

A New Chapter

in McMurry's History



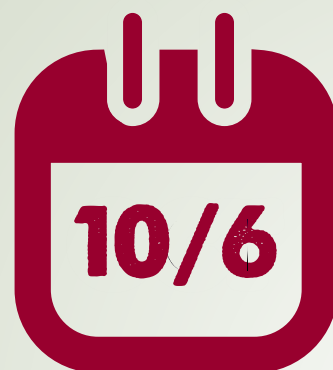
SPRING 2011

chieftain

McMURRY
UNIVERSITY

THE MCMURRY UNIVERSITY
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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34TH ANNUAL 5000 ROAD RACE • FOOTBALL GAME • SPORTS EVENTS**

*Invitation and itinerary to be distributed at a later date.
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear McMurry Alumni and Friends:

The folks in McMurry's University Relations office have put together a dynamite *Chieftain* issue for your reading pleasure. The articles you'll find inside this *Chieftain* cover the spectrum of opportunities that have recently arrayed themselves before the McMurry Family...and the visionary considerations given to their resolution.

Right away you'll be encouraged by two strategic initiatives approved by McMurry's Board of Trustees – the move to intercollegiate athletic competition in NCAA Division II and the initiation of a Masters Degree in Nursing. These two undertakings represent opportunities we've recognized and leveraged to better position your McMurry for the future. The transition to NCAA Division II and the beginning of a graduate nursing program reinforce McMurry's commitment to enhance the strength of its academic mission.

That said, several other benefits will arise from our travel down both of these paths.

Both the graduate nursing program and the move to NCAA Division II recognize some demographic trends sweeping across Texas and the region. Add the emerging state and federal policies that impact the way health care will be administered in the future, and we become eager to step forward to greet that future with a high quality nursing program. The stories of both these undertakings are found in the pages of this *Chieftain*—learn how, in part, we are greeting the future.

Recognizing, reflecting upon and respecting the heritage of McMurry provides opportunities for still other strategic initiatives. The renovation of Old Main

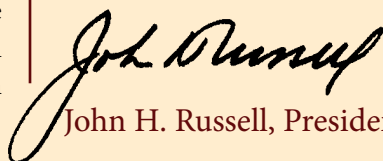
will begin this summer and we are planning to have it on line for the start of fall semester classes in 2013. No facility on our campus will better tie together our heritage and the advances we've made in teaching and learning, than a refreshed, energized and renovated Old Main.

Respect for McMurry's heritage while looking to the future are two elements that define the conclusion of a successful mascot selection. Nearly 4,000 alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff helped us move into that future as the McMurry *War Hawks*. The imagery one draws from Sacred Wind standing proudly in the Quad—with a hawk on his shoulder—provides a vivid connection between McMurry's origins...and that future.

And then we see how people are connecting with people—alumni connecting with current students

in an innovative way to solidify honored traditions with those who are here now and who are shaping McMurry's future. Mascots and programming, and brick and mortar all help define the look and feel of McMurry. But no effort or initiative better defines the heart of McMurry than when alumni and students reach out to make each other's experiences and perspectives come alive to the other. That's what McMurry Family members do...and what they'll continue to do!

Kind Regards,


John H. Russell, President





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A NEW CHAPTER

McMurry Students Now
Have a Mascot



In the fall of 2007, senior Josh Neaves stepped onto the McMurry campus with high expectations of being part of a rich tradition. He was involved in numerous activities and began to follow in the footsteps of those students who came before him, but something was missing.

“When I first heard that McMurry did not have a mascot, I was somewhat confused. I didn’t understand why we were not allowed to

be something that had been a part of the school’s heritage since the doors first opened in 1923,” Josh said. “I began to see division among the students. There was nothing that united us as a whole. I embraced what the classes before me had, but it was not the same.”

As Josh continued his undergraduate work, he discovered the rationale for the removal of the Indian mascot and became interested in finding a

"GO MCMURRY!"

From October 2006 through March 2011, students attended sporting events and simply yelled for "McMurry." The community had spirit, but one couldn't help but feel that something was missing.



The students wanted, and needed, a mascot.

new mascot that would connect the past, present, and future. When *The Quest* symposium took place, many students, including Josh, took time to struggle with the issues generated by having a "race-based" mascot and how to honor and show respect for Native Americans. This dialogue was insightful and it also reinforced what Josh had been feeling over the past few years: the students wanted, and needed, a mascot. Josh wasn't the only student who became passionate about finding a mascot. Many felt they have had no common unifying identity in their time here as students.

The McMurry University community as a whole has always taken pride in its heritage and traditions. Simply take a stroll around campus and you will see displays of this ancestral affinity melded into our statues, strategically placed in glass cases and showcased in paintings and wall decals. The university lost some of that connection to its history in 2006 when the NCAA recommended that McMurry eliminate its Indian mascot; since then the university has

taken time to evaluate and study how to best honor its Native American connection and hold onto past ties even as a new chapter unfolds, particularly through initiatives like *The Quest* symposium.

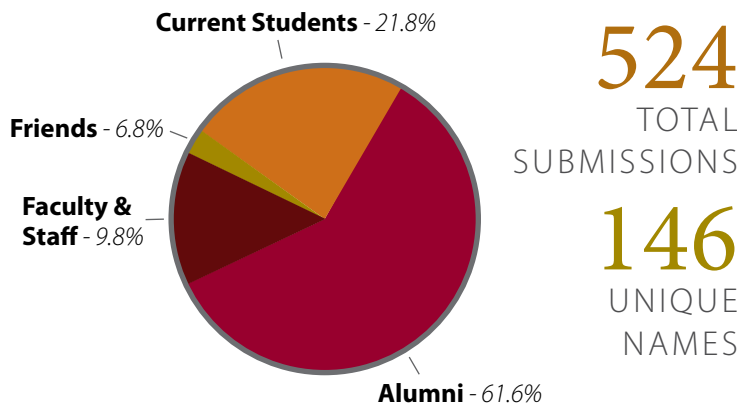
In the fall of 2010, the Board of Trustees made the monumental decision to move forward with a process to select a new mascot. Through this process, even more has been learned about how to best capture the past while adopting a new mascot and new traditions that will emerge in the coming years. While this issue is a sensitive matter, it has allowed the university to grow in ways not previously anticipated, and for that we are grateful. The McMurry community has taken great interest in selecting a mascot that engenders respect for a race of people and honors the university and its history.

To begin the mascot selection process, a committee was formed during the fall of 2010 to formulate a recommended outline, selection guidelines, and a target timeline that would be used to guide the process through March 2011. The group researched processes implemented by other universities that had been involved, or currently were involved, in a mascot search. The proposed process was approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2010, and began with the appointment of a Mascot Selection Committee.

Because the selection of a new mascot was important to the entire McMurry community, the mascot selection process was intended to promote involvement from as many interested individuals as possible in the time frame provided, while providing "checks and balances" to ensure that the resulting mascot could be

BY THE NUMBERS

MASCOT NOMINATIONS



524

TOTAL
SUBMISSIONS

146

UNIQUE
NAMES

Because the selection of a new mascot was important to the entire McMurry community, the process was intended to ensure that the resulting mascot could be embraced by alumni and current students alike.

embraced by alumni and current students alike. The process endeavored to actively engage the student body, whose role is integral in developing traditions and campus activities around the new mascot for future generations of students. In addition, the process recognized McMurry's heritage and the traditions of past generations, and respectfully invited the entire community to be involved in the process of supporting current students as they embrace a new mascot.

The Mascot Selection Committee, composed of students, alumni, faculty and staff—several of whom were significantly involved with *The Quest* and similar initiatives—was formed in November 2010 with the mission of leading the search and selection process through March 2011 as outlined by the process, selection guidelines and timeline. They endeavored to identify the best mascot option based on multiple voting processes, focus groups, and independent and group research.

The selection process began in November 2010 with an opportunity to submit names. All McMurry faculty, staff, students, alumni and

friends of the university could suggest mascot names for consideration. We received 524 mascot submissions; of these, 146 unique names were proposed. Alumni nominations equaled 61.6%, 21.8% came from current students, 6.8% were from friends of the university, 5.8% from staff and 4% from faculty. From the long list of names, the committee began the process of narrowing the field to eighteen choices for a first round of voting, then down to eight names for focus group discussion.

Nine alumni focus groups were held in Texas and New Mexico; in addition, five on-campus focus groups were conducted for students, staff and faculty. At the end of each discussion, the group was asked to arrive at a consensus of their top three choices, which they submitted for the final vote in February.

“Before the focus groups, all the committee had was quantitative voting data,” said committee member Josh Poorman, Associate Director of Alumni Relations. “It was great to go out and meet people and discuss what they liked and disliked about each option. This information

EVEN MASCOTS NEED A PREVIEW WEEKEND

In November 2007, members of the McMurry community headed to Radford to admire a hawk who had perched itself on the building's peak and seemed to be surveying campus. Onlookers speculated at what could have enticed the regal bird to stop here and study its surroundings with such intensity—but now we know better. No doubt the hawk went back to tell his family that McMurry, indeed, would be a wonderful place to settle!





A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Sacred Wind, a statue that has stood in McMurry's quad since 1993, has long been admired as an iconic symbol for McMurry's Indian mascot. Those who love the statue can take heart that a simple step behind the statue shifts the focus to our new mascot, the War Hawk, who is proudly perched on Sacred Wind's shoulder. The beloved statue now serves as an important representation of our past as well as our future.

seen through both voting results and focus group deliberations.”

She acknowledged the emotional impact of this process on many people. “Indian pride and tradition is deeply rooted in the McMurry community, and many people have been outspoken throughout this process because of those emotions. While the mascot choice won’t please everyone, we sincerely hope that students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university can all find spirit and pride in our new mascot, as it is the future of our university.”

Following the end of final voting, the committee reviewed the final tallies, weighed the voting and focus group results from the entire process, and considered all the research and discussion that had taken place throughout the previous months. On March 7, they selected one mascot that they felt best honors McMurry’s heritage, holds the power to instill pride and spirit in the university and its activities, and allows for excellent marketing opportunities for athletics, academics and other activities, and they presented an official mascot recommendation to the Board of Trustees. On March 11, 2011, a majority vote by the Board affirmed the recommendation by the Mascot Selection Committee and approved the *War Hawks* as McMurry’s new mascot.

Of the 3930 votes that were cast, 70% were in favor of *War Hawks*. Every constituent group selected it as their favorite choice; specifically, 65% of alumni and friends, 73% of faculty and staff, and an overwhelming 87% of students voted in favor of *War Hawks*.

Beyond these striking voting results, the

“We sincerely hope that the McMurry community can find spirit and pride in our new mascot, as it is the future of our university.”

- MALLORY EDENS,
MASCOT SELECTION
COMMITTEE MEMBER

was invaluable when the committee needed to narrow the list for the final vote.”

In each narrowing process, the committee thoroughly discussed results of previous parts of the process, their own independent and group research, and the community’s mascot ideas and preferences. They labored over the implications of each name on many levels and encouraged exploration of different perspectives.

“The process was exciting but difficult,” said committee member Mallory Edens, Marketing and Communication Specialist. “No part of this process was easy, and much thought and prayer went into all of our decisions. The committee has acted in interest of the success of the process since the beginning, and outcomes have been driven by, and reflective of, the majority voice



OUR NEW LOOK

On April 9, 2011, the Mascot Marketing Committee unveiled the new McMurry War Hawks logo. Above is the primary logo, featuring the full war hawk. To the right are simplified, alternate logos highlighting specific aspects of the primary logo.

committee was in agreement that *War Hawks* was the best mascot option for the following reasons: (1) it ties to McMurry's history and traditions—a hawk can even be spotted on McMurry's longstanding Sacred Wind statue; (2) it represents clear-sightedness, strength, courage, wisdom, creativity and truth—all highly admirable values that make this mascot worthy of our selection; (3) students overwhelmingly liked the choice and felt that it could signify athletic fortitude and would draw school spirit and student unity; (4) it is unique—McMurry would be the only university in the nation with a *War Hawks* mascot with this particular spelling and treatment; and (5) it is highly marketable in that it is iconic, recognizable and easily yields graphic representation.

The future looks promising for the *War Hawks*, as we work to incorporate it into the university's practices and culture and to inspire spirit and pride in our mascot, as well as new traditions that are yet to be born. A Mascot Marketing Committee has been formed for the purpose of developing a marketing and launch

plan, thematic messaging, planned promotions and logo development. The committee is composed of university communications representatives from multiple key departments and is chaired by the Executive Director of University Relations.

Plans began in early March to develop messages to support the new mascot in relation to its tie to McMurry's heritage and traditions and its significance with athletic teams and competitions. A national company specializing

BY THE NUMBERS

VOTES IN FAVOR OF WAR HAWKS

OVER BISON AND CIRCUIT RIDERS

73%

OF FACULTY & STAFF

87%

OF STUDENTS

65%

OF ALUMNI

in athletic logos was commissioned to design the complete logo package for all sports teams, campus organizations and university marketing efforts, and a “reveal” event was held on April 9 in conjunction with Spring McMadness and the McMurry Athletic Foundation Spring Showcase to introduce the new mascot logo.

Excitement continues to build as talk emerges about producing new promotional items for distribution, including t-shirts, window decals, posters and more. It is even more exciting to consider all the possibilities that exist for potentially adopting mascot costuming or live animal mascots.

With these strategies in hand, our new mascot will make its way into McMurry’s tradition and culture, and McMurry students

will once again take hold of the identity they have been seeking for years.

“The class of 2011 was the first class to step onto this campus without having something that would represent us as a whole, but after years of waiting, we will be the first class to walk across the stage at graduation in May as *War Hawks*,” Josh Neaves said. “I can’t fully describe how exciting this is for the student body, but it feels incredible to be able to claim an identity and be a part of beginning new traditions at McMurry, while honoring our cherished traditions. In 2005, a student once said that those on the outside don’t understand who we are, and those on the inside can’t quite explain. Now, however, we can proudly say we ARE the McMurry WAR HAWKS!” ■

“I can’t fully describe how exciting this is for the student body.”

- JOSH NEAVES, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT







IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ATHLETICS

MCMURRY'S MOVE TO NCAA DIVISION II

While there are many challenges to address and questions to answer, the transition enables McMurry to help students balance the classroom and the field.

The December 17 announcement by the Board of Trustees that McMurry would begin the process of a transition to the second division of the NCAA likely stirred a plethora of emotions among current students, alumni, faculty, staff and the Abilene community.

Former McMurry student-athletes from the mid-1970's and prior may have felt excitement as

the move meant a return to athletic scholarships, and it sparked the memory of the "golden days" of athletics with McMurry's membership in the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the NCAA's Lone Star Conference.

Current students likely fed off the excitement with the notion that a better quality athlete and stronger teams would come to campus. The

current coaching staff may have been pleased, as the move would provide a stronger sense of control and commitment among its student-athletes who come to campus to compete while gaining an education.

Transition does not come without doubts and questions, however. For a school that last awarded scholarships for athletes during the 1976-77 school year, and an institution that has been a part of the NCAA Division III and the American Southwest Conference since 1996, a move that allows athletic scholarships brings a multitude of questions. Is McMurry's student enrollment large enough to make the move? How would the school's facilities compare? If McMurry hasn't been giving out athletic scholarships, how could it possibly afford to begin now? What athletic conference would McMurry join? When would the move take place? And perhaps, the most important question is: Why would McMurry want to make this move?

70% of student-athletes at NCAA Division II institutions graduated in six years or less. During the same time period, McMurry's student-athletes were graduating at a rate of **37.8%** in six years or less.

While there are many challenges to address and questions to answer, the overwhelming positive effects of McMurry's transition to Division II are the projected increases in retention rates and graduation rates and the quality of the student-athletes we attract.

For those unfamiliar with the NCAA Division III, people are often surprised to find that the division does not offer any kind of athletic scholarships. In addition, there is no National Signing Day like in Division I or Division II, and it is incorrect for a high school player to say he has "signed" or "committed" to play at a school like McMurry because in Division III, there are



no national letters of intent.

For that reason, a player in his final semester of high school can verbally tell a coach at a Division III institution that he plans to play there. However, at any point between the spring and the fall of his freshman year in college, that student-athlete can change his mind, be offered a minimal athletic scholarship to another NCAA Division I



The primary focus for McMurry's decision to make the move to Division II athletics is clearly seen in the potential for a more qualified academic student-athlete.

or II school, or simply not show up. In addition, if at any point after a student-athlete arrives on a Division III campus and becomes angry about his/her athletic situation, the student-athlete can quit or transfer.

These types of scenarios have negatively affected retention at McMurry and other NCAA Division III institutions, and many athletes who are recruited are more focused on athletics rather than academics, even though the intention of the NCAA Division III has been for member institutions to recruit students first with athletics secondary. According to Dr. Paul Fabrizio, McMurry's Vice President for Academic Affairs, "I had this image of Division III where students would come and devote themselves to athletics, but would be here primarily as students. That was the case at Emory (Atlanta, Ga.) where I completed my Ph.D. There, student-athletes were primarily recruited for academics. That image of Division III was much different at McMurry, where the reality was that students were coming here to play sports first and academics were secondary."

Head men's basketball coach Matt Garnett echoed the sentiments of Fabrizio and said that the culture of students wanting to continue playing sports beyond college is a factor.

"The ones we're holding onto are the ones that do choose to come and invest in both the academic and athletic experience," said Garnett. "But the truth is there are kids who come in with an athletic mindset first. If they do not make the team and get what they want from McMurry athletically, they're going to go chase the dream somewhere else; it's the instant gratification factor for them."

Thus, the projected move to the NCAA Division II is expected to bring a more positive result among student-athletes at McMurry. One reason is that the NCAA Clearinghouse for Division II requires a minimum GPA to receive an athletic scholarship and a progression toward

a degree requirement that is established by the respective institution. In addition, the GPA, while moderate, must increase as progression is made toward the degree.

From an athletic side, if the minimum GPA is not met, no athletic scholarship can be awarded, or an existing scholarship may be revoked. The desire to continue playing sports and the danger of losing the scholarship would be an incentive for a student-athlete to stay with the team, but also to progress toward graduation by achieving at least the minimum GPA and completing the required amount of coursework.

The ability to attract more college-ready student-athletes can be improved with a transition to Division II. In order to be eligible for an NCAA Division II athletic scholarship, an incoming freshman must have had a high-school GPA of 2.0 in fourteen core courses, and he/she must have scored an 820 on the SAT and/or a 17 on the ACT before that student can begin athletic competition. These minimums are the same for both scholarship and walk-on athletes.

Once enrolled, a student-athlete must complete twelve hours each semester to be able to participate and his/her GPA must improve as he/she progresses. A student-athlete's GPA must be a minimum of 1.8 with the completion of



24-48 hours and must improve to a 1.9 with the completion of 48-72 hours. After the completion of 72 hours, a minimum GPA of 2.0 must be carried to remain eligible.

“The key issue for academics is that it establishes a ‘floor’ for the student-athlete’s academic performance,” Fabrizio said. “To be eligible, the student has to meet certain standards, and those are verified by the NCAA. From an academic perspective, it is helpful to have those standards and to be able to let recruits know they must perform academically to come here.”

With the aforementioned minimum-grade requirements and an established progression toward a degree, the likelihood of improvement in the student-athlete academic profile seems inevitable. Research has proven that premise to be true. Dr. Joel Brant, McMurry’s faculty athletic representative, conducted research and found that 70 percent of student-athletes at NCAA Division II institutions graduated in six years or less. Those numbers were provided by the NCAA research staff in November 2009 in an article entitled “Trends in Federal Graduation Rates and Academic Success Rates at NCAA.” During the same time period, McMurry’s student-athletes were graduating at a rate of 37.8 percent in six years or less.

While the questions of finances, facilities, competing conferences, and enrollment are important ones, the primary focus for McMurry’s decision to make the move to Division II athletics is clearly seen in the potential for a more qualified academic student-athlete, a standardized plan for academic progression, and an improved graduation rate for those student-athletes. The planned transition is one more way that McMurry University will demonstrate its commitment to helping our students achieve their maximum potential. ■

DII Q&A

From a financial standpoint, how will McMurry handle offering athletic scholarships?

When the board of trustees approved the transition, the move was based upon the fact that scholarship money for future Division II scholarship athletes would not increase from the amount of institutional aid already provided to McMurry’s current student athletes. The NCAA Division II “full-ride” scholarship allows for full tuition, room and board, text books and meal plans. However, not all NCAA Division II institutions choose to offer all these incentives. Initially, McMurry’s athletic scholarships will begin with tuition discounts only, while the other incentives will be offered based on fundraising for the McMurry Athletic Foundation. If fundraising is successful, McMurry will be able to offer tuition scholarships as well as room and board, books and meal plans.

Will McMurry be able to cover all student-athletes with an athletic scholarship?

Research shows that there are fewer student-athletes who receive full athletic scholarships at the NCAA Division II level and far more institutions that choose to spread those scholarships to cover a larger amount of student athletes. For instance, football is allowed 36 scholarships. The coaching staff could choose to put 36 players on “full-ride,” or they could spread it out to 50, 75, 100 or however many they choose.

What about student athletes who don’t receive an athletic scholarship?

There will be student-athletes who still choose to come to McMurry without initially receiving an athletic scholarship. Therefore, that student-athlete becomes a “walk-on.” A walk-on is a financial incentive for a university in the NCAA Division II because the NCAA limits the amount of financial aid a student-athlete can receive from the school if they are on a team roster. In essence, a walk-on would pay more out of his/her pocket to the university, which would generate more revenue for the university.

There has been talk that McMurry is leaning towards the Heartland Conference instead of the Lone Star Conference; why is that?

Based on the existing student profiles, McMurry is more comparable to the Heartland Conference in factors such as the average ACT and SAT scores of athletes and the number of private schools in each conference. We share the same schedules as far as days games are played, and the traveling distances and the amount of missed class time is similar.

The Heartland doesn’t sponsor football, track or swimming; what will those programs do?

Football has options to compete independently, or it could join a league of a mixture of NAIA schools and Division II independents like the Central States Football League. Track will continue to do what it’s always done and compete to attend the national indoor and outdoor

Continued on page 25...

MCMURRY ALUMNI

LIVING THE LEGACY



During Homecoming 2010, several alumni who participated in a new pilot project had the opportunity to meet students they were paired with in the *McMurry Family Legacy Network*. Barbara Whorton-Farley met “her freshman,” Miranda Priddy, and the two have become fast friends. According to Barbara, “From an alumni perspective it has been great fun to get to know students on an individual basis and to let them know how glad we are they have chosen McMurry as their college home. We are a family—whether we graduated last year, 40 years ago, or are starting the McMurry experience in 2010.”

It only takes a single visit to campus, a homecoming gathering or a perusal of *The Chieftain* to know that change has almost become a constant for our university. This summer, Old Main will begin its long-awaited face lift and renovation. An adoption of and adaptation to a new mascot looms on our horizon—one that seeks to recall and retain our past, as well as point us competitively into the future. Following that, Division II athletics and emerging programs in graduate education are just becoming visible in our future. As proud as we are of our past, we strain forward into the future, knowing the best is still yet to be.

McMurry alumni are integral to helping our recall and retention of the past, as well as forming a dynamic bridge to the future of our university. Memories and collective experiences of alumni are integral to the integrity of our progress and change. Active and involved alumni ensure that in all the change that occurs, our most important resource for the future, our current and future students, will find the richness of tradition and experiences at McMurry as fulfilling as we do.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors



ADOPT-A-FRESHMAN

Miranda Priddy and Barbara Whorton-Farley

knows that students often need support, guidance, friendship and mentoring from attentive and significant adults who have “been there.” All of us can point to an adult or two in our own lives who helped us navigate the waters of change and the process of maturing. A guiding relationship can make all the difference in success leading to graduation. To this end, the Alumni Board is inviting all alumni to consider a deeper and more significant involvement in being that dynamic bridge to the future.

The Alumni Board’s bridge-building process is referred to as the *McMurry Family Legacy Network*. As a well-received and successful pilot opportunity in the fall of 2010, eighteen incoming freshmen and eighteen Alumni Board members were paired together to begin a relationship with each other. Students completed a volunteer sign-up card with contact information and indicated their desire to participate. After the “match” process, the students and alumni began a relationship

“It’s interesting to see all the ways McMurry has changed, but it’s also nice to see all of the common experiences that Tyler and I have just because we have both been first-year McMurry students.”

- DANIEL
ALEXANDER '97

"I think it's a really great program that gives students a chance to get to know alums who have already been through what I'm going through now." - FRESHMAN MIRANDA PRIDDY

through consistent contact electronically and in other ways. At least monthly, Alumni Board members reached out to their students and sought to get to know them. Given the resulting enthusiasm from alumni and student participants, the pilot was successful enough to invite all alumni to participate.

"I liked it a lot," said Amanda Zimmerman, one of the student participants in the pilot program. "It gave me a chance to connect with someone who has gone to McMurry and let them know how McMurry is today. I would like to continue the program. I really think it would benefit other students."

Participant Jincy Ross, Amanda's alumna, outlined one of the main goals of the program. "Our current students at McMurry must feel a connection to the university. Programs such as the *McMurry Family Legacy Network* provide opportunities for students to connect with alumni. This relationship will help to ensure their connection to McMurry and their well-being as students."

"I have enjoyed visiting with Amanda and keeping in touch with her. What a wonderful young lady!" said Jincy. "I find her perspective on the mascot search to be very interesting. She expresses the same feelings as most of the current students. They want to connect with a mascot, and we as alumni can learn quite a bit from listening to the students. Long wave maroon and white!"

The *McMurry Family Legacy Network* is an especially appropriate moniker for the Alumni Board's mentoring program. The McMurry community is a family. Our connection begins with a memorable four-year collegiate experience shared by all generations of students, past and present. We are kindred spirits sharing

the same family heritage. The word "legacy" means gift, and the experiences, knowledge and remembrances that alumni share are their gifts to students and to the university. Barbara and Miranda have become gifts to one another.

"I got very lucky in having Barbara as a mentor. She has definitely been there for me," said Miranda. The two have had contact through mail, email and Facebook, and they have met in person at homecoming. "We were both in band, and she also was one of the factors in helping me decide to pledge a social club. I think it's a really great program that gives students a chance to get



ADOPT-A-FRESHMAN

Jincy Ross and Amanda Zimmerman

In order to ensure all students have an alumni mentor, a commitment is needed from at least 300 alumni volunteers.

to know alums who have already been through what I'm going through now. She helps keep me motivated."

"I've loved participating in the new *McMurry Family Legacy Network* and having Miranda as my adopted freshman. Miranda has been a joy to get to know, and it's been wonderful seeing the McMurry we love through her eyes as a first year student," said Barbara. "Miranda is the type of student who makes McMurry special—a great student who gives back through her involvement in many activities from band to theater to social clubs. I'm so proud of Miranda, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for her. I do know we'll continue to be friends through the 'family' that is McMurry."

All 2011 freshman students will have the opportunity next fall to receive the "gift" of a mentor. In order to ensure that all students have an alumni mentor, a commitment is needed from at least 300 alumni volunteers. The time commitment for *Legacy Network* alumni mentors varies depending on the level of interaction they wish to have. At a minimum, mentors are asked to make a year-long commitment to correspond monthly with their adopted students via e-mail, snail mail, phone calls, or Facebook.

Because McMurry alumni are typically busy folks with full calendars, a monthly e-mail will be sent as a reminder to make contacts. Likewise, participating students agree to "be adopted" for the year, and although it's not required, students are encouraged to send an occasional e-mail to their mentors. Although the purpose of the program is to benefit students by providing a listening ear, words of encouragement, and imparting wisdom and treasured history—alumni who participated in the pilot project have benefitted from the experience as well.

In talking about his match with freshman Tyler Prideaux, alumnus Daniel Alexander emphasizes the benefits he has received through the relationship. According to Daniel, "The

GET INVOLVED!

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mcmurryfamily> or fill out this form. ➡

McMurry Family Legacy Network and my interaction with Tyler have given me a new way to experience McMurry. McMurry's a very different place than even when I graduated in 1997, so it's been great to be able to see it through the eyes of a current student and to share that first year experience with him." Alexander continues, "It's interesting to see all the ways McMurry has changed, but it's also nice to see all of the common experiences that Tyler and I have just because we have both been first-year McMurry students. I feel like I get to know McMurry a little better, and my McMurry experience is a little richer for having been a part of the program for a year."

The Alumni Board participants in the pilot program all agree that there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes in helping their freshmen transition into the college environment. Daniel shares, "I get to feel like I'm helping someone become part of our McMurry family. I remember being a freshman and feeling a little lost (McMurry was a BIG place for me!). I don't think Tyler's experience has been the same, but I know for me it would have been nice to have someone there I could ask questions of and use as an additional resource."

Tyler believes the program has indeed helped his transition, and he is glad to have Daniel as his mentor. "When we got to VisionQuest, they asked us if we would like to participate in this program with alumni. I really liked the program because it gave me someone to talk to if I had questions about McMurry. It gave me someone to trust. It is like having a second parent and it makes me feel comfortable here at McMurry." And that is reason enough to make the opportunity available to all of the newest members of the McMurry Family! ■



Say “YES” *today* to become part of the McMurry Family Legacy Network and make next year a “year to remember” for you and a McMurry student:

Sign up on the McMurry Website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mcmurryfamily> or complete this card and mail it in to McMurry Alumni Office, Box 938, Abilene, TX 79697.

Name _____ Year Graduated from McMurry _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Telephone _____ Cell # _____ Do you have a Facebook Account? YES _____ NO _____

Interests (ex: band, sports, choir, theater, religious life, etc): _____

Then, all that's required of the Alum:

1. Agree to correspond at least monthly with your adopted student.
2. This can be via email, snail mail, phone calls, or Facebook.
3. Make a commitment to do this monthly for a year.
4. We will send you a monthly email reminder.

The McMurry Alumni Board of Directors believes that every alumnus has a role to play in the lives of our students—imparting and listening, preserving our past and bridging into the future. Your participation in the *McMurry Family Legacy Network* is an effective strategy in strengthening and building our family as we embark on the next chapter of the journey. Your involvement becomes your gift to incoming freshmen that will ensure a unique and memorable beginning to their McMurry experience.



WE WANT YOU

to serve on the Alumni Board!

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is looking for new members. The Board is entering a new era and embarking on exciting initiatives.

We want you to be part of it.

If you are interested, please contact one of the following board members or call (325) 793-4603 or email myers.greeley@mcm.edu.

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THE RENOVATION OF OLD MAIN

RESTORING MCMURRY'S CROWN JEWEL

The renovation of the iconic Old Main Building will preserve the richness of the past and provide an exclamation point to the future vision of McMurry University. The \$8 million project will complete the construction projects funded by the successful *Shaping the Future* capital campaign. Bishop Dan Solomon, 1958 McMurry alumnus and University Bishop in Residence at the University, referred to the \$8 million renovation of Old Main as “the crown jewel of the campaign.”

“From our beginning in 1923, Old Main stood solitary and inviting on a hill in southern Abilene to mark a new educational adventure, and from that time to this, it still symbolizes our mission to provide our students today with a memorable educational adventure,” Bishop Solomon said.

Old Main was the centerpiece of McMurry College from the beginning as reflected in *Pride of Our Western Prairies, A History of McMurry College from 1923-1988*: “Soon after McMurry College was established in Abilene after an offer from the Chamber of Commerce of \$300,000,... the construction of the first building, now the Old Main Building, was begun in April 1922. By opening day, September 19, 1923, the administration building was ready for use. The three-story building was constructed of light-colored brick. The interior woodwork and the doors were of golden maple as were the floors. The science laboratories and fine arts department shared the third floor. The latter was equipped with studios and several practice rooms. The library was located on the west end of the second floor, and the classrooms on both the second and first floors. The college administration offices completed the first floor.”

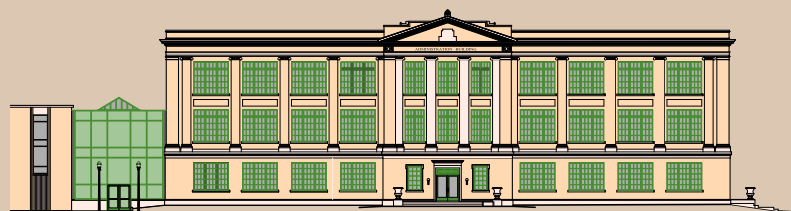
After the death of McMurry founder, Dr. J.W. Hunt, a memorial was established on the

second floor of the Old Main Administration Building next to the library as a gift from the Class of 1936. It was created to house artifacts and “other valuables made sacred by Dr. Hunt’s use.” The Hunt Collection is now located on the third floor of the Jay-Rollins Library.

Old Main has seen several small renovation projects over the years, but it has never seen a total renovation such as is planned for the

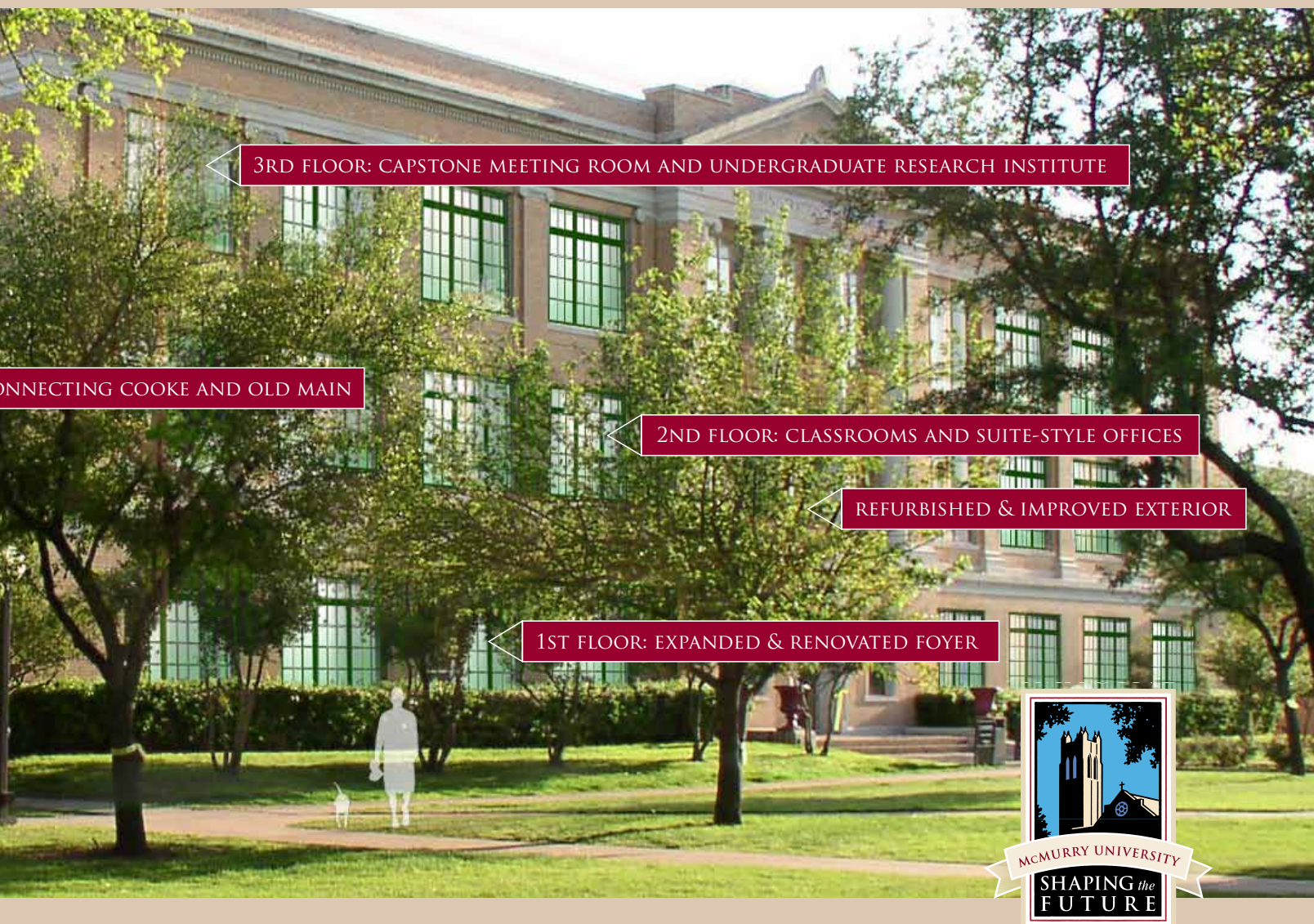


upcoming two years. “We will start the project with asbestos abatement in late June 2011, followed by the demolition phase,” said Brad Poorman, Vice President for Information and Support Services. “The bid process will begin in November, and we are hoping to start construction the latter part of December 2011.” The move into the renovated building is scheduled for August 2013.



This is an artist's rendering. Details may change during subsequent revisions.

According to Poorman, the building will be completely gutted “back to the walls” during the initial construction period. As part of the demolition phase, the construction company is planning to remove and save as much of the historic molding and other items as possible to be put back in during the construction. “The





PRIDE OF OUR WESTERN PRAIRIES

Though tarnished with age, Old Main continues to dominate the landscape of our memories and our future. Pictured right are Bishop Dan E. Solomon and senior Zack Kerzee.

architects have been looking at pictures to see what the original building looked like,” said Poorman. “As much as possible, we are going to restore its original grandeur, while at the same time making it functional for today’s standards.”

After demolition, construction crews will install electrical and heating/air conditioning systems. The Old Main auditorium is going to be a lecture hall, more in keeping with its original use. “If you look at the pictures of the original construction, the auditorium had a relatively shallow stage,” said Poorman. “The desire of the faculty is that it will be more of an academic building, which is appropriate because it is the primary building on our quad and the center of the academic part of campus.” The goal is to move some of the non-academic functions out of the building so the space can be utilized for faculty offices, classrooms, as well as a new lecture hall.

The Fifth Grade Math/Science Magnet classroom, a cooperative effort with the Abilene Independent School District, will still be located in the renovated building. “The fifth grade classroom is scheduled to move across the hall right now, which will allow us to put a room on the end of it for lockers and storage. The fifth grade classroom will move to the education building in the interim,” said Poorman.

Also housed in the Old Main building



will be the Career Services office, which works closely with faculty on internships and other programs. The storage area in the back of the auditorium is slated to become the new home of the Servant Leadership program. Another key design element will be the elevator in the concourse between Old Main and the Cooke Classroom building, which will allow handicap access to both buildings.

While construction is taking place, faculty and staff will be relocated across campus. “The faculty has been really good about getting together with us and working on options for the interim,” said Poorman. “Quite a few people will be going into the old Academic Enrichment Center space in the campus center in partitioned offices. Others are scattering around campus. And there will be more on-line classes offered.”

If construction takes longer than expected, Poorman said the campus will be ready. “Since the renovation project is taking two years and we will have already established temporary offices and classrooms for that length of time, we will just continue in the temporary housing arrangements if the renovation is delayed.”

When completed, Old Main will again take center stage in McMurry University’s life, completing a cycle that began almost a century ago. ■



SPiRiT OF THE PiONEER PLAINSMAN

The dedication to the right can be found in the opening pages of McMurry's first Totem yearbook. Dr. Hunt, pictured above, is commended by the students for his "indomitable spirit of the pioneer plainsman," "dauntless courage," and "guiding light."



DID YOU KNOW?

MCMURRY'S CHARTER DAYS

McMurry University founder James Winfred Hunt, a Methodist minister and former president of Stamford College, was unwilling to relinquish his dream of a West Texas Methodist college after Stamford College closed. He began to urge the establishment of a school in Abilene, where the Baptist Church had founded Simmons College and the Church of Christ had established Abilene Christian College. In 1920 the education board of the Northwest Texas Conference voted to establish a college in Abilene; Stamford residents put up a spirited fight to have the college located in their community instead. Abilene, however, offered money, land, free

water, and streetcar connections. The conference ratified the education board's decision in the fall of 1920 and appointed Hunt commissioner of the new college. Hunt then set out to find funding. Citizens of Abilene raised \$100,000, and three landowners donated acreage at South 14th Street and Sayles Boulevard. By November 1921, sufficient money had been raised, and the conference elected a board of trustees and named Hunt the school's first president. The college charter was signed ninety years ago on November 21, 1921, leading to McMurry College's formal opening on September 20, 1923. ■



THE BEST WILL ONLY GET BETTER

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

"For us to
recruit and
retain students,
we have to
accommodate
the demands of
those we serve."

- PAUL FABRIZIO,
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

For years, McMurry University has focused its attention on providing quality undergraduate programs in a broad assortment of academic areas. Workforce demands and economic parameters are changing the landscape of education and forcing universities to become more strategic in their menus of academic offerings. In addition, career and professional positions offering above-average salaries attract quality graduates from around the world. Today's workplace wants "work-ready" graduates who come to them with highly specialized skill sets, and today's graduates want academic resumes that will provide them a competitive edge in their job search. Relevance and quality are key factors in determining the value of a college education in today's environment.

McMurry University is committed to providing students with a high quality education to address the demands of today's emerging and

growing careers. In order to do so, McMurry has begun the process of incorporating graduate degree programs for students entering certain high-demand career fields. According to Dr. Paul Fabrizio, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, the idea has been discussed over the years, and the expansion of academic programs to include graduate degrees will benefit the university, as well as students and the regional job market.

"Our faculty has recognized the need. Our students want graduate programs and see other universities offering them," Fabrizio said. "The competition for funding and students is increasing. For us to recruit and retain students, we have to accommodate the demands of those we serve."

A strategic focus was adopted by the university, and early discussions were undertaken to determine which graduate

programs should receive consideration and what the priority should be for the implementation of each. The first graduate degree to be offered will be the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). McMurry is already affiliated with the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, a consortium with Hardin-Simmons University and Abilene Christian University. Both ACU and HSU already offer MSN degree programs, and in the past, McMurry undergraduates have had to complete their masters degree programs at one of the other two local universities. ACU recently announced plans to withdraw from the consortium and offer its own nursing program. The MSN degree offered by McMurry will fill the void left by the departure of ACU and will allow our nursing students to complete the requirements for their MSN at McMurry. In addition, the accreditation process for McMurry to be able to offer the Master of Science in Nursing will be simplified due to the fact that the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing is already accredited.

Nursing graduates are in high demand and they draw above-average wages. Graduate students at McMurry seeking the post-graduate nursing degree may pursue either of two specializations resulting in a career as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or in nursing education. Once certified, the Family Nurse Practitioner can work in varying fields under the supervision of a physician, which allows the physician to increase the populations and clients served, particularly in rural communities where health care options are limited. The certification process for the nursing education emphasis results in the designation as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). McMurry MSN graduates with a CNE certification may teach in a nursing school or four-year university, or they may serve in the education departments of hospitals and clinics. Dr. Nina Ouimette, Dean and Associate Professor for the Patty Hanks Shelton School

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In order to do so, McMurry has begun the process of incorporating graduate degree programs for students entering certain high-demand career fields.

of Nursing, shares her optimism regarding the expansion of the partnership with McMurry by stating: "McMurry students will no longer have to transfer to another university to accomplish



their educational goals. In addition, McMurry has a great partnership with Dyess Air Force Base, and we anticipate that population will be very interested in the MSN opportunity.”

The proposal by McMurry to launch the Master of Science in Nursing program was approved by the curriculum committee and the faculty committee, and was presented to the

McMurry
students have
voiced their
support and
welcome the
opportunity
to continue
their
education
at their
alma mater.

Board of Trustees on March 11, 2011. Approval was granted, and applications for the MSN degree program to be launched in fall 2012 will be accepted beginning in the spring of 2012.

While plans progress for the implementation of graduate programs in nursing, another master's level program is in the research phase of development and holds much promise. Demographics in the state of Texas continue to demonstrate a rapidly-growing Hispanic population resulting in increased demands by public schools for teachers who are English as a Second Language (ESL) certified. The Abilene Independent School District now requires all new elementary teaching applicants to have an ESL certification, and currently, there are very few universities that offer a master of education degree with an ESL certification.

The need is evident in the public schools, but the degree also expands career opportunities for graduates into areas such as consulting, textbook

publishing and international placement. According to Dr. Marian Kirk, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction ensures that students are "more marketable in a depressed labor market." In addition, she voices the benefits to the education profession and to the communities where these graduates will reside. "They [MEd graduates] tend to become more involved in their profession and in their communities. They are self-disciplined achievers and they become role models."

If all goes according to plan, a proposal will be presented to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for accreditation in October 2011, which is a prerequisite to the successful introduction of the proposed graduate school programs into the curriculum. A graduate school task force began its charge this spring to address issues such as governance structure, accreditation and reporting processes, faculty guidelines, and graduation requirements in preparation for the SACS accreditation process. Though a time- and labor-intensive process, Dr. Fabrizio is of the opinion it is time well spent. "At McMurry, we are very good at developing relationships with students; we will continue those relationships at the post-graduate level. By continuing to work with them through the fulfillment of their educational careers, we do everything we can to help them reach their maximum potential and be successful in life."

McMurry students have voiced their support and welcome the opportunity to continue their education at their alma mater. They recognize the competition they face and realize the impact that post-graduate degrees can have in increasing their marketability and enhancing their skill sets. "Over the past three years, I've developed a lasting connection with the McMurry family," said Kasi Cox, junior nursing major from Fort Worth, Texas. "Having



CONTINUING EDUCATION

At the spring 2010 graduation, students admire their recently recieved diplomas. Soon, students will have the opportunity to earn another diploma from McMurry—a Master's degree in several specialized fields.

the opportunity to continue my education with a graduate program at McMurry would be very beneficial and rewarding.”

The commitment to student success is the basic cornerstone for all academic programs that McMurry currently offers its students,

and the incorporation of graduate programs is one more way the university demonstrates that commitment. Relevance and quality in a student-centered environment—it doesn’t get any better than that. ■



Check out the *Chieftain's*
FRIENDS & FAMILY
Section ONLINE for...

*class*notes
homecoming*photos*
athletics*update*

PLUS...

Letter from the President
of the Alumni Association
Board of Directors

Friends We'll Miss

VISIT www.mcm.edu/chieftain

DII Q&A ...continued from page 13

meets, but not be able to compete for conference championships. Swimming will conduct an independent NCAA Division II schedule, but will still be allowed to compete in the year-end Liberal Arts Swimming and Diving Championships as it has for the past few seasons.

Why was the decision made to move to the NCAA Division II at this time?

The latest census data shows that west Texas is migrating to the eastern portion of the state. Our research has shown us that regional recruiting for NCAA Division II schools has been better than NCAA Division III schools. At this time in our economic

circumstance, being more regional in our recruiting is the smart thing to do.

Are our athletic facilities adequate for Division II competition?

A recent visit by the NCAA Division II membership management team and the Heartland Conference commissioner found our facilities to be comparable to many other Division II schools. Meanwhile, the university continues to develop strategies for the renovation of the home bleachers and the improvement of spectator safety and convenience (handicap access, restrooms and concessions) at Wilford Moore Stadium.



ATHLETICS UPDATE

Football

The McMurry football team took another step towards a turnaround in 2010 under second-year head coach Hal Mumme. McMurry posted its first winning season since 2000 with a 6-4 record. In addition, McMurry landed its first two all-Americans since 2010 as junior free safety Will Morris and senior cornerback Desmond Baker earned national honors from D3football.com.

The defensive unit led the American Southwest Conference in yards allowed per game while the offense set several single-season school records in the passing game. In 2011, McMurry is set to play two NCAA Division I-AA schools to open the season. The team will play Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches and UT-San Antonio in the Alamo Dome.

Volleyball

McMurry made its fourth-straight trip to the American Southwest Conference postseason tournament in 2010 under head coach Cammie Petree. McMurry advanced to the ASC semi-finals round before the team fell to Texas Lutheran ending its season with a 17-10 record.

Six players earned all-conference honors with Terah Brown earning all-division all-ASC honors and first-team all-ASC West Division honors. M.J. Vickers and Bailey Marcum joined Brown on the first team while Sarah Anding and Mandie Moore were second-team honorees. Jasmine Qualls was named ASC West Division Freshman of the Year.

Anding finished her career

as McMurry's career leader in digs while Brown left the team as the career-leader in blocks, and surpassed the 1,000-kills mark.

Cross Country

Junior Alaisha Guerra highlighted McMurry's 2010 cross country season. The Hamlin native won the American Southwest Conference Runner of the Week four times, shattered the school's 6K record and earned all-South/Southeast region honors by placing 22nd overall at the NCAA III Regional meet. Guerra also placed second overall at the ASC Championship meet to earn first-team all-conference honors.

The McMurry women placed seventh at the conference meet out of 13 teams while the men finished sixth out of 12 teams. Trey Leffler

was the top finisher in the men's ASC Championships at 18th place.

Women's Soccer

First-year head coach Alan Riches may have had many goals in 2010, but by the end of the season, he had accomplished the most important one: winning a match. Better than that, he helped McMurry win two. The first came Sept. 24 in a 4-1 win over the University of the Ozarks, which snapped a 52-match winless streak.

The women's team landed three players on the all-conference squad—the most since the 2006 team won a school record five matches.

Freshmen Rachel Moore and





ATHLETICS UPDATE

Chelsea Slay were honorable mention selections while sophomore Stephanie Nevels was a third-team all-ASC selection.

Men's Soccer

The McMurry men's soccer team under head coach Paul Tate finished the 2010 season with a 1-17 overall record taking a 6-0 win over Louisiana College Sept. 30. Bobby Wagner and Everton Pinnock each scored three goals this season with Wagner adding two assists to lead the team with eight points. Matt Mouer led the team with 38 saves from the goalie spot.

Men's Basketball

For the just the third time in 51 years a new head coach paced the sidelines at McMurry University and Matt Garnett delivered with a 21-8 overall record, an ASC West Division title, an ASC Tournament championship and a second-round appearance in the NCAA III National Men's Basketball Tournament. Garnett follows Hershel Kimbrell (1959-1990) and Ron Holmes (1990-2010) and coached a team to 20 wins for the first time since 2007.

In addition, its ASC Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance were both the first since the 2001 season. McMurry boasted the ASC West Division Player of the Year in Steven Jones, and he also made the all-division all-conference team. Garnett was named ASC West Division Coach of the Year and Derick Sumpter, Teddy Chambers and Steven Johunkin all earned ASC West Division honors.

Women's Basketball

Fourth-year head coach Veronica Snow took the McMurry women's basketball team to its seventh-consecutive American Southwest Conference Postseason Tournament in 2010-11. McMurry finished 16-10 on the season and placed third in the ASC West Division.

Anna Berthel and Rikeita Thomas were named to the ASC West Division second team, Keshia Collins was the ASC West Freshman of the Year as well as the ASC West Division Defensive Player of the Year. Tory Salazar was named to the ASC West all-Freshman team.

Five seniors exited the team including Berthel and Precious Williams while Jordan Stansell, Erica Rawls and Jennifer Wells all competed for four seasons for the team.

Swimming & Diving

The McMurry swim teams took dual meet victories over Southwestern, Trinity and Austin College during the 2010-11 season. Bev Ball also saw Erin Johnson on the cusp of making the NCAA III National swim meet as her time in the 100-meter butterfly earned her a provisional qualifying mark.

In the union of independent swimming and diving teams, McMurry returned to the 2011 Liberal Arts Conference Swimming and Diving Championships which consists of NAIA, NCAA II and III swim programs without a conference to call home. Johnson highlighted that meet for the women winning the 100 and 200-yard butterfly races for the second-straight year.

McMurry's women placed fifth out of 10 teams at the meet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa while the men were sixth. ■





"Like" McMurry on Facebook!

Just search for McMurry University to find our page.

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Dear Alumni and Friends,

There is an old adage that says: "Time flies when you are having fun." This saying definitely applies to the current school year at McMurry. In just a few weeks, we will welcome a new class of graduates into the Alumni Association, and I would like to be the first to congratulate them on this well-deserved achievement.

Throughout the 2010-2011 school year, McMurry made headlines for numerous accomplishments. In October, we concluded the *Shaping the Future* campaign by successfully raising over \$39 million for student scholarships, faculty support, building renovations, and advancement of our science and math departments. This amount exceeded our \$35 million goal, and it was greater than all other capital campaigns in our university's history. During the 2011 season, our football team, led by head coach Hal Mumme, had its first winning season since 2000. This fall, Team Endurance, a talented team of three business students, participated in the Business Strategy Game, a semester-long competition based upon a business simulation. Out of 2,646 participating teams from 194 colleges and universities worldwide, they tied for first with eight

other schools, and then placed fourth in an intensive two-week invitational competition.

Most universities would consider these three achievements alone to be a banner school year;

however, at McMurry we were just getting started. At the conclusion of the fall semester, McMurry's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a plan to apply for candidacy as a NCAA Division II athletic member. If our plan is approved, we will begin awarding athletic scholarships for the first time since the 1976-1977 school year. Speaking of athletics, our men's basketball team, led by first year head coach Matt Garnett, almost defeated Division I SMU at Kimbrell Arena. The team grew from this narrow loss to win the ASC Conference Tournament Championship and qualified

for the NCAA Division III National Tournament for the first time since 2001.

Finally, at the March board meeting, McMurry's Trustees approved two items that will shape our university for years to come. First, McMurry will now provide students the opportunity to earn a Masters Degree in Nursing. The increased knowledge our



students will gain in this field of study will provide them with better job opportunities and placement in this fast growing sector of our economy. Next, the Trustees approved *War Hawks* as the new mascot. The five month process included two rounds of voting by students, alumni, faculty, and staff; focus groups held in nine cities; and extensive committee research and deliberation. Nearly 4,000 votes were cast, and *War Hawks* received 70% of the votes.

These are just a few of the numerous accomplishments going on at McMurry. Our University continues to build a strong foundation for its future. I cannot think of a more exciting time for our students and alumni; however, it is important that we not rest on our laurels. The effects of the global economic slowdown continue to be felt by many. At the national and state levels, elected officials are debating how to close budget deficits. It appears funding for higher education may be dramatically reduced. Many of our students receive financial assistance in the form of TEG, Pell grants, and student loans. I would not be where I am in life without McMurry and assistance from these programs; therefore, I encourage

each of you to contact your elected officials and tell them how important higher education funding is to the competitive future of our country. I also challenge you to consider making a contribution to the McMurry

Fund. This campaign enables us as alumni to share our treasures to help fund the McMurry experience for many deserving students.

I conclude by saying it has been an honor to serve as President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors these past two years. My wife and I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and to learn of your McMurry experiences. Your friendship and passion for our university has made this one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I ask that you join me in congratulating Mr. Daniel Alexander '97 as he assumes the duties of president at the conclusion of our April board meeting. He is a great friend, and

I look forward to his leadership in this new chapter of McMurry University.

Ala Cumba War Hawks!

Christopher Montoya '00
President of Alumni Association





HOMEcoming 2010





THE "ROCKET BOYS" OF MCMURRY COLLEGE

BY DON WHISENHUNT '60

A few years ago Hollywood released a movie, "October Sky," that received generally good reviews. At the time I thought I would like to see it, but like so many other things, I put it off until it was no longer in the theaters. Not long ago, I rented the videotape, and I was astounded to discover how similar the experience of the boys in West Virginia were to the experiences of my group of college students at the time.

You will remember, surely, either from memory or from studying history, the Russians launching the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957. This was a shock to the American sense of superiority, something just about every American believed after the Allied victory in World War II and American development and short-term monopoly on atomic bombs. But now, the Soviet Union, a country we considered backward and almost barbaric, had put a basketball-size device into the atmosphere that orbited (that was a new term for us) the earth about every ninety minutes.

At that time I was a sophomore at McMurry College. My friends and I were surprised by the Russian success, but at first we were not particularly concerned about it. But that was not true of all the students.

Don Boyd, a junior from Lubbock who wrote for the McMurry student newspaper, the *War Whoop*, was so concerned about Sputnik that he said just after the Christmas holidays in early January 1958, "Sputnik scared us all—like nothing since Pearl Harbor, perhaps. Now the U.S. is busily trying to catch up in military missile preparedness." Less than a month after Boyd's comments (which some might consider

overblown), a group of young men at McMurry launched its own satellite program.

When Sputnik went up in October 1957, a friend of mine was a disk jockey at one of the Abilene radio stations. He told me one night to come by the station after everyone had gone home and he was playing records; he said that through the equipment at the station we could listen to Sputnik. I went, but I was disappointed that all we could hear was an intermittent beep. He claimed he could see it in the night sky, but I never saw it.

President Eisenhower and other political leaders were alarmed, to say the least, about this apparent Soviet advance—something the United States was not really working on very seriously. The result was a hurry-up program to get our own rocket up and satellite into orbit. The history of the Vanguard rocket program is well-known. One rocket after another failed, one way or the other. I remember well that when we went to the movies (which was often) at the Paramount Theater in downtown Abilene we would see newsreels (you remember those?) of the latest failure. Some of the rockets would get off the ground and then explode; others would explode on the platform even before lift-off. The one I remember best is the Vanguard rocket that was ignited, just sat on the platform trying to get airborne, and then just fell over to one side. The jeering in the audience when these things happened made a lasting impression in my mind.

American concern about rocketry also resulted in the first significant federal aid to education because of concern that there were

not enough scientists, engineers, and teachers. The National Defense Education Act (NDEA) was sponsored by, among others, Texas' own Senator Ralph Yarborough. I was fortunate to be able to get one of the loans in the first year.

In January 1958 a group of McMurry men decided that, since the federal government could not get a rocket into space, then the group should do it for the government. My recollections of this event are vivid, but there are many details that I do not remember, and I may have some things wrong. The only written record I know of is a column by Don Boyd in the *War Whoop* a few days after the launching. When I went back and read his account, it brought back some memories that I had not recalled, and it corrected a few things I had remembered another way.

Boyd's account is not complete. For example, he did not mention any names of the participants. I think I know why. McMurry in those days was very concerned about publicity, especially any kind that would bring criticism to the college. I worked with Boyd for a while on the newspaper, and I do not recall any overt efforts at censorship by college administrators, but I feel certain that unfavorable publicity would bring retaliation of some sort. Other pranks I was involved in did cause difficulty for some of us; this might have also if the administrators had perceived the rocket program as critical of the government.

As I recall the event, someone decided, perhaps with tongue-in-cheek that we should launch our own rocket. The plan evolved as more and more people became involved, partly because it could not be kept secret and partly because various skills were needed. Before long, the McMurry space program was born.

The rocket was constructed from a length of new automobile tail pipe about 1.5 feet long, according to Boyd. He said that it had an aluminum nose cone, but I recall that someone

in the group made the nose cone from a shaving cream can. It was not as fancy as Boyd thought. He was right that the nose cone had a small compartment, for future flights in which, we said, we could send up a mouse. That may have been said in jest; I can't recall if it was serious. The rocket had fins welded to the bottom that made it resemble an arrow. Boyd says that the rocket was named "Clume 1," but I do not recall that.

It should be obvious that most of the leadership of our rocket group came from science students. They were necessary, in a sense, to come up with the idea in the first place, but they were essential when it came to determining the fuel we would use for propellant. Not being a scientist, I didn't understand their discussion about the merits of liquid versus solid fuel, but they knew what they were talking about. They decided that solid chemical fuel was best and that a magnesium fuse should ignite it. I suspect that one reason the specific solid fuel was selected was because it could be obtained (borrowed?) from chemistry labs on campus.

The launching platform was an unpainted wooden structure designed and constructed by some of the students. It was made to fit the rocket. This was a simple device, and it should have served its purpose quite well. Someone devised some rather primitive tracking devices. They were contraptions with a wooden base that we would place on a flat surface. Attached to the device was an arm that the tracker would use to sight along to determine how high the rocket soared. Then the angle between the arm and the base would be measured to calculate mathematically the high point the rocket reached. As I recall, there were four tracking devices. I was assigned to be one of the trackers. Don Boyd reported that we spent considerably less than \$10 on this entire experiment.

Someone decided that the best launching site was the abandoned Camp Barkley site near

In January 1958 a group of McMurry men decided that, since the federal government could not get a rocket into space, then the group should do it for the government.

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Abilene. This had been a training base during World War II, but since the war ended, it had been abandoned. Nothing was left at the site except for the concrete bunker that had been used as a firing range. It was isolated and protected. That seemed the ideal place for a rocket launching. The fact that the remains of the base were on private property and that we were probably trespassing did not seem to dawn on anyone.

The day of the launch was a gray, overcast, and windy day in January 1958. The group that assembled in the basement of Gold Star Dormitory was a scraggly lot. This was during the annual beard growing contest (remember the time when almost no men wore beards as a matter of course?), and a number of us were not notable for our good beards.

I can't recall how many of us finally arrived at Camp Barkley. Don Boyd said there were seventeen of us, but it seems to me that there were more than that. I have to rely on his report for the number.

Once at the site, we all went about our assigned tasks. The launch platform was set up on the ground behind the abandoned firing range bunker, mostly to keep it out of the wind as much as possible. The rocket was put in place with its solid fuel already loaded, the trackers found appropriate locations, and all seemed to be ready.

As typical in West Texas, the wind was pretty strong that day. When someone lit the fuse, the wind blew it out. It was re-lighted several times until the magnesium fuse was almost gone. By this time, most of our "experts" considered it too dangerous to approach the rocket to try to light it again. Lester Boydston, a junior from the Panhandle town of Tulia, who was working the

launch, in frustration took some paper which he lighted and pushed under the rocket with a long stick or branch he had found somewhere. The fire flared up, and then the wooden launch pad caught fire. People were excited and shouting that it was going to fall over before the rocket could be launched. The fuel, some of our experts later analyzed, had been packed so tight in the pipe that it would not ignite. Lester took the pole and began to poke the rocket trying to shake the fuel loose. A few grains would fall into the fire and flare up, but that was all. He poked the pipe harder because the platform was about to collapse.

Finally, the rocket exploded. Apparently, the lump of fuel in the pipe dislodged at once and fell into the fire, causing the whole thing to go up.

The whole area was covered in smoke. I was standing on top of the bunker several yards from the rocket, which was below me on the ground. The concussion of the blast knocked me off my feet. When I got up, I could see nothing except a dense cloud of smoke that covered everything. As the smoke began to clear, we saw that Lester was flat on his face. My stomach lurched as I thought he might be seriously hurt--or even dead. Everyone seemed to react at once. Then Lester got up from the ground, smiling sheepishly and seemingly no worse for the wear. As we examined him for injuries, we found one side of his beard badly singed. But that seemed to be the extent of any injuries he sustained. He wore his "half-beard" for several days after that, as a badge of honor, I presume.

As a tracker, I failed in my duty. When the blast knocked me down, I forgot all about trying to follow the rocket. I never saw it go up. Don Boyd reported in the *War Whoop* that some

people said it went 100 feet into the air, and one person claimed it had to be 200 feet. I have to take their word for it, but I wonder how anyone could have seen it.

We searched the area for the rocket, but we never found it. We did find a piece of the pipe some distance (120 yards away, Boyd said) from the firing point. It was a jagged piece of steel that could have killed anyone it might have hit. According to my memory, that was the only piece of the rocket we ever found. "Clume I" just disappeared. Realizing, after the fact, the danger we had been in was a bit sobering to most of us.

Yet, we went back to campus excitedly. Although we had no real proof, we felt that we had put a rocket into the air at a time when the American government could not do it. Don Boyd called it a success. He said he was "impressed with the spirit these men had." He said it was no game for us, "even though we were enjoying every minute of it." He said, "This *mattered* to them . . ."

As it turned out, that was the end of the McMurry rocket program. I don't recall anyone ever suggesting that we try again; some may have, but I don't recall it. Unlike the boys in "October Sky," we did not pursue our interest in rockets. I have not kept up with all the young men in the group, but I don't believe any of the science students followed up by going into space research as the boys in "October Sky" did. Several of my colleagues became scientists and computer scientists and made their mark, but I don't think it was in rocketry.

Perhaps our day's outing had been just a prank, and now it was over. Yet, I don't really consider it a prank, since pranks usually are designed to gain attention. This event was not a publicity stunt. On the other hand, the danger we had not anticipated may have deflected future interest. Or more likely, college students usually have short attention spans, and our interests turned to other things. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Don W. Whisenhunt PhD, and McMurry graduate of the class of 1960, is a retired historian and university educator. After earning a PhD from Texas Tech University in 1966, Dr. Whisenhunt taught briefly in public education followed by a long tenure as a university professor and administrator. Prior to retirement, he served as professor of history and chairman of the department of history at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington from 1991-2003. Since his retirement, Dr. Whisenhunt has been a Fulbright Lecturer at universities in the Peoples Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Belarus. His numerous creative works include: *Poetry of the People: Poems to the President; Tent Show: Arthur Names and His Famous Players;* and *It Seems to Me: Selected Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt*. Dr. Whisenhunt married Betsy Ann Baker, who also attended McMurry and they currently reside in Sycamore, Illinois.



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FRIENDS & FAMILY

classnotes

1971

David McCall '71 has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Victory Energy Corporation in Newport Beach, California. He has over 35 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is currently a partner in The McCall Firm in Austin, Texas. His law practice has centered on the upstream, midstream and downstream activities of major and independent oil companies. McCall is also an author and has served as an expert witness in title matters involving oil and gas properties. After graduation from McMurry, he attended Texas Tech School of Law in Lubbock, Texas, and graduated in 1974. He is a Member of the Bar, State of Texas; a Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation; and a Founding Fellow, Austin Bar Foundation.

1973

Rev. Roger Thompson '73 pastors Gadsden's First United Methodist Church in Alabama. After graduating from McMurry, he attended graduate school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He then moved to Alabama after graduating from seminary in 1977.



1975

Thomas L. Headstream, M.D., graduated from McMurry University in 1975 and from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1979. Dr. Headstream has been on staff at Abilene Regional Medical Center for 25 years, and was recently named Chief of Staff at ARMC.

1984

Pastor Tim Jarrell '84 of Coutts Memorial United

Methodist Church in Weatherford, Texas, was convicted at an early age to go into the ministry. He says that by the age of 15 his heart was drawn toward the ministry. He earned a bachelor of arts with a double major in communication and religion at McMurry University and graduated in 1984. He later completed a master's of divinity from SMU Perkins School of Theology and then pursued a master's in communication studies at the University of North Texas. He describes his church as an active 1,000-member congregation who works at Habitat for Humanity, Center of Hope and Manna Storehouse, and cheerfully dishes up homemade peach ice cream at the Peach Festival. With proceeds from the sale of the famous peach ice cream, he and many volunteers help with disaster relief. He is an advocate for education saying, "I believe that always being a student is the way to live a life that is deeply meaningful and rich in the right sense of the word."

1991

Adrienne Willard, 14-month-old granddaughter of Mark and Mickee Wyatt, explores the McMurry campus. Her mom **Laura Wyatt Willard** is a McMurry graduate of 1991. Other McMurry family graduates are **Janna Wyatt Wofford '79** and husband **Doug Wofford '77** of Atlanta, GA, and **Dina Wyatt Hoffman '82** and husband **Paul Hoffman '77** of China Spring, TX.



2005

Kaysalynn Noelle Smith was born to Matthew and **Kyera Smith '05** on October 28, 2009. Congratulations also to **Keely**



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Acklin '10, Kaysalynn's grandmother, Uncle **Justin Tabor '04**, and Aunt **Stephanie Davidson '07**—all McMurry graduates.



Nichole Stanley Hoover '05 and **Charles Dee Hoover '07**, and their son, Baron, welcomed their second son and little brother, Brock Anderson Hoover, on February 9, 2011. Brock weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz and was 19 inches. Nichole is a stay at home mom and Dee is a DPS

Trooper for the State of Texas.

2006

Lauren Crowover '06, McMurry University alumna, earned the CFE (Certified Fraud Examiners) credential. The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and leading provider of anti-fraud training and education. She has successfully met the ACFE's character, experience, and education requirements for the CFE credential.

Erin Stevens Samson '06 married Aaron Samson in August 2010, and they are currently living in Lexington, Kentucky. Several McMurry alumni and staff attended the wedding. Pictured from left to right are Dr. and



Mrs. Russell, Mike (former development officer) and Wanda Lock, Kaye Dowell (former alumni director), **Megan Douglass Goodman '05**, **Erin Stevens '06** and Aaron Samson, **Sheila Breeden Kitts '01**, **Lynda Davis '68** and **Fred (Sandy) Sandlin '68**, **Amanda Rogers Hollis '04**, **Amanda Hardekopf ex. and Matt Sherwitz '04**, **Kelley Stowers Lawrence '06**, **Staci Pappas Patyrak '04** and **Alicia Lohberger '06**.

2007

Jenny Garcia '07 landed her first school counselor job at Ryan High School in Denton, Texas. She has earned a Masters degree and earned her high school counselor certification.

Hank Squiers '07 of Eastland, Texas, is engaged to **Hannah Lester '10** of Big Spring, Texas. Hannah is currently employed with Noah Project of Abilene as Community Education Coordinator. Hank is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Archaeology at the University of York in England. A June wedding is scheduled in Abilene, Texas after which the couple plans on moving to York.



Stephanie Tabor Davidson '07 and husband, DJ Davidson, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Joshua James Davidson, on January 3, 2011. **Keely Acklin '10** is Joshua's grandmother. Stephanie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design with an English minor. She works at Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union as



FRIENDS & FAMILY

System Operator and has worked there for 2 1/2 years.

**Andrea Clayton
Gazaille '07** and
Jason Lee Gazaille

'06, and their son, Griffin, welcomed their second son and little brother, Kipptyn Kade Gazaille, on February 15, 2011. Kipptyn weighed 8 lbs, 2.2 oz and was 19 1/4 inches. Andrea is a Pre-K teacher with the Sweetwater ISD and Jason is Assistant Vice President at First Financial Bank Sweetwater.



2008

Dustin Brown '08 graduated with a B.S. in Physics. He married in June 2008 and in July was employed by CoServ Electric (the second-largest electric cooperation in Texas). He is an Electrical Engineer II and is working toward passing the PE exam (Professional Engineering exam). He and his wife live in Corinth, Texas.



Jess Barnes '08 is the Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh, NC. She oversees Sunday School and family ministries and occasionally acts as an associate pastor. She will start a MLS at University of North Carolina next fall. ■



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- Dr. John H. Russell, McMurry President

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Dorthadele Armstrong died September 19, 2010.

Louise Powell Baltes ex'34 of Salem, Virginia, died October 26, 2010.

Fern Wyatt Barnsley '62 of Abilene, Texas, died September 3, 2010.

C. E. Bentley ex'42 of Abilene, Texas, died September 3, 2010.

Lila Binkley died February 20, 2011.

Robert D. Black '50 of McLean, Texas, died November 13, 2009.

Frances Marie Church Bryant '36 of Kerrville, Texas, died December 30, 2010.

Rev. Homer Noel Bryant '36 of Kerrville, Texas, died January 3, 2011.

Janice Burns of Houston, Texas, died August 27, 2010.

Lee Samuel Burns '52 of Houston, Texas, died December 5, 2010.

Nila Pickett Cockrell ex'38 of Abilene Texas, died December 4, 2010.

Richard Douglas Collins '56 of Granbury, Texas, died December 11, 2010.

Helen LaVerne Canada Comer of Lubbock, Texas, died August 13, 2010.

Geneva Covert of Abilene, Texas, died January 25, 2011.

Ruby Inez Davis of Abilene, Texas, died February 13, 2011.

Doyle Ray Dean '51 of Garland, Texas, died January 24, 2011.

Wanda Lou Steele Dennis '58 of Katy, Texas, died December 4, 2010.

Don Dudley of Granbury, Texas, died November 6, 2010.

Sharon Dykes of Horseshoe Bay, Texas, died November 2010.

Vernell Esh died February 24, 2011.

Virginia Charlene Everheart '70 of Abilene, Texas, died August 24, 2010.

Beverly Armstrong Farnsworth '70 of Abilene, Texas, died January 9, 2011.

Eileen Smith Faulks '39 of Abilene, Texas, died August 1, 2010.

Josephine Mathews Featherston ex'45 of Abilene, Texas, died February 4, 2011.

James E. Garrett '43 of Alvin, Texas, died September 29, 2010.

John Gossard of Abilene, Texas, died March 23, 2011.

Nancy Blankenship Grisham '43 of Lubbock, Texas, died January 1, 2011.

Elton Hailey '43 of McLean, Virginia, died September 18, 2010.

Nina Walter Griffith Hale '39 of Winters, Texas, died April 3, 2011.

Martha Ann Snow Holladay ex '54 of Richardson, Texas, died August 21, 2010.

Rev. Luther S. Hollowell II '71 of Abilene, Texas, died February 27, 2011.

Olivia Hunt Horn '47 of Lubbock, Texas, died November 6, 2010.

Roy Callan Houghton '66 of Agoura Hills, California, died September 6, 2010.

Clara Janice Howard died February 4, 2011.

Wanda Fain Hughes '48 of Abilene, Texas, died December 10, 2010.

Richard Ivey died September 4, 2010.

Betty Wheeler Johnson '40 of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died September 8, 2010.

Marla Merli Karhan '77 of Dallas, Texas, died February 21, 2011.

Robert Kirksey '33 of Throckmorton, Texas, died October 10, 2010.

Kazuya Kurokawa '74 of Dallas, Texas, died September 6, 2010.

Marsha Belle Marrs ex '72 of Abilene, Texas, died March 3, 2011.

Patsy Sue Cox Martin of Abilene, Texas, died August 6, 2010.

Wanda Cook McIver ex '59 of San Angelo, Texas, died October 8, 2010.

John McLain of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died January 15, 2011.

John Mitchell of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died November 22, 2010.

Clay Mumme died January 12, 2011.

Ronald Earl Munns '88 of San Angelo, Texas, died November 26, 2010.

Flora Haymes Nobles '46 of Snyder, Texas, died October 8, 2010.

Dr. E. Bruce Parks '50 of Lubbock, Texas, died January 7, 2011.

Herschel L. Roach '57 of Denver, Texas, died November 27, 2010.

Billyjo Stewart Roberson '64 of Floydada, Texas, died August 1, 2010.

Dr. R. Lee Rode of Abilene, Texas, died January 17, 2011.

Velma Lois Schulz died February 4, 2011.

Marietta Mitzi Merrisett Stash '42 of Abilene, Texas, died February 20, 2011.

John Lewis Stripling of Fort Worth, Texas, died January 30, 2011.

David Graves Stubbeman of Abilene, Texas, died September 11, 2010.

E. Lynn Tatom '64 of Loganville, GA, died August 12, 2010.

Donald Thornton of Pleasanton, Texas, died November 8, 2010.

Leona C. Wetsel died March 1, 2011.

H. E. Whitaker of Abilene, Texas, died September 12, 2010.

Ann Whorton died October 9, 2010.

Bobby Joe Williams '50 of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died January 30, 2011.

James E. Williamson of Grandview, Texas, died October 2, 2010.

Dorothy M. Smith Wiseman '50 of Hillsboro, Texas, September 14, 2010.

Billy G. Yarbrough '48 of Odessa, Texas, died August 2, 2010.

Obituaries

C. E. "Sonny" Bentley

C.E. "Sonny" Bentley of Abilene died September 3, 2010, on a cruise ship in Alaska. Born in Ranger, Texas, October 9, 1921, Sonny grew up in Clyde, and spent most of his adult life in Abilene. Upon graduating from Clyde High School, he attended McMurry University. He met his bride, Gloria "Dodie" Gill, on campus by offering to show her around the school, as he was the previous president of the freshman class. Dodie declined by saying she had lived three blocks from McMurry her entire life. The two were married October 9, 1943. Leaving McMurry for the service in 1942, Sonny served with USAF through 1943. Upon his return, Sonny began his career with a position at his father-in-law's savings and loan, Abilene Savings Association, later to become United Savings. Though Sonny majored in debate and journalism at McMurry, he flourished in the savings and loan business, assuming the role of president and chairman of the board in 1960.

Always proud to represent Abilene and the Big Country, Sonny was involved in civic activities for many years. He served on the Military Affairs Committee, and was influential in passing legislation to begin the base housing project at Dyess AFB. He served as president of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, the United Way and the Abilene Country Club. He was recipient of the Outstanding Citizen's Award given by the Chamber of Commerce in 1964. He served on the board of directors of McMurry University and was honored as the first recipient of the J. W. Hunt Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1971.

Bentley was a leader in financial groups locally and nationally. He served as president of Abilene Savings, Southwestern Financial Group, United Savings Association and Sandia Federal Savings and Loan Association. He was director of Kaneb Pipeline Partners, board chairman of United Financial Mortgage Co. and

United Financial Group, and director of Kaneb Services Inc. and Investors Mortgage Company. He served as president of both the Texas and the National Savings & Loan Leagues from 1970-1971. Sonny served on the advisory boards for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac during those years as well. He was chairman of the Board of Thrift Holding Companies, 1985-1987, and was proud to start a family partnership, CELS Oil and Minerals, in 2006. He was a member of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, where he and Dodie married, and was pleased to gift a donation to provide for the church's bell tower.

Sonny was a great orator and story teller, known to family and friends for his many "shaggy dog" stories. He remained close to many friends in Abilene, Dallas and around the state, flying his plane or driving to visit throughout his life. Sonny is described as a best friend and mentor, enthusiastic travel companion and formidable domino opponent. He enjoyed years of weekly domino games with Evelyn and Syd Niblo and Charles Scarborough. Sonny's greatest joy was spending time with, and being entertained by, his four granddaughters.

Bentley was preceded in death by his wife, Dodie, sons: Jim Gill and Perry; sister, Kitty Fitzhugh, and cousins: T.A. White and Patsy Faye Farley. He is survived by his daughter, Kitty Thomas; daughter-in-law, Becky Zerger; granddaughters: Sydney Thomas, Laurel, Emma and Claire Bentley; nephews: Jerry and Johnny Fitzhugh; niece, Diane Henry; and her sons: Justin, Jordan and Graham Henry.

Frances Marie Church Bryant

Frances Marie Church Bryant '36 of Kerrville, Texas, died December 30, 2010. Born October 17, 1915 in Merkel, Texas, Frances Bryant is survived by her devoted husband of 71 years, Rev. H. Noel Bryant; three children and their spouses: Sylvia and Dan Ostos, Darlyne and

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Steve Bryant, Karen and Stan Bryant; five grandchildren: Brent Ostos, Stephanie Mitchell, Michael Ostos, Tamara Beam, Jennifer Bryant; and eight great-grandchildren: Tatum Ostos, Meredith Ostos, Ellie Mitchell, Sean Michael Mitchell, Evaline Mitchell, Danielle Ostos, Isabelle Ostos, and Dylan Ostos; and two nieces.

A graduate of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, she taught in Merkel and Borger schools in the 1930s and 1940s. After her marriage in 1939, she assisted her husband's ministry in several Texas Methodist churches. In 1954, she and her family moved to Dallas where her husband served at the Oak Cliff United Methodist Church. In addition to helping her husband's ministry at churches in Denton and Sherman, she also worked in administrative positions in the North Texas Methodist Conference and Sherman District. After retirement in 1984, she continued to work as a substitute teacher in the Dallas Public Schools.

She had numerous interests, including working with ceramics, growing houseplants, and keeping up with family and friends to whom she was known as "Mother B." She was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Women holding numerous positions. She was also an active member of the Fellowship Class at University Park Methodist Church.

Rev. Homer Noel Bryant

Rev. Homer Noel Bryant '36 of Kerrville, Texas, died January 3, 2011. Born on September 26, 1913 in Hereford, Texas, he is survived by three children: Sylvia and Dan Ostos, Darlyne and Steve Bryant, Karen and Stan Bryant; five grandchildren: Brent Ostos, Stephanie Mitchell, Michael Ostos, Tamara Beam, Jennifer Bryant; and eight great-grandchildren: Tatum Ostos, Meredith Ostos, Ellie Mitchell, Sean Michael Mitchell, Evaline Mitchell, Danielle Ostos, Isabelle Ostos, and Dylan Ostos; and numerous other relatives. He was preceded in death by

his devoted wife of 71 years, Frances Marie on December 30, 2010.

A graduate of McMurry University and Perkins School of Theology at SMU, he started his ministry of 47 years in the United Methodist Church in 1937 in the Northwest Texas Conference and was appointed to serve in several churches there, including ones in Lamesa, Ralls, Wellington, and Borger. In Borger, he led the building of a new church sanctuary for First Methodist Church in the early 1950s. In 1954, he moved to the Oak Cliff United Methodist Church in Dallas and remained a long-time resident of the Dallas area, serving as a minister and District Superintendent in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. As a minister, he was appointed to churches in Dallas, Denton, and Sherman; served as District Superintendent in Wichita Falls; and was Director of the North Texas Conference Council. He completed his ministry in 1984 as District Superintendent in Sherman.

During his retirement, he taught the Fellowship Class at University Park United Methodist Church and served twice on the faculty of the Intern Program at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. He was a member of Rotary International and served as President of the Denton Rotary Club in 1963-64.

Dr. E. Bruce Parks

Rev. Erwin Bruce Parks passed away January 7, 2011, after a lengthy illness. Bruce was born August 4, 1923, in Baylor County Texas to Frazier and Mattie (Todd) Parks. Upon graduation from Seymour High School in 1941, he enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific as a Signalman and later as Pharmacist's Mate First Class. During two tours of duty, he served from Midway to the Aleutians, from New Guinea to Guadalcanal and Okinawa to Tokyo Bay.

Honorably discharged in 1946, Bruce enrolled in

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McMurry College, where he met and married the love of his life, Mary Burke, in 1948. After graduating, he entered Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology where he earned a Masters of Divinity in 1953. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by McMurry in 1985.

Bruce served 55 years as a United Methodist pastor throughout Northwest Texas, including Kelton, Vernon, Vega, Baird, Lorenzo, Slaton, Denver City, Tulia, Dumas and Spur. For six years he served as Superintendent of the Plainview District for the Conference. After retirement, he served as interim pastor for congregations across West Texas. Bruce worked in or directed many summer church camps at his beloved Ceta Canyon. He also led singing for countless revivals and special events and was always involved in the community through civic organizations, Boy Scouts, and organizing or participating in dozens of hundred-mile bike-a-thons for worthy causes.

Bruce began a physical fitness regimen in 1964 that he maintained until his final illness, inspiring others to their own fitness success.

Dr. Parks is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Burke Parks; his children: Melanie Parks Beachy (Kate), Greg Parks (Elizabeth) and Ruth Parks Zeeck (Michael); grandchildren: Michael Beachy, Andrew Beachy (Brittany), O. Brian Parks (Amy), Brandee Parks Kwon (Phill) and Van Jones; sister, Joanne Hill; and brother, Jimmy Parks (Elsie).

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Argus Parks. ■



FIRST ALUMNI WAR HAWK GATHERING

In March, a group of DFW alumni met to celebrate McMurry's new mascot. The meeting was called a "Feather Your Nest" get together. Participants had much fun wondering what the War Hawk would look like on April 9 and decided that they could all do "THE CLAW" to support our teams. From left to right, back to front are: Pamela Walker, Linda Akers, Paige Nalley, Barbara Whorton-Farley, Tina Sharpling, Marina Gomez, Carla Davis Woolley, Jean Rider, Paul Rider, Leslie Gomez, and Justo Gomez

FOR OUR FUTURE WAR HAWKS

There are seven hawk eyes and beaks hidden throughout this issue of the *Chieftain*. Can you find them all?

