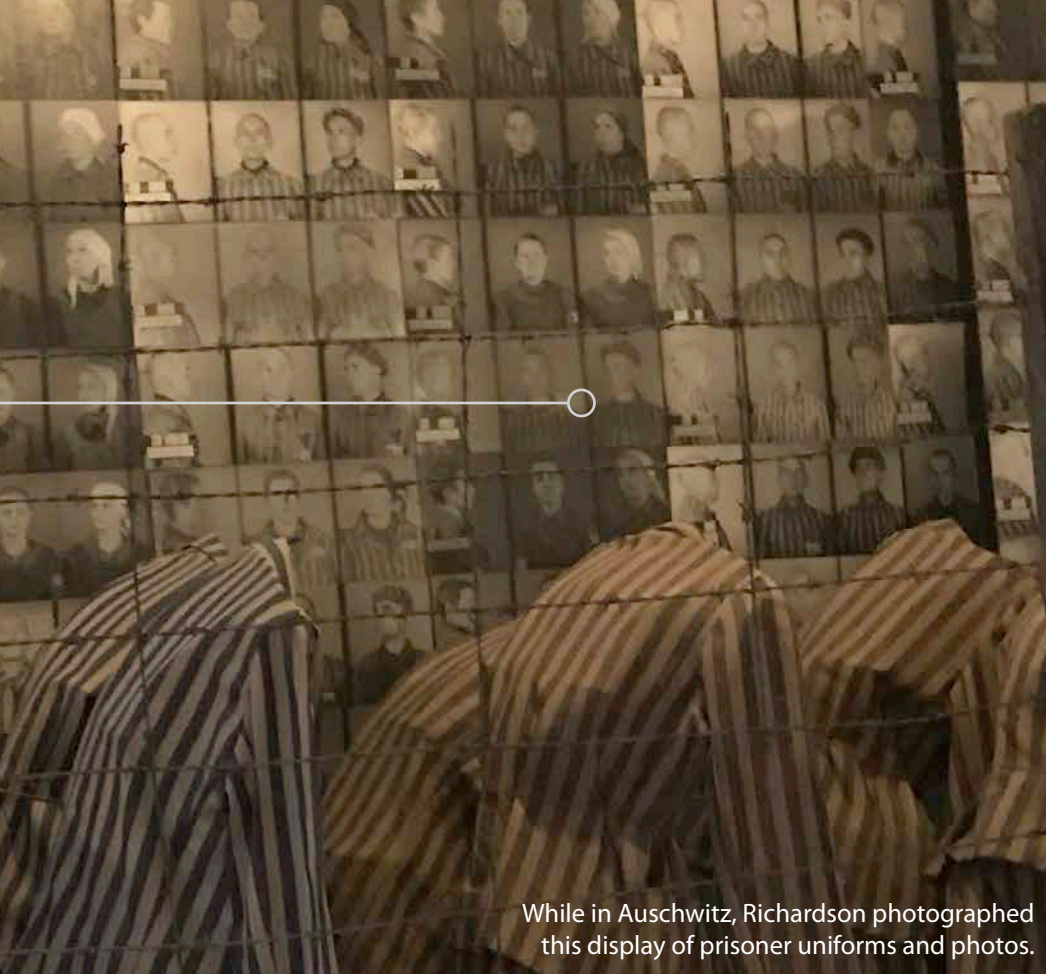
Shelbie Richardson isn't most students.

Last spring, while still a freshman, the Gaffney native worked with history professors Drs. Cole Cheek and Kirk Hansen to craft an application for research funds from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (SCICU). Richardson, who has been interested in World War II since high school, hoped to use the funds to travel to Germany and Poland for research into how the identity and culture of the Jewish people has changed since the Holocaust.

In May, Richardson learned she'd received \$3,100 to fund her trip – the highest amount ever awarded by SCICU to an SMC student.

Two months later, after a whirlwind of preparations, Richardson flew to Munich, Germany, on her first trip outside of the United States. Her goal: to tour Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp built in Germany. “Most of the camp was destroyed, and the purpose of the memorial site is to educate visitors about what happened there so that it won't be forgotten,” Richardson says. “What I noticed most was the absolute quiet and feeling of sorrow. I don't think there's a word that can really describe the sadness lingering there.”

While in Munich, Richardson also went to the Jewish Museum and visited the Ohel Jakob Synagogue to interview two of its rabbis. “The rabbis



While in Auschwitz, Richardson photographed this display of prisoner uniforms and photos.

told me that many survivors of the Holocaust became Orthodox Jews. Instead of weakening their faith or the faith of their families and children, their experiences in the camps actually strengthened it,” she says.

After three days in Germany, Richardson flew to Krakow, Poland, to see Auschwitz. “I didn’t realize that many of the German Jewish prisoners were actually transported to Auschwitz rather than to Dachau, which was only a few minutes from Munich,” she says. “Most of Auschwitz has been perfectly preserved. It was a very different experience from Dachau. Instead of sadness, I felt a strong sense of anger there.”

Although her trip was less than a week, Richardson said the experience changed her forever. “When you see the artifacts – the records, the photographs, the belongings and

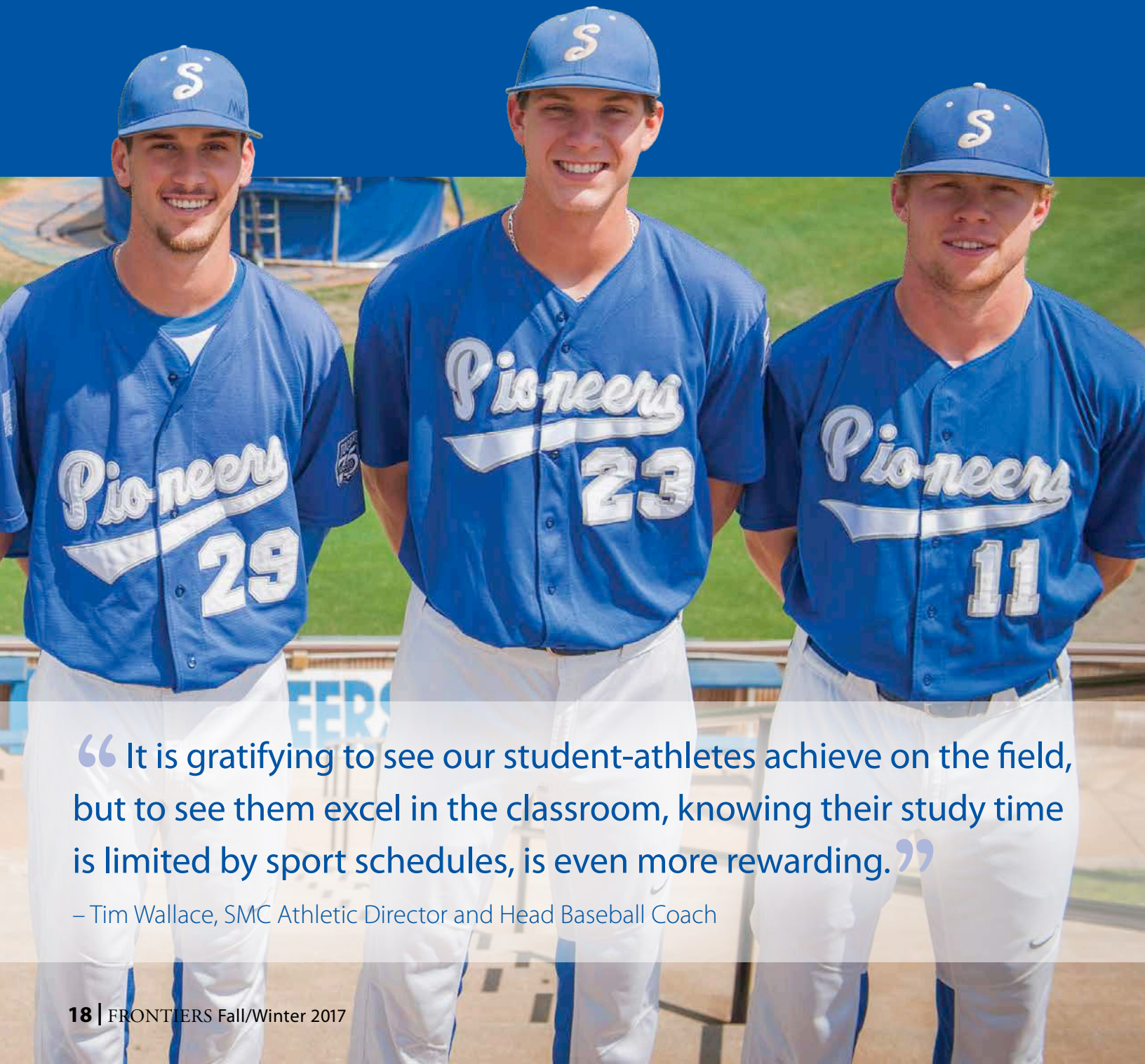
the graves – I don’t understand how anyone can deny the Holocaust happened,” she says. “We learn about it in this country, but it doesn’t seem very real. It’s real to me now.”

Back at SMC for her sophomore year, Richardson will spend this fall writing the research paper she’ll present at a SCICU conference in February 2018. She says her future plans are another thing that changed as a result of her research. “I went into the trip intending to use my history major for politics; I came out of it wanting to teach, knowing that if I teach college students about those who died and the horrific acts that happened, the legacies of those who have passed will live on. And hopefully, the world will never have to see a genocide like that ever again.” ■



A Jewish monument marks the place in Dachau where the ashes and bodies of prisoners are buried.

*Congratulations* to SPARTANBURG  
METHODIST COLLEGE'S  
**Championship and Award-Winning Teams,  
Student Athletes and Coaches!**



“ It is gratifying to see our student-athletes achieve on the field, but to see them excel in the classroom, knowing their study time is limited by sport schedules, is even more rewarding. ”

– Tim Wallace, SMC Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach

# NJCAA All-Academic Student-Athlete Award WINNERS

With over 59,000 student-athletes participating in the NJCAA for the 2016-17 academic year, 10.1 percent earned a slot on one of the three highly regarded All-Academic Teams, including the following SMC Pioneers!

## NJCAA All-Academic First Team (4.00 GPA):

Andrea Liddell, Cross Country  
Olivia Matsuda, Softball  
Matthew Terry, Golf  
Zack Watson, Basketball

## NJCAA All-Academic Second Team (3.80-3.99 GPA):

Ward Betts, Baseball  
Kaleb Bowman, Baseball  
Adrien DePace, Cross Country  
Jasmine Hoover, Basketball  
Justin Prozzi, Golf  
Sheldon Reed, Baseball  
Brittany Warren, Tennis

## NJCAA All-Academic Third Team: (3.60-3.79 GPA):

Amanda Hutto, Golf  
Anna Wright, Soccer  
Brandon Hill, Golf  
Cyara Dow, Soccer  
Gabrielle Davis, Volleyball  
Hampton Fallaw, Baseball  
Julia Panas, Volleyball  
Kip Brandenburg, Baseball  
Lindsey Mason, Softball  
Sydney Varn, Soccer  
Teagan Crosby, Softball  
Zachary Herold, Golf



## 2016-2017 NJCAA Region X Coaches of the Year:

**Briana Clark**, Head Women's Basketball Coach  
**Jon Cremins**, Head Men's Basketball Coach

## 2016-2017 Pioneer Champion Teams



### Men's Basketball

Region X Champions | Advanced to Nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas, for the second consecutive year



### Women's Golf

Region X Champions | Advanced to Nationals in Duluth, Georgia



### Men's Golf

Region X Champions | Advanced to Nationals in Garden City, Kansas

### Five Pioneer Wrestlers

Advanced to Nationals in Council Bluffs, Iowa

# A Chapel “In the Round”

Reverend Talmage Skinner recalls how SMC's Davis Mission Chapel, built in 1976 as part of the college's Campus Long Range Master Plan got its unique shape



*The Reverend Talmage Skinner served SMC as chaplain and chair of the division of humanities and fine arts from 1968 to 1978. He recently shared his memories about the design of SMC's Davis Mission Chapel during a conversation recorded at his Raleigh, North Carolina, home in June 2017.*

“Spartanburg Methodist College has always been a great place to be, at this time, at any time! It's not only about what happens in that math class, but participating in activities on campus, going to chapel, being part of teams, beginning to relate to a broad group of people – people who are not like you – that's all part of the education. All of those things are important.

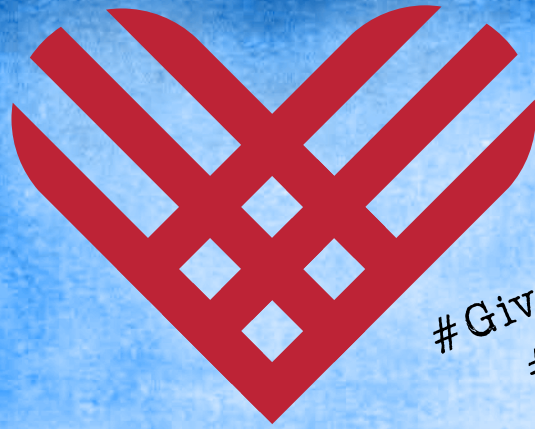
Before the new chapel was built, there was Blackwood Chapel at the back of Judd Hall. Well, the college needed housing, so Blackwood Chapel was made into student rooms. We had our worship service every week down in the Fireplace Room of Burgess Student Center. We put all the chairs in a circle, put a lectern in front of one of them and put an altar out in the middle. We established an ‘in the round’ experience.

“I recall speaking to the board of trustees and telling them I'd be just fine if we had a small room designated as the chapel, where we could do worship. Vera [Davis] Parsons was on the board, and when I said that, I saw her take out her pen and start to write. And it hadn't been a week before Jim Barrett [Dr. James Sherer Barrett, SMC president from 1970 – 1976] called and said, ‘Vera Parsons is going to give us a chapel.’”

*[Vera Davis Parsons also donated the funds for Parsons Residence Hall, which was also built in 1976.]*

“When I started talking with the architect about the plans, I told him about our services down in the Fireplace Room. And that's why we built the chapel in a circle: so that the person in the back row is really not that far away from the altar. The idea for the skylight was to uplift the souls of everyone who came to worship, and we went to a lot of trouble to get that stained glass with the Methodist cross and flame in a shape that reflected the shape of the building. And because the chapel windows were all glass, the architect thought it best to place a stone wall around the outside to protect them.”

“Vera Parsons paid for it all, and she let us make all the decisions; she didn't get involved in it. But there was one thing she put her foot down on and said ‘no’ to. We wanted pretty carpet, but she said there would be people coming into chapel with muddy feet. She said you need industrial carpet, and she was right. She was absolutely right.” ■



#GivingTuesday  
#PioneersGive

# #GIINGTUESDAY *is* NOVEMBER 28

A day for individuals, communities and organizations around the world to unite for one common purpose:

**to celebrate and encourage giving.**

SMC's #GivingTuesday Goal: \$20,000

Help us make SMC's first Giving Tuesday a smashing success by keeping an eye out for more information about how you can get involved and help

*spread the word!*

Your #GivingTuesday Annual Fund gift will go to work immediately to fund things like **scholarships, student initiatives, study-abroad opportunities** and outfitting classrooms with the **latest technology.**





# Impactful Decisions

*Billy and  
Betty Wood*  
**LIVE a  
vision of  
helpfulness**

by Heather Hilliard

There are unique circumstances that sometimes motivate people to believe in a mission or a vision, or inspire a person's commitment to a cause. Living a vision of helpfulness is reflected in this spotlight on one couple who have made a difference to Spartanburg Methodist College over the past 40 years, even though neither attended the school.

After graduating from Wofford College in 1950 and serving in the Army, Billy Wood went to work for Duke Energy. SMC was one of his accounts. Betty, his wife, was employed by Smith Wholesale Drug Company (which would eventually become JM Smith Corporation). Over years of campus visits and frequent interaction with employees, Wood observed SMC's dedication to providing a liberal arts education to students from a variety of economic backgrounds, including those who otherwise couldn't afford college.

The Woods, who have a strong religious faith and volunteer with numerous local organizations, work tirelessly to embody the principles of helping others. That desire to serve also drew them to the college – and specifically to two aspects of the SMC



mission: developing the worth and abilities of each student and enhancing each student's sensitivity to the needs of others, allowing him or her to assume a responsible position in society.

In the summer of 1977, Billy and Betty made their first donation to the Annual Fund, which allows the college to use the money in any area where there is a need. Wood liked knowing his donation could be used for fall programming, and he was able to capitalize on Duke Energy's matching gifts program to increase the power of his contribution.

Wood says his relationship with college staff was central to his decision to take action and donate to SMC. "They were all courteous and kind," he recalls. That wasn't the only factor, however. "They demonstrated that they could take the dollar and stretch it further than any college nearby."

The couple's gift began a connection to SMC that would continue for the next four decades. In July, to mark the 40th anniversary of their first gift to SMC, the Woods made a special Annual Fund contribution of \$50,000. Combining this gift with past donations brings their lifetime giving to over \$130,000, says Jennifer Dillenger, vice president for institutional advancement.

Their generosity and resourcefulness resonates with the staff and is appreciated by the students, Dillenger notes.

"I consider it a distinct pleasure to know Billy and Betty Wood," Dillenger says. "Their lives reflect the values we instill in students. Their work ethic, commitment to the community and deep faith serve as an inspiration to many, especially those lucky enough to know them personally. They believe in the work being accomplished on our campus every day, and they have chosen to generously support it."



Betty and Billy Wood at a recent SMC event.

Don Tate, SMC's director of development and a college employee for more than 30 years, has known the Woods since the beginning of their relationship with the school. He says it's gratifying to work with donors who are able to make positive changes at all levels of investment, and that the Woods recognize their contributions are an investment in a brighter future for students.

"Beyond their outstanding benevolence, both Billy and Betty have proven to be ambassadors for our mission," he says. "The Woods have been truly engaged, and it's meaningful to them to be able to see firsthand that they can make a positive impact on the lives of others."

In addition to treasure, the Woods have also devoted plenty of time and talent to SMC, including helping to persuade others to support the college and volunteering at special events. As involved partners, they can see the shifting needs of the college as well as the bright future the new master plan (see page 24) will bring to the campus and community.

Wood sees his impact and those of others very clearly. "No doubt about it, there has been a lot of improvement on campus, not only construction but beautification in the last 10 years especially," he says. "The first impressions are lasting impressions, and if anyone

visits the campus, it is stronger than 25 years ago."

For all they have done, the Woods don't want any thanks. Instead, they want more people to do the important work of helping others, too. For those who may be considering supporting the college, Wood acknowledges that it can feel like a sacrifice: "Yes, it's difficult in these trying times. Even with the highest wages, other things come first, such as 'my wants' and supposed necessities: boat, new car, house on the beach, or one in the mountains...things that go away over time." The important choices are made for things that are everlasting, he says.

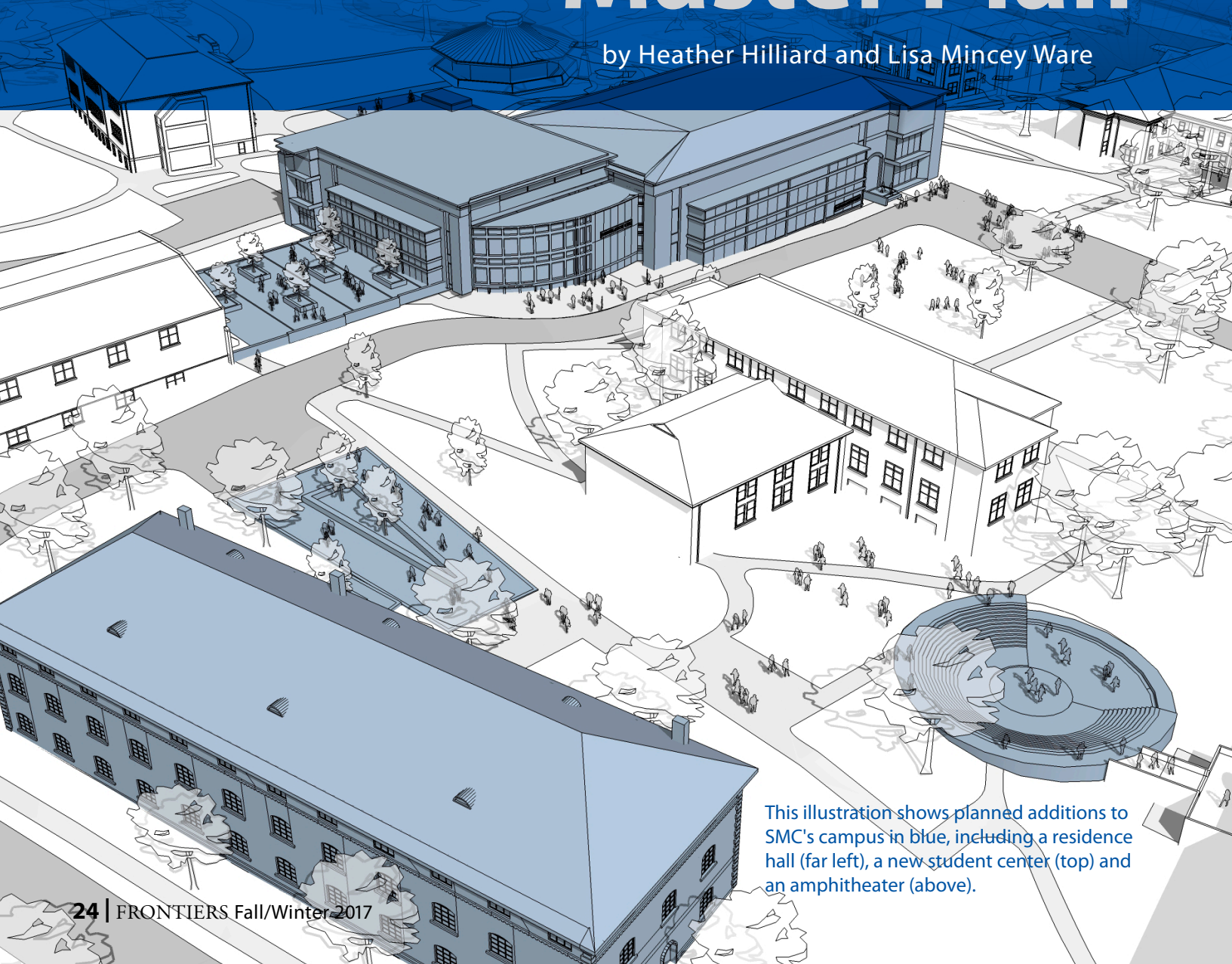
He's also keenly aware that prudent donors want to ensure that their money is used wisely in a manner that is in line with their values and fiscal management principles. To them, he says a little research into how SMC conducts itself financially should set their minds at ease. "If you want to get involved, just ask some questions of the staff or ask about the school itself. Once you reach out, there's nothing better than working with young people in a most positive way."

The way we live reflects how we support what matters most in our lives. The unwavering support from two people who are not connected as alumni or college employees speaks volumes about what matters most to the Woods. ■

# Envisioning the future,

PRESERVING THE PAST:  
SMC's 2016-2026 **Master Plan**

by Heather Hilliard and Lisa Mincey Ware



This illustration shows planned additions to SMC's campus in blue, including a residence hall (far left), a new student center (top) and an amphitheater (above).



About once every 10 years, colleges and universities go through the process of envisioning the future look of their campuses. The end product, a master plan, guides the development of new buildings, the refurbishment of older spaces and, sometimes, the removal of campus structures or areas that have outlived their usefulness.

“A master plan is about a lot more than how the college will look over the next decade,” says SMC President Scott Cochran. “When done right, it’s tied directly to institutional or organizational goals.”

In April 2016, just five months into his presidency, Cochran assembled a

The master plan team was led by Ron Smith, a principal with McMillan Pazdan Smith, a familiar and respected architecture firm in the Upstate. Smith, who served as lead architect for the college’s 2006 plan, presented the process in a series of campuswide meetings consisting of more than 70 staff and faculty who identified pain points and opportunities. He then worked directly with the committee to capture, refine and translate a multitude of thoughts, ideas and needs into physical spaces.

“There is exciting new leadership with an enthusiastic vision for the campus as a unique teaching and learning place,” says Smith. “That enthusiasm has spread throughout the internal and external community.”

Cochran says Smith and his colleagues were invaluable in making what can often be an emotionally charged and drawn-out process go smoothly and quickly. “It was important to me that everyone at the college have an opportunity to be heard, even though we all understood it wouldn’t be possible to use everyone’s ideas,” he says. “Ron is not only an expert architect but a terrific communicator and facilitator. His confidence in this process and broad knowledge of best practices gave our team the confidence to sift through a few hundred ideas to make good decisions quickly. I wanted the plan finalized in six months, and he made that happen.”

The team identified eight goals for the 2016-2026 plan, with a new student center being the need identified most often. There was agreement that reaching Cochran’s stated goal to return the study body size to roughly 1,000 students from the typical 750-

“There is exciting new leadership with an enthusiastic vision for the campus as a unique teaching and learning place. That enthusiasm has spread throughout the internal and external community.”

– Ron Smith, Lead Architect

committee of faculty, staff, students and board of trustees members to participate in crafting the 2016 – 2026 master plan. Their goal: to build upon the current footprint to serve new academic priorities while also allowing for critical maintenance and renovation projects. The team was also charged with adding to the student experience on campus to better shape and influence the success of current and future SMC students.



“ We need a modern building with a bit of a ‘wow’ factor to not only be competitive with other colleges, but to also bring student life into the heart of campus...”

– Teresa Ferguson,  
Dean of Students

800 size of recent years will require a new student-centered facility. “We need a modern building with a bit of a ‘wow’ factor to not only be competitive with other colleges, but to also bring student life into the heart of campus rather than at the edge, where our current student center lies,” says Dean of Students Teresa Ferguson.

Under Smith’s guidance, the committee reviewed the significance of the historical buildings on campus and how students currently moved around or through them in order to identify the best position for a new student center.

After reviewing several ideas for placement, the committee ultimately decided to locate a future student center in the open quad east of Davis Mission Chapel. Students already travel up the vehicular path between Ellis Hall and the chapel; closing the area to vehicles would not only beautify the campus, but reduce distractions and allow for a more pedestrian-friendly greenspace.

Positioning a student center in the middle of campus would effectively break it into two precincts, an idea gaining hold on campuses across the country, says Smith. “The student center would become a gateway between the academic and student life precincts, with most classes being scheduled in Walker and Montgomery and student life occurring in the residence halls on the other side of campus.”

The second goal was to improve academic spaces for students, faculty and staff, with an emphasis on science facilities. The Walter S. Montgomery Science Building, built in 1967 well before the Americans with Disabilities Act, has laboratory spaces on the second floor but no elevator to allow handicapped students easy access to their required labs. The laboratory spaces have become outdated and need refurbishing to serve the increasing number of students interested in health science degrees. And more classrooms and office spaces are needed to accommodate a growing faculty.

To achieve those goals while also maximizing limited resources and making the best use of available space, the committee decided to include a complete renovation of the Montgomery Building in the master plan. They also recommended that the current Burgess Student Center be refurbished for use as a science space when a new student center is completed.

Even as they looked to the future, protecting the college's history was another committee goal. The historic buildings – Charles P. Hammond Hall (the college's first building), Eliza Judd Hall, the Frank Walker Building and the William S. Moore Student Athletic Activities Building – will be preserved and remodeled/refurbished to suit current or new purposes.

Over 40 percent of SMC students participate in athletics, and it's a key component of student growth, satisfaction and success. The master plan includes new sports fields in the northeast area behind the Phyllis Buchheirt Board Room and Vassey Information Technology Center. Tennis courts would be moved to a currently undeveloped field on the southeast

side of SMC, which would allow them to share a planned field house with softball. And the baseball field would receive much-needed improvements, such as the addition of a field house and press box.

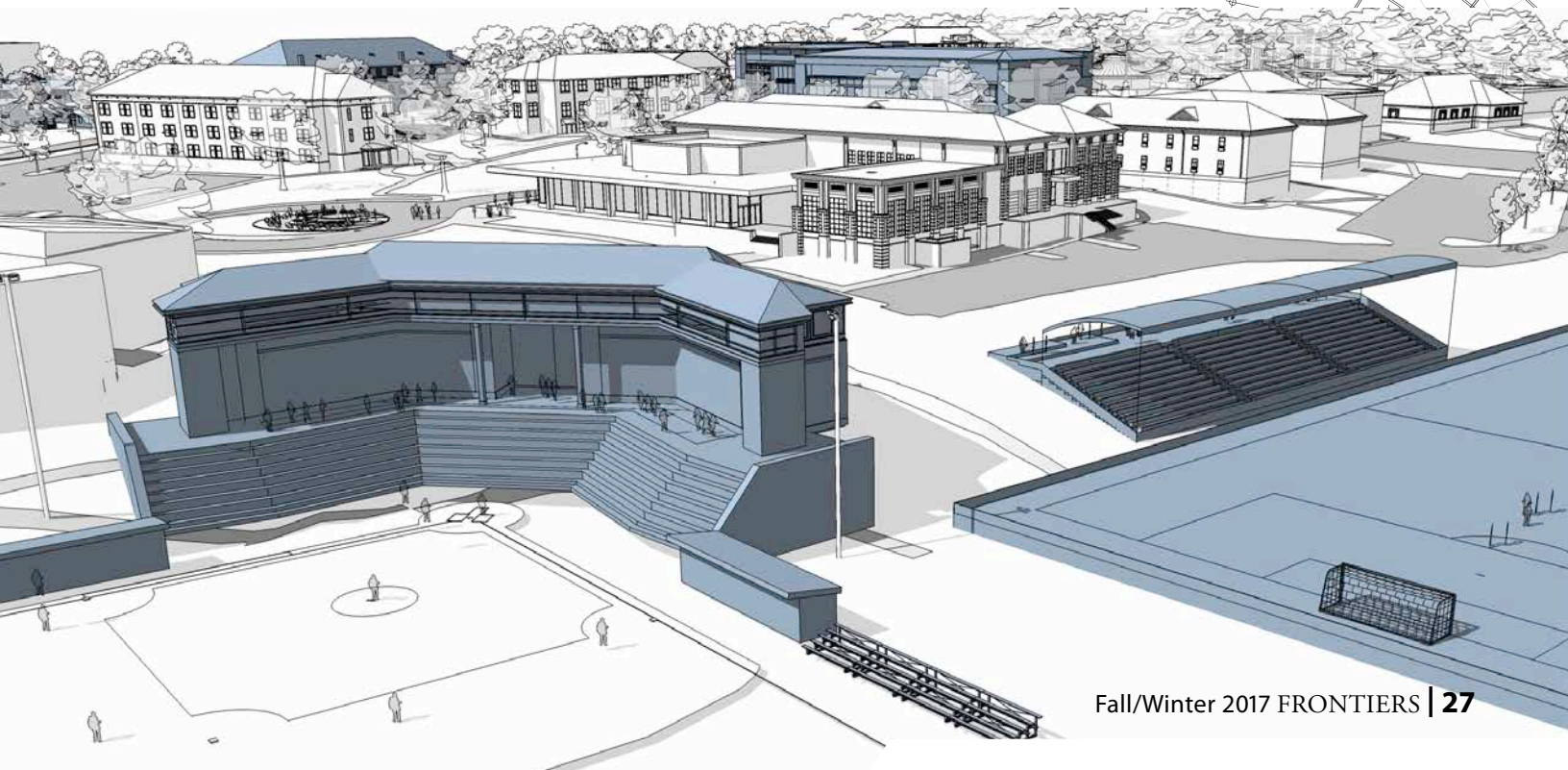
A draft of the plan was presented to the college's board of trustees in October 2016. In February 2017, the board voted to approve the plan. James Fletcher Thompson, chair of SMC's board of trustees and a master plan committee member, says the approval vote was unanimous. "It was a privilege to participate in the visioning process and to witness the favorable reception from my board colleagues. The master plan sets the stage for strategic, necessary growth that will be good for SMC and for the larger community."

Raising the money to make the master plan a reality is the next step, Cochran says. For now, as the college considers adding new academic degrees (see article on page 30), he's confident that the plan can easily accommodate these and any other programming changes that will continue to occur in response to a rapidly shifting higher education marketplace. ■

**FAR LEFT:** The planned location of a new student center between the Moore Physical Activities Building and Kingman Hall.

**BELOW:** Planned athletic facilities improvements include a baseball press box/field house and covered soccer field seating.

View the master plan in more detail and see an animated fly around at [www.smcc.edu/master-plan](http://www.smcc.edu/master-plan).



# An Artful Solution



Professor Kris Neely, center, and studio art students (left to right) Loren Hughes, Sarah Davis and Hannah White.

## Changes to SMC's art curriculum will STRENGTHEN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

by Stacey Majkrzak

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When Kris Neely became professor of art at Spartanburg Methodist College in August 2016, he came to a familiar place. As a lifelong Spartanburg resident, he was aware of his hometown college but admits to being unaware of the educational and professional impact it has on students. It was only when he became a full-time faculty member, he says, that he realized how special SMC is to the community and to the students and faculty who call it home.

SMC has a long history of providing studio art instruction, but the college knew it wanted to offer more to students. “SMC has a state-of-the-art studio and a fantastic base regarding class offerings,” Neely says. “It was time to take the existing program to the next level for the instruction to better serve the students, and I feel so honored they chose me.”

Because SMC is a two-year institution, its courses are designed to transfer easily to four-year colleges and universities. However, recent changes to South Carolina law require National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) certification for colleges offering four-year studio art classes – making the guidelines for accepting transfer credit much stricter.

“When our students are unable to transfer their art classes credits, it limits their options as they look to further their education,” says Neely. “It’s also incredibly frustrating to take courses at one college only to find those credits don’t transfer and you have to start all over at a new institution,” he continued. “SMC recognizes this frustration and wants to prepare

students better and set them up for continued educational success.”

Neely took on the arduous task of writing a new studio art curriculum, which included adding courses.

“We were already offering core foundations classes in drawing and design, but in following the NASAD guidelines, we added a 3-D design class and a computer graphics course,” he explains. “Not only are these classes transferable, but we have added courses that allow students to view art as a viable professional option at their next institution.”

The next hurdle was the stipulation that NASAD accredited schools couldn’t accept transfer credits from non-double-blocked courses. (Double-blocked courses meet twice as long as regular courses.) Because Neely is the college’s sole professor of art, the longer courses posed a challenge in an already crowded course load.

“I know from experience that building a studio program requires a willingness

to put in the extra work,” he laughs. “Administrators were very considerate in asking if I was going to be okay with the amount of time needed to have a program like this. For me, it was an easy decision because of my love for both art and teaching, but I appreciated their concern.”

Neely’s new art curriculum was unanimously accepted by SMC faculty, which applauded his efforts to grow the program. Their extraordinary support was humbling, he notes. “When we start sending our graduates to prestigious programs to continue their studies, we will celebrate this achievement together.”

Neely says he has never seen a college so committed to the mission and feels like he’s in the right place.

“Students at SMC truly have the opportunity to access the best education and the most committed faculty that want to do all we can to see them succeed in their education, career and life,” he says. ■



Michael Johnson uses his laptop to find inspiration for his 3-D Design assignment.

# SMC Explores

# OFFERING Four-Year Degree

by Lisa Mincey Ware

Graduating students during SMC's May 2016 Commencement Exercises.

Since its founding in 1911, Spartanburg Methodist College's name has changed, but its mission has remained the same: to provide an education to students who would not ordinarily have the opportunity.

Over the past century, the college has adapted to the needs of its students, says Courtney Shelton, vice president for professional development and Design. "When we were Textile Industrial Institute, we replaced the grade school curriculum to offer associate degrees as Spartanburg Junior College," she says. "In the '70s, we began offering evening and weekend classes to better serve working adults. Now, students can earn an associate degree before they leave high school. It's time to adapt again."



Students can earn an associate degree at the same time they earn their high school diploma through dual enrollment programs, President Scott Cochran says. Advanced Placement classes also allow high school students to earn college credit. “Students are increasingly able to enter college as juniors and seniors,” he notes. “We still believe there is great value in the associate degree for a segment of the population, but the market is changing, and we need to proactively respond to those changes.”

One solution, Cochran continues, is offering the option of a four-year degree along with the college’s current associate degree programs. “SMC has had these conversations, on and off, since 1991,” he says. “There have always been compelling reasons to remain an exclusively two-year college before, but there’s a new urgency to this discussion.”

In February, the SMC Board of Trustees approved a request by college administrators to begin exploring the addition of a four-year program.

“We’re not just going to flip a switch and become a four-year college. We’re considering adding a bachelor’s degree, but have made no decisions yet about what exactly that will be,” Cochran cautions. “There are a lot of questions that need to be answered before we can make a recommendation to the board. We’re taking the time necessary to proactively deal with the changes happening in higher education while still ensuring we’re examining all of the options.”

Shelton says there’s a lot of excitement and optimism on campus for the idea of offering a bachelor’s degree. “For decades, students have wanted to finish their education at SMC. We do offer them the option to live at SMC and complete a four-year degree online via other college programs, but this would

be the first four-year degree offered by SMC.”

Any new degree options must first be approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, SMC’s accrediting organization, Shelton notes.

A committee of faculty, staff and administrators, led by Shelton, has been appointed to study the possibility of a four-year program. The collaboration has generated a number of viable options for further study, she says. “Our highest priority, the idea driving our work, is to make sure SMC remains true to its mission.”

Approximately 35 percent of SMC students are the first in their families to attend college. Forty-two percent are minority students. Both groups, Shelton says, are statistically likely to be underprepared to meet college expectations. “Many of our students are juggling work and school. They may be a source of financial support for their families. If they’re unable to complete a college degree, it can mean a real difference in their quality of life and the quality of life in our communities.”

“We’ve been very successful at helping our students get a degree by giving them the support they need at an affordable price,” says Cochran, referring to the college’s Full Tuition Scholarship offer for students who qualify for the South Carolina LIFE Scholarship. “Eighty-two percent of our students transition to full-time employment or transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor’s degree.” Cochran points out that only about 38 percent of students who enroll at a public two-year college complete a degree, either there or at a four-year school.

Shelton says SMC’s strong advising program, small class sizes and close-



knit community can help at-risk students succeed. “We’re not talking about getting rid of the associate degree programs. We believe it’s important that our students have a degree to show for their first two years of school. We also know we can’t become just another four-year private liberal arts college,” she says. “What we offer here is working for our students, and if we can find a way to make it work even better for them for all four years of their education – in whatever form that takes and if we decide to go in that direction – then we’ll know we’ve made the right choice for the college’s future.”

The committee plans to present its recommendations to the SMC Board of Trustees at an upcoming meeting.

“This discussion is happening in the right way and at the right time. I have absolute faith in our committee’s ability to assess the options and to make a recommendation that adds even more value for our students,” Cochran says. “It’s an exciting time to be a Pioneer.” ■

# SERVING THOSE WHO Protect & Serve

## SMC's NEW ONLINE criminal justice degree will help working adults

by Baker Maultsby and Lisa Mincey Ware

**A** strong education in criminal justice can make police officers more effective in their work – and that can make communities safer. While police academies offer an introduction to law enforcement issues, they're understandably focused on getting new recruits safely trained and into the workforce quickly.

To offer law enforcement officers a richer immersion in the topics that affect their jobs and the people they serve, Spartanburg Methodist College (then Spartanburg Junior College) created a Police Science program in 1969. Depending on their needs, students were able to earn an associate of arts degree in police science and administration – after 60 hours of study – or a certificate of attainment granted after 24 hours of police science courses.

The program proved so popular that the college began a number of other

initiatives aimed at serving working adults in the 1970s, including an evening program and a Saturday College for students seeking an early childhood education degree.

More importantly, the Police Science program was successful in improving the quality of local law enforcement. In “Common Ties,” her book about the history of SMC, author Katherine Davis Cann writes that former Director of Spartanburg Public Safety W.C. Bain observed “I was here when the program was started...I can look back and see what we had then and now, and honestly say that there is no comparison in the caliber of men, their training and professionalism. I would have to give [the college's] educational program 90 percent of the credit.”

The Police Science program continued to grow and, in 1975, became an associate of arts degree in criminal justice program.

By 1987, the program further evolved into the associate degree in criminal justice program.

Next spring, SMC will take another step forward in criminal justice education while also going back to the roots of the original Police Science program. The college plans to offer a new online associate degree in criminal justice that will educate working adults who want to start a career in law enforcement or seek advancement in the profession.

“We want to make sure everyone understands that this new online degree program will not replace our current traditional classroom-based program,” says Dean of Instruction Mark Gibbs. “These are two programs for students at different stages in their lives and with very different educational needs.”

He adds that the new online program is pending approval from the Southern

Association of Colleges and Schools, the college's accreditation organization. If all goes well, the first students will begin taking courses in January 2018.

For working adults, a main benefit of online education is the ability to learn on their own schedule, says Gibbs, who has taught several online courses. A student with a family or without easy access to a brick-and-mortar college can still get the education necessary to start a new career or be more successful in their current field.

“Other than the timing of classes and the method of delivery, which will be completely computer-based, the curriculum for the online and traditional programs will be the same” says Gibbs. “Our online students will take two courses every eight weeks, including summers, instead of the traditional four or five courses over 15 weeks every semester.” If online students stick to the recommended schedule, they will have their degree in two years, Gibbs adds, just like students pursuing the traditional degree.

The two programs will offer the same courses, such as Victimology, which delves into how victims are affected by violence or other crime as well as how they interact with the criminal justice system. A course in Community Policing explores not only effective ways of responding immediately and effectively to crime, but also proactive initiatives aimed at problem-solving.

Other courses in the major, along with general education courses in areas such as government and sociology, give students a broad base of perspectives that will inform their work with both offenders and victims.

There are, of course, important differences for both professors and students between a traditional classroom-based course and online learning. There is interaction – but not in person – and



professors must find creative ways to engage students and build relationships.

“We’re planning to incorporate discussion boards and chat rooms to facilitate interaction between students and professors,” says Trey Arrington, SMC’s chief information officer. “Another valuable and engaging learning tool will be video scenarios using actors to illustrate important concepts. These and other tools will be available in a robust and easy-to-navigate course platform that we’re excited to provide to our online students.”

Arrington notes that while SMC has offered online courses to students for several years, this will be the college’s first degree offered *completely* online. And while it may seem in opposition to the small classrooms and personalized attention SMC is known for, offering the degree this way makes sense.

“The college was created to serve the working professionals of the day,” he says, “So this new program certainly continues the fulfillment of our mission and vision. We’re making it even easier to access.”

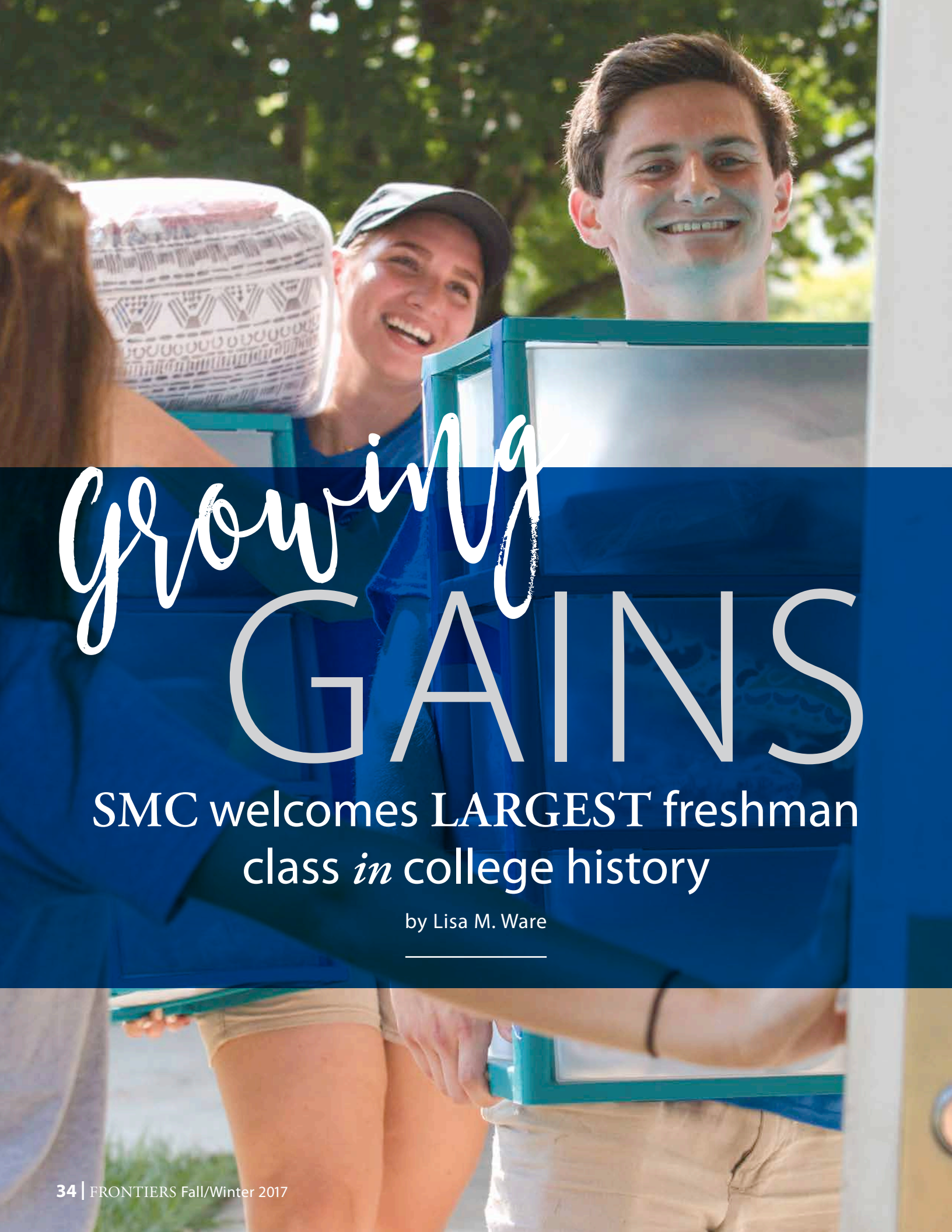
Gibbs hopes to see about 40 students enrolled by May. He said SMC’s long history of law enforcement education



**IMAGES ON THIS PAGE:** Representatives from local and regional law enforcement departments and agencies demonstrate K9, swat and bomb detonation work during April’s Law Enforcement Appreciation Day event on SMC’s campus.

has led to good relationships with police and sheriff agencies in the area, and he believes working professionals will be drawn both to the opportunity to advance their education in the field and to the flexible class schedule.

“For most students, time management will be key, since many will be juggling work, family and school,” Gibbs remarked. But SMC’s culture is a nurturing one for students, and Gibbs believes it can be thoughtfully extended to the world of online education. ■



# Growing GAINS

SMC welcomes **LARGEST** freshman  
class *in* college history

by Lisa M. Ware

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“ Last fall, we created a strategy that took the entire year to implement. It involved improving the admissions process, changing the way we market to prospective students, implementing a new software system and just plain hustle. ”

**A**s students and families from across the state and region began arriving for the August 19 Move-In Day at SMC, they didn't yet know they were making history as the largest freshman class to attend the college since its founding in 1911.

A total of 496 new freshman students, about 60 percent of whom now live on campus, carried boxes, bags, TVs, refrigerators and microwaves into rooms and suites. “We're at total capacity in our residence halls,” said Teresa Ferguson, Dean of Students. “We spent a few days scrambling to figure out where to house more students if we needed to, but we had just enough space for everyone. It was a good problem to have.”

Having more students on campus has changed the atmosphere, says Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development Kim Caton, whose Pioneer Peers student leadership team helped freshmen move in. “There's an incredible amount of enthusiasm and excitement in this group that has lasted

well into the semester,” she says. “I think being part of this largest class, and viewing the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse together, has bonded them in a way that previous classes haven't experienced.”

Kaleb Jackson, a sophomore student from Greenville, South Carolina, who assists with student activities as a member of the Pioneer Peers, says he's enjoyed seeing the variety of students and cultures. “They brought a new energy to SMC with their different styles and vibrant personalities.”

The college's previous record class of 469 freshmen arrived in 2013, says Vice President for Enrollment Wells Shepard. He adds that enrollment began declining after that year and continued to trend downward through fall 2016. “The last three years have been disappointing. I'm an SMC alum, and I know the great opportunity we offer our students. It's gratifying to see the numbers begin trending upward again.”

SMC students prepare to view the total solar eclipse during orientation activities in August.





**TOP LEFT:** A new SMC freshman student and her father during move-in.

**TOP RIGHT:** SMC student leaders, staff and faculty, including Chaplain Tim Drum (in red) assisted students and their families move onto campus.

**ABOVE:** A student in the record-breaking largest freshman class moves her belongings onto campus.



In addition to admitting the largest freshman class ever, the college also had the largest incoming class in its history, Shepard said. Five hundred forty-eight students paid deposits to attend SMC this fall, a number that includes students transferring from other colleges and also former SMC students who left for various reasons and have been readmitted. Because transfers and readmits aren't new freshman, Shepard explained, they aren't counted in the history-making 496-number class.

President Scott Cochran, who took over leadership of the college in 2015, credits the increase to changes in how the college has sought new students. "Last fall, we created a strategy that took the entire year to implement. It involved improving the admissions process, changing the way we market to prospective students, implementing a new software system and just plain hustle."

Cochran said the 2017-2018 total enrollment of approximately 800 freshmen and sophomore students puts the college on track to reach a goal of 1,000 enrolled students by 2020. This year's increased enrollment sets the stage for continued growth, he says.

"In January 2018, we'll begin offering the college's first completely online degree program, an associate degree in criminal justice, to an audience of mostly working adults." That program is still pending approval by the college's accreditation organization, he adds. "The online program is consistent with our mission and history. SMC was originally founded to provide an education to adults who were already working, to help them achieve a better future"

The college has also partnered with Combine Academy to offer online courses to students preparing for collegiate-level sports, says Cochran. Approximately 30 Combine Academy students started taking courses this fall.

"We feel confident we can take the highly supportive education experience we offer on-campus students and translate it successfully to an online environment," Cochran says. "We're a liberal arts college; we absolutely believe in the value of traditional classroom instruction, but we're also mission-driven to offer an opportunity for a college degree to those who want and need it and who may not be able to get it elsewhere. We'll meet them where they are." ■

# SMC HOMECOMING 2017 A HERO'S LEGACY



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017**

★ **WE DEDICATE THIS HOMECOMING TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE 5 MILITARY BRANCHES** ★

## CELEBRATE BEING A SMC PIONEER AT HOMECOMING 2017.

SMC Homecoming is the perfect time to reconnect with classmates, reminisce about your days at SMC and celebrate your love for your alma mater. We will offer casual events to encourage alumni and family attendance. Please note that the Alumni Awards Luncheon will be casual and include picnic favorites. All alumni, family and friends are invited to join us for the special celebration of SMC alumni who are also veterans.

- 10:30–11:30 am** Event Registration and Silent Auction (Event Tent)
- 11:30 am–12:30 pm** Alumni Awards Luncheon (Event Tent, \$15.00 per person)
- 1:00–2:00 pm** Community Veterans Day Celebration (Event Tent)  
**COMMUNITY WELCOME TO ATTEND!**
- 2:00 pm** Women's Basketball in Bridges Arena
- 4:00 pm** Men's Basketball in Bridges Arena
- 4:00–6:00 pm** Alumni and Friends Happy Hour at Buffalo Wild Wings Patio (1494 W.O. Ezell Blvd, Spartanburg, SC 29301)
- 6:00–8:00 pm** Fuddruckers Burgers and Musical Entertainment (Event Tent, \$10.00 per person)

REGISTER AT [WWW.SM CSC.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.SM CSC.EDU/HOMECOMING) OR TO BECKY SNOW AT [SNOWB@SM CSC.EDU](mailto:SNOWB@SM CSC.EDU) / 864-584-4210

# The Mission Matters

Walt Yates '98 enjoys fulfilling career *with*

FINANCIAL RADIO HOST Dave Ramsey

by Stacey Majkrzak



Dave Ramsey

Anyone who has ever listened to the radio is familiar with financial guru Dave Ramsey. His testimonials, guests and practical advice have helped people overcome financial stress since 1992, when he started his company Ramsey Solutions. Today, the company has over 600 team members – and SMC alum Walt Yates '98 plays a significant role in the business.

Yates is the executive director of the business-to-business (B2B) division at Ramsey Solutions. He serves four of the nine businesses within the greater company and directs a team of marketing leaders who use digital marketing to create sales leads and close direct sales.

Yates decided to attend SMC after being invited to be the editor of the yearbook. "I had been considering Clemson, Carolina and Presbyterian College," says Yates. "But SMC had a different culture that made me feel comfortable the moment I came on campus."

Although he went to college with a goal in mind, Yates still fell



into the typical first-year antics familiar to so many new college students. He recalls the “freshman talk” a couple of his professors had with him about squandering his potential.

“The staff and faculty that had the biggest impact on my success today are those that were willing to have the hard conversations with me,” Yates says. “Dean Karen Morrow and Dr. Katherine Cann had one-on-one conversations with me about how my ‘good enough’ wasn’t good enough. Without having those uncomfortable yet honest conversations, I probably wouldn’t have earned my associate degree or my bachelor’s.”

Yates’ most memorable moments at SMC include playing Mario Cart on Nintendo 64 in the first-floor resident advisor’s room in Hammond Hall.

“It wasn’t just the gaming I remember,” says Yates. “I became great friends with four other guys, and we’d spend time having deep conversations about God, money, girls and our futures as we played those video games. When I think of my fondest times at SMC, I remember those nights.”

After graduating with his associate degree in business administration from SMC in 1998, Yates attended Lander University to gain his bachelor of arts in English. Following college, Yates worked his way up the professional ladder, holding director and CMO positions throughout the Midwest and Southeast states until landing a position with Ramsey Solutions.

Yates believes he would not have advanced so quickly in his career if it weren’t for the emphasis on leadership at SMC.

“SMC gave me tons of opportunity to exercise my leadership muscle on campus,” Yates says. “From holding leadership roles in student government to serving on the president’s council, there were so many ways for me to be a leader.”

In addition to providing learning and leadership opportunities, Yates says SMC exposed him to a new and diverse world that he had not experienced prior to college. He was able to recognize that several very core human emotions are universal to all people, but outside those emotions, people are very complex and unique individuals with their own needs.

“I learned to see people as individuals at SMC and not as a collective group,” says Yates. “This was extremely important for me to know and understand as I began marketing a brand to an international market.”

Ramsey Solutions provides a variety of products and services to people looking to reach certain financial goals. The program is biblically based and described as a “commonsense education and empowerment that gives hope to everyone in every walk of life.”

Yates says over 12,000 people applied for just 100 job openings last year, and he applauds the high-caliber team he has the privilege of working with every day.



Yates (far right) with cross country teammates (left to right) Tracy James, Jeff Schrage and Adam Hare - all members of the Class of 1998.

“It is very satisfying to know I’m improving the future of millions of families by helping them curb debt and gain control of their personal finances,” says Yates. “Better yet is when they have succeeded and decide to share their wealth with others.”

Yates says he enjoys his work – and that includes the people he works with at Ramsey Solutions. He says his boss has created a great culture where people genuinely care about one another.

“Working with Dave Ramsey is amazing,” Yates said. “He is the most authentic and approachable CEO I have ever worked with, yet he is still able to inspire each of us to reach further and drive harder than we ever have.”

As Yates’ team at Ramsey Solutions strives to be the best at what they do, they all keep in mind the mission that he says is very similar to that he saw from the faculty and administration at SMC.

“We know that the work we do matters to those who need help,” said Yates. “Everything we do is very missional, and that mission is to bring hope to people.” ■

“SMC gave me tons of opportunity to exercise my leadership muscle on campus.”

– Walt Yates

# Alumni PROFILES



## Dipali Britton '04: A Creative Star

47 states. Britton works to attract national tournaments, including one for high school basketball all-stars that brings in big-name college coaches hoping to connect with potential recruits.

Britton is also an entrepreneur. She was discovered by the Upward team at the Subway restaurant she owns near the Upward campus. They were impressed with her people skills and can-do attitude, as well as her experience in competitive cheerleading, and thought she'd have success in marketing the athletic facilities at Upward.

The job gives her the opportunity to "get creative" in reaching out to sports groups

both locally and around the country and in figuring out how the Upward Star Center can accommodate and support their objectives.

Add author to Britton's list of accomplishments. In 2016, she published a children's book. "Jesus, Please Heal My Dog" is based on the story of her beloved dog who became gravely ill, but survived. "We just prayed for three days for a miracle," she said. "We are thankful to God."

Britton came to the United States from India at the age of nine. She attended high school in Gaffney, South Carolina, before attending SMC and then Clemson University. SMC provided a perfect transition, she said. "Faculty members were so patient and kind," she said. "It really helped me to get grounded and comfortable as a student."

Dipali Britton '04 has accomplished much in her young life, and she's enjoying the ride. "It's never the same each day," she says. Britton is the business development manager for the Upward Star Center, an impressive facility that houses training programs and competitive events for Upward Sports.

Upward Sports bills itself as "the world's largest Christian youth sports provider." The Spartanburg-based nonprofit coordinates sports teams and leagues in

## Twice Blessed Sharhonda '10 and Da'Quan Jeffries '14

Sharhonda Smith '10 and Da'Quan Jeffries '14 met at SMC. He played on the basketball team, and she enjoyed the small classes and community atmosphere. The couple fell in love and married in 2014, eager to start their family.

But life had other plans. After trying for two years to conceive, the Jeffries decided to become licensed foster parents. In October, their wish was granted when a one-year-old girl was placed in their home. And that's where their story gets interesting:



their foster child is white. Sharhonda and Da'Quan are African-American.

"I was talking with a colleague recently who said, 'You sometimes see white families that have adopted a black child, but you never see a white child who's been adopted by black parents.' And that's true," says Sharhonda, who teaches fifth grade at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership in Spartanburg. "But we love her no less."

Their story gets even more interesting: shortly before they received their foster child, Sharhonda finally became pregnant. The couple's daughter, Kaydence, was born April 19, 2017. In spite of having their original dream come true, they still hope to adopt their foster child. (Their case is currently working its way through social services and the court system, and the child's name has been withheld pending the outcome).

Things are busy these days for the Jeffries family. In addition to teaching, Sharhonda coaches volleyball at Carver Middle School. Da'Quan works second shift, so they have to work to find time together.

But they are enjoying life as a family. Their foster child, nearing age two, is proud of Kaydence. "She thinks Kaydence is hers," Sharhonda said. "She's loves her little sister."

## A Tasty Way to Give Back

### Chrissy '03 and Steven Kinney use their Chick-fil-A to support charity

For Spartanburg Methodist College graduate Chrissy Johnston Kinney '03 and her husband, Steven, a new business venture presented a unique opportunity to support a charity close to their hearts.

In early 2017, they opened a Chick-fil-A in Houston, Texas. The popular chain hosts a grand opening festivity in which the first 100 guests at a restaurant receive free food for a year. As a way of getting these winning guests to give back, the Kinneys partnered with a nonprofit organization called Feeding Children Everywhere; guests packed 10,000 meals for families supported by the Kenya-based charity CARE for AIDS.



CARE for AIDS helps to educate those who carry HIV about how different strains of the virus can be transmitted and may affect an infected person's health. The hope is that parents will maintain the best health possible and be able to keep their families together. Kinney said she and Steven were

grateful for the opportunity to support CARE for AIDS. "It is a life-changing organization," she said, noting that it has helped to prevent 30,000 children from becoming orphans.

The Kinneys moved to Texas from South Carolina in 2014, fulfilling their dream of opening their own Chick-fil-A restaurant. Steven had entered the company's two-



year Interim Management Program in September 2011. Their hope was to have the opportunity to own a franchise in South Carolina. But, "the Lord closed those doors and led us to Texas," Chrissy said.

Their first restaurant was in a mall. In 2016, Steven went through the interview process to own and operate the freestanding store in Uptown Houston.

Chrissy said it's starting to feel like home. "Everything I wanted in South Carolina has happened in Texas."

While she helps Steven at the restaurant, Chrissy is also employed by Chick-fil-A Inc., based in Atlanta. She travels around the country supporting new Chick-fil-A restaurants with marketing. The Kinneys have two sons, Grayson Luke (six) and Cole Isaac (three).

Chrissy has fond memories of her time at SMC, where she returned to work as a residence hall supervisor after completing her BA at Lander University. "Oh, I loved it," she said. "It was a great experience."

## Cross-Country Alum Has Sights Set on Olympics

Austin Steagall's prowess as a long-distance runner was attracting interest from quite a few collegiate cross-country programs during his senior year at Gaffney High School. But after he suffered a physical setback that kept him sidelined for months, possible scholarship offers fell by the wayside.

But Spartanburg Methodist College and then-coach Mike Foley stuck by Steagall. "It took me six or eight months to get back, but that didn't phase Coach Foley – he saw that I was determined and had potential," he recalled.

As a sophomore at SMC in 2013, Steagall earned All-America honors in the half-

marathon while the team placed second in the NJCAA championship meet. Beyond athletics, he enjoyed his coursework and the friends he made at the college. "It was a really great experience for me," he said.

After graduating from SMC in 2015, Steagall competed at the NCAA Division II level for the University of Mount Olive in North Carolina, placing second nationally in the steeple chase event. He now runs professionally for the ASICS GTC-Elite team in Greenville. While he also works part-time for Uncle Jake's Furniture,



running is his main focus. "Every day, we're training," he said.

The regimen for professional runners is, not surprisingly, rigorous – a combination of weight training, short distance workouts and a weekly 18- to 20-mile run.

A career as a competitive runner doesn't go on forever – knees and ankles get wear and tear, athletes pass their peak – but Steagall has no intention of slowing down yet. In fact, he has his sights set on the 2020 Olympic trials. "That's the big goal," he said. "After that, I'll evaluate things."

## A Promising Career



**K**ris Burris '95 has dedicated much of her professional career to the advancement of the nonprofit and educational sectors. She has served as the executive director of Beyond

Abuse, working with survivors of child and sexual abuse. She was the director of student support services at Piedmont Technical College, and today, she is the executive director of The Greenwood Promise, an organization that works to provide a tuition-free path for Greenwood County students.

"We help students obtain the postsecondary education needed to develop a highly skilled workforce, improve overall quality of life and increase economic vitality," said Burris. "The Greenwood Promise is designed to continue in perpetuity. Its full impact begins with Greenwood County children and expands to include the entire community."

Burris grew up in the rural South Carolina community of Sharon and appreciated the benefits of a smaller community. She also knew she needed her studies to be transferable as she considered her continued education.

"SMC offered me the opportunity to play tennis and work as a resident advisor," said Burris. "Both of these experiences allowed me to develop the leadership skills needed to successfully work within a team and independently. Also, I received the courses needed to transfer to and complete my degree at Wofford College successfully."

After graduating from Wofford College in 1997, Burris obtained her educational specialist (Ed.S.) in marriage and family therapy degree from Converse College in 2002.

## A Haunted Man: Tally Johnson '92

**F**rom an early age, all things ghostly fascinated Tally Johnson '92. As an elementary school student, he was fascinated by the tales of haunted South Carolina told by author Nancy Roberts during a visit to his class. Hearing about familiar yet haunted places sparked a lifelong quest to learn more and, eventually, to write his own Southeast ghost stories.

"After reading numerous lackluster accounts of South Carolina's ghostly past, my wife challenged me to write my own book," Johnson recalls. "I think she was tired of hearing me complain about a book I just read, saying I could have done better," he chuckles.

Johnson is a graduate of James F. Byrnes High School in Lyman, South Carolina. He received a scholarship to Spartanburg Methodist College, where he graduated in 1992 with an associate of arts degree. He went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree in history from Wofford College in 1994. Also, he completed 30 hours of graduate work in history at Winthrop University. Currently, Johnson is the special services coordinator at Chester County Library in Chester, South Carolina.

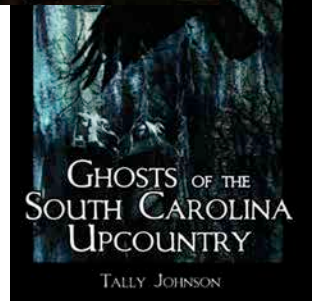
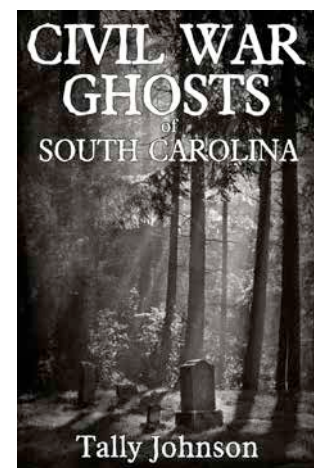
To date, Johnson has written several books, including "Ghosts of the South Carolina Upcountry," "Ghosts of the South Carolina Midlands," "Ghosts of the Pee Dee" (all for The History Press) and "Civil War Ghosts of South Carolina" (for Post Mortem Press). Most recently, he wrote an anthology of short stories for Falstaff Books titled "Creek Walking."



Johnson's stories are included in "An Improbable Truth: The Paranormal Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (for Mocha Memoirs Press) and "44 Lies By 22 Authors" (for Post Mortem Press). He is on the roster of approved artists for the South Carolina Arts

Commission as an author, as well as the South Carolina School Librarians' list of storytellers. He is the official permanent storyteller in residence for Palmetto State Hangers, a group of hammock camping enthusiasts. He has been a guest at ConGregarate, ConCarolinas, Fandom Fest, MonsterCon, MystiCon, AtomaCon and Imaginarium.

Find Johnson's ghostly adventures on Amazon.





2017-2018

# ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

**DON'T MISS OUT** *on these terrific opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones!*

VISIT [WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/ALUMNI-AND-FRIENDS](http://WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/ALUMNI-AND-FRIENDS)  
FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER TO ATTEND.

## MIDLANDS GATHERING

Join alumni and friends for after-work complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. President Scott Cochran will be on hand to give a brief SMC update!

Thursday, October 12, 2017  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Good Life Café  
Columbia, South Carolina

### **WANT TO COME?**

Send an email by October 10 to [snowb@smcsc.edu](mailto:snowb@smcsc.edu)

## CHRISTMAS BARN PARTY

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a complimentary barbeque dinner with cash bar (*beer and wine*).  
Casual dress.

Friday, December 1, 2017  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Forevermore Farms  
Moore, South Carolina

### **WANT TO COME?**

Send an email by November 29 to [snowb@smcsc.edu](mailto:snowb@smcsc.edu).

## SIXTH ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST AND LOW COUNTRY BOIL

*Sponsored by David Aylor Law Offices of  
Charleston, South Carolina*

Enjoy oysters and low country boil from a Charleston favorite! \$10 per person.  
Cash bar and casual dress.

Friday, February 23, 2018  
6:00 pm

Bowens Island Restaurant  
Charleston, South Carolina

### **WANT TO COME?**

Visit [www.smcsc.edu/bowensisland](http://www.smcsc.edu/bowensisland)  
by February 16 to register.  
Space is limited, so register early!

See additional events *at*  
[www.smcsc.edu/alumni-and-friends](http://www.smcsc.edu/alumni-and-friends)

# Class Notes

## 1951

### Mrs. Betty Atkins Barnwell Hook

Mrs. Betty Atkins Barnwell Hook is retired from teaching in the Spartanburg County District 1 School System.

## 1970

### Dr. David B. Stout Jr.

Dr. David B. Stout Jr. recently retired as the state director of adult education and as state GED administrator for the South Carolina Department of Education. He served nearly 30 years in the Office of Adult Education. He served as state GED administrator for 24 years and state director of adult education for almost 10 years. He earned a doctorate in education from the University of South Carolina in 1999.

## 1975

### Mr. Virgil Dwight O'Neal

Mr. Virgil Dwight O'Neal trains youth athletes in high school football, basketball and fast pitch softball.

## 1985

### Mr. Jeff Burley Bannister Jr.

Mr. Jeff Burley Bannister Jr. appeared on Food Network's "Chopped" on August 8, 2017.

## 1995

### Mr. Joshua P. Crotzer

Mr. Crotzer was named manager of community development for the Broad River Electric Cooperative last fall. He also became president of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Board in January 2017.

## 2007

### Mrs. Julie King Auler

Micah and Julie Auler are expecting their second child, Joshua Ray Auler, in October 2017. Their oldest, Erin Lee Auler, is one year old. Micah and Julie and little Erin look forward to their new arrival (and possible band buddy)!

## 2015

### Mr. Jesse Tyler Davis

Mr. Davis will graduate from Limestone College with a degree in music in the spring of 2018. He will perform a senior recital in spring of 2018.

## 1995

### The Reverend Thomas Richard Bailey

Reverend Bailey retired in January 2017 from the United Methodist Conference active ministry. He is still doing fill-in pulpit preaching, weddings and funerals.

Share your news with Frontiers readers!

Visit [www.smcsc.edu/alumni-and-friends/update](http://www.smcsc.edu/alumni-and-friends/update)  
to send a note for publication in Frontiers.

**Mr. Fredrick Dean Mann '38**  
of Welasco, TX | died January 9, 2017.

**Mr. Oren L. Brady Jr. '39**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died June 24, 2016.

**Mrs. Ella Scott Holden '40**  
of Inman, SC | died April 14, 2017.

**Mr. Cecil Dean Bishop Sr. '41**  
of Enoree, SC | died July 11, 2017.

**Mr. Maloy R. Rash Jr. '41**  
of Greenville, SC | died October 17, 2016.

**Mrs. Sarah Crichton Phillips '42**  
of Lexington, SC | died June 17, 2015.

**Mrs. Terry Atkinson Smigel '42**  
of Saint Petersburg, FL | died February 19, 2015.

**Mrs. Mavis Fritts Stanley '42**  
of Lenoir City, TN | died February 18, 2017.

**Mrs. Cumi Harris West '42**  
of Charlotte, NC | died November 7, 2016.

**Mrs. Coda Wilson Horne '43**  
of Honea Path, SC | died March 8, 2016.

**Mr. Howard Bryant Parker '43**  
of Seneca, SC | died April 1, 2015.

**Mrs. Ruby Ragan Bridges '44**  
of Greer, SC | died February 26, 2016.

**Mrs. Lou Cantrell Pierce '44**  
of Murfreesboro, TN | died May 25, 2015.

**Ms. Lucia Kellett Whitlock '44**  
of Cartersville, VA | died January 15, 2016.

**The Reverend Annie Louise Clark Johnson '46**  
of Mint Hill, NC | died September 15, 2016.

**Mrs. Betty Gowan Burris '47**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died June 22, 2017.

**Mr. Donald O. Thompson '47**  
of Hendersonville, NC | died March 9, 2015.

**Mr. Edward Theodore Hinson '48**  
of Rock Hill, SC | died January 10, 2015.

**Mrs. Florence Littleton Newberry '48**  
of Longwood, FL | died December 27, 2015.

**Mrs. Betty Holcomb Walter '48**  
of Kerrville, TX | died February 15, 2016.

**Mr. Leonard A. McDowell '49**  
of Chesnee, SC | died August 12, 2015.

**Mr. Lewis L. Scott '49**  
of Moore, SC | died January 17, 2017.

**Mr. Larry Foster Stamper '49**  
of Hialeah, FL | died March 25, 2015.

**Mr. Joe Earl Pace '50**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died April 15, 2016.

**Mrs. Frances Austin Day '51**  
of Whitesburg, KY | died March 11, 2015.

**SMSGT Billy J. Mabry USAF (Ret.) '51**  
of Olympia, WA | died June 1, 2016.

**Mr. Homer L. Adkins '52**  
of Lakeland, FL | died June 10, 2016.

**Mr. Dan Winfrey Sheppard '52**  
of Evans, GA | died August 31, 2016.

**Mr. James Thadaeus Venable '52**  
of Durham, NC | died September 5, 2016.

**Mr. Carroll G. Gosnell '53**  
of Inman, SC | died December 7, 2016.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Brannon Rabago '53**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died December 21, 2016.

**Ms. Carolyn Fulmer Garner '54**  
of North Augusta, SC | died August 14, 2015.

**Mrs. Peggy Carter Crocker '56**  
of Hartsville, SC | died June 7, 2015.

**Dr. Joe Bernard Meek '56**  
of Fayetteville, NC | died February 13, 2015.

**Mrs. Jane Clark Pounds '56**  
of Monroe, NC | died October 20, 2015.

**Mr. Harry Manson Coggins '57**  
of Inman, SC | died September 20, 2016.

**Mr. William A. Moon '57**  
of Inman, SC | died December 11, 2015.

**Mr. Dan Warren Wilson '57**  
of Greer, SC | died February 24, 2015.

**Mrs. Mary Frances Lee Cantrell '58**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died June 9, 2017.

**Mr. Paul Keith Thomas '60**  
of Woodruff, SC | died June 24, 2017.

**Mrs. Sarah Johnson Smith '61**  
of Matthews, NC | died December 5, 2016.

**Mr. Donald Richard Wicker '61**  
of Prosperity, SC | died April 6, 2015.

**Mr. Pinkney H. Gilchrist '63**  
of Crossville, TN | died May 6, 2016.

**Mr. John Ernst Semken Jr. '63**  
of Hollywood, SC | died February 5, 2015.

**Mr. John B. Rikard '64**  
of Batesburg, SC | died May 31, 2017.

**Mr. Donald Wells Ballentine '65**  
of Chapin, SC | died December 21, 2015.

**Mr. Allen Heyward Hipp '65**  
of Saluda, SC | died July 24, 2016.

**1SGT James Oscar Stewart '65**  
of Hartsville, SC | died September 24, 2015.

**Mr. J. Thad Coleman '66**  
of Saluda, SC | died October 28, 2016.

**Mr. Ben M. Hornsby '66**  
of Roswell, GA | died March 28, 2015.

**Mr. Paul Steven Keeter '66**  
of Huntsville, AL | died May 28, 2015.

**Mr. Harold W. Millwood '68**  
of Wagener, SC | died August 7, 2015.

**Mr. James Kenneth Stapleton '68**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died January 8, 2017.

**Mr. Larry Eugene Williams '68**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died April 25, 2015.

**Mrs. Lezlee Coleman Gilstrap '70**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died June 1, 2016.

**Mr. Larry E. Hardin '70**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died June 1, 2016.

**Mr. Kenneth Wayne Smith '70**  
of Campobello, SC | died November 21, 2016.

**Mrs. Mary Belle Jones Gardner '72**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died July 30, 2015.

**Ms. Flora Tate Cavin '73**  
of Spartanburg, SC | died December 6, 2016.

**Mr. Jerry Wayne McKinney '75**  
of Chesnee, SC | died December 24, 2015.

**Mr. Martin R. Kimmons '76**  
of Inman, SC | died January 14, 2016.

**Mrs. Madora Bonner Pittman '77**  
of Greenville, SC | died July 3, 2017.

**Mr. David Anthony Garner '79**  
of Clemmons, NC | died June 2, 2015.

**Mr. Ralph Willard Longshore Sr. '79**  
of Moore, SC | died January 10, 2015.

**Mr. William A. Stokely '79**  
of Moore, SC | died July 15, 2016.

**Mrs. Miriam Smoak Henry '80**  
of Pacolet, SC | died December 13, 2016.

**Mr. Charles N. Metcalf '80**  
of Wellford, SC | died February 13, 2015.

**Mrs. Myra J. Turner '80**  
of Drayton, SC | died January 15, 2015.

**Mr. Richard H. Cherry '81**  
of Roebuck, SC | died August 7, 2016.

**Mr. Eric Eugene Jones '84**  
of Camden, SC | died April 26, 2016.

**Mr. Donald Anderson II '85**  
of Greenville, SC | died May 12, 2016.

**Ms. Sandra D. Massey '85**  
of Roebuck, SC | died January 24, 2016.

**Dr. Denise D. Taylor '85**  
of Pauline, SC | died August 16, 2015.

**Mr. Timothy Allen Buckhannon '86**  
of Isle of Palms, SC | died April 24, 2015.



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A graphic for the SMC Homecoming event. The background features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of soldiers in a trench, one holding a flag. The text "SMC HOMECOMING 2017" is written in a bold, white, blocky font with a blue outline. Below it, "A HERO'S LEGACY" is written in a larger, red, blocky font with a white outline. In the top right corner of the graphic is the SMC logo. At the bottom, a red banner contains the date "SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017" in white, bold letters, flanked by two black stars. Below the banner, the text "WE DEDICATE THIS HOMECOMING TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE 5 MILITARY BRANCHES" is written in white, bold letters. At the very bottom, in a dark blue area, the text "FOR MORE INFO, GO TO [WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/HOMECOMING) OR CHECK OUT THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON PAGE 37." is written in white, bold letters.

**SMC**  
**HOMECOMING 2017**  
**A HERO'S**  
**LEGACY**



★ **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017** ★

**WE DEDICATE THIS HOMECOMING TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE 5 MILITARY BRANCHES**

**FOR MORE INFO, GO TO [WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.SMCS.C.EDU/HOMECOMING) OR CHECK OUT THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON PAGE 37.**