

# Rising Stars

These young alumni are already  
*Shaping the Future*



FALL 2008

chieftain

**McMURRY**  
UNIVERSITY

THE MCMURRY UNIVERSITY  
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *Dear McMurry Alumni and Friends:*

McMurry is blessed with a rich tradition of graduates who have gone on to personal and professional success and who have traveled down a variety of paths on their journeys to success. And while we all understand that we are “under construction” throughout our lives, many of our more mature alumni have moved to the point in their lives where “finishing touches” are being applied to their well-developed portfolios.

We are continuously inspired by these individuals. They provide a real-world perspective of what it means to apply the lessons of their McMurry Experiences. They inspire us with long records of demonstrated leadership within their communities – their businesses, their schools, their churches and their homes. In short, they’ve been there...done that...have the T-shirt... and wear it well!

This issue of the *Chieftain* proudly provides you an early look at some folks we’ll be talking about in the years to come. And yet they are young alumni who would admit to you that they are “under construction.” Like those who have gone before them, their profiles provide

real-world looks at the impact a McMurry Experience has had on their personal and professional lives. The snapshot you’ll see is one that has clearly been shaped



by these graduates’ stay on the McMurry campus, and the faculty, staff and classmates with whom they shared that experience.

Take a look at this most diverse group of McMurry alumni – diverse in their journeys to McMurry and most divergent in the paths they’ve traveled after graduation. And study carefully the common threads of their experiences... concerned and caring faculty members who energized them to achieve their dreams; coaches who shaped their perspectives of team work, loyalty and self-discipline; and warm and continuing connections with classmates who formed their most valuable support groups.

Please enjoy reading about some young alumni – leaders in their communities – their

businesses, their schools, their churches and their homes...leaders and rising stars of today...and in the years to come.

With Warm Regards,

John H. Russell, President

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**Record Enrollment**

McMurry University is enjoying its largest total enrollment since 1988 and a record number of new students for the Fall 2008 semester. McMurry opens the academic year this fall with an enrollment of 1522 total students, up from 1466 last year, a 4.1% increase and the largest enrollment in recent history.

**Magnet School**

McMurry and the Abilene Independent School District unveiled the 5th Grade Math/Science Magnet classroom August 19. The classroom consists of 22 fifth grade students who will be taught the regular fifth-grade curriculum required by the state of Texas, with an emphasis on math and science.

**DNA Sequencer**

McMurry has received a grant from LI-COR Biosciences to help purchase a DNA sequencer, possibly the first of its kind in Abilene. The \$102,000 instrument is a workhorse in biotechnology, with applications in genetics, molecular biology, medical research and much more. The instrument will be a cornerstone for the new Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science.





# McMurry's New Generation of Rising Stars

They're young...they're talented...  
and they're *shaping the future!*

Samuel Ullman was an American businessman, poet and humanitarian who died in 1924. He is best known for the poem entitled *Youth*, which was a favorite of General Douglas McArthur. The poem speaks of youth, not in the context of age but in the quality of one's existence and a capacity for excellence. It begins:

Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind,  
it is a temper of the will,  
a quality of the imagination,  
a vigor of the emotions,  
a predominance of courage over timidity,  
of the appetite for adventure over love of ease.

This implies that any person at any age can possess an internal “fountain of youth” that springs from constantly reviewing, reassessing and renewing one's outlooks, goals and perceptions of the world and our place in it. “Youth” in this description is the most productive stage in one's life. Likewise, as we age, we tend to become more cynical, more preoccupied with daily pressures and the monotony of routine, and in general, we have less physical energy to turn our great ideas into realities. When this occurs, our “fountain” may be reduced to a “trickle.”

Young people, and more specific to the context of this *Chieftain*, young alumni of McMurry University, do possess the physical

IMAGINE



## McMurry was an incubator for them to channel their ideas and refine their creativity, a testing and resting place for them to mature...

energy to turn great ideas into realities, as well as the knowledge and educational credentials to impact the world of medicine, law, technology and business. Do all achieve the same levels of success in their chosen careers? Certainly not, but we are constantly made aware of young alumni who have made extraordinary accomplishments. Through this issue of the *Chieftain*, you will meet some of them.

What are the keys to their success? According to the Center for Generational Studies, our young alumni fall into the generational category of individuals born between 1981 and 1994. Also known as “Generation Y” or “Millennials,” they are by nature optimistic, entrepreneurial and creative; they have a positive outlook and are a forward thinking generation. And despite what some Baby Boomers may think, they respect opinions of older generations and respond well to mentoring from older individuals. An award-winning author and motivational speaker from Austin, Texas, named Jason Dorsey, was eighteen years old when he wrote his first book and developed a career preparation curriculum for high school students. Now age 30, he refers often in his books and his speeches to various mentors who were influential to his success: “If anyone has made the most positive difference in my life, it has been my mentors. Consistently, their encouragement, guidance and wisdom have kept me on the path to achieving my goals.”

In reading the following pages about successful young alumni, you will see a common strand that links all of them. McMurry was an incubator for them to channel their ideas and refine their creativity, a testing and resting place for them to mature under the nurturing guidance of caring mentors in the form of professors, coaches, campus ministers and administrative staff.

Here is a sampling of their comments about these individuals:

*“My professors shared one-on-one time listening...”*  
*“The faculty and staff...served with such kindness and genuine concern...”*  
*“There were so many people who encouraged me.”*  
*“I must now give my patients the same gift my professors gave me—personal attention.”*  
*“[My professor] was always concerned for my well-being and I knew she cared about me as a person.”*  
*“He always told me to do the right thing, but more importantly, he taught me that by his example.”*  
*“[My coaches] taught me guiding principles for my future life.”*

Throughout each story, you will see names of individuals who shaped the lives of these young alumni through belief in their abilities and through a commitment to helping them discover and refine their talents. These mentors encouraged, nurtured and gave of themselves selflessly, and our *Rising Stars* directly attribute much of their success to those caring individuals. The productive traits of youth that Ullman refers to are shared by caring mentors, along with their experiential wisdom, through the mentorship process. Talented young servant leaders, such as our *Rising Stars*, infuse their own dreams and goals, and then utilize their talents and energies to positively impact future generations through new discoveries and improved methodologies.

An institution of higher learning is only as successful as its graduates’ contributions, and its graduates are only as successful as the quality of the educational, spiritual and interpersonal experiences they receive during their college careers. McMurry University is proud of the contributions of these young *Rising Stars* and many more like them, and we are proud of the impact that this University and its people have made in their lives. ■

# Shaping a Melody of Hope for the Future

## Burgundy Road

*(Phillip Cole ex '02, Cody Brotherton '05, Nik Shehu '04, Jason Bray '07, Trey Glaspie '07)*

The popular Christian praise and rock band, Burgundy Road, has a lot of maroon connections. All five of the band members are McMurry University graduates who are vocal about their appreciation to the McMurry family who helped them develop the gifts and talents they gained here to minister to youth and adults today. The band plays both original music and familiar worship songs and currently has a new album out with all original tunes.

The band started when Phillip Cole and two other students, Deb Smith and Tyson Alexander, began playing for a McMurry Bible study called Prayer and Praise. Burgundy Road has come a long way from three McMurry students who “would have made God cover His ears,” said lead singer Phillip Cole with a laugh. Cody Brotherton (bass) and Nik Shehu (rhythm guitar) joined the band the next year. Drummer Jason Bray joined the group the following year, and they met Trey Glaspie (lead guitar) at McMurry while doing a benefit concert 3 ½ years ago. They have been performing together for more than five years now.

Originally called Yesterday's Tomorrow, the group discovered there was another band by that name. The name Burgundy Road developed from a sermon Phillip heard at Aldersgate United Methodist Church regarding Jesus' road to Calvary and how “our lives will have suffering, sacrifice and servanthood, as well as blessing

and joy. So the name of the band is a metaphor for the Road to Calvary.”

The band continued to learn and develop as they played in Texas Youth Commission facilities across the state over the next three years. Talent and perseverance led to opportunity. “Things started happening without us necessarily asking for it or even wanting it,” said Phillip. “God started having plans for us, and we told Him we would go where He wanted.” The five members of Burgundy Road lead worship at River Valley Christian Fellowship in Bastrop and all hold the position of worship leader. Phillip expressed the band's commitment to their church by stating, “We are committed to leading worship at that church. Even if we have been performing late on Saturday, wherever we are, we will drive in for church on Sunday.”

Burgundy Road also travels fulltime as a worship and concert band at summer camps and youth events such as Disciple Now. “It's really busy,” said Phillip. “The band likes to perform at Christian camps because we have time to invest in the kids and get to know them better.” The band's popularity may have something to do with their work ethic and their obvious love for the youth they work with. Phillip shared the following experience: “In our last camp, a mission camp called Mission Serve in the South Oak Cliff neighborhood in Dallas, we woke up at 6:00 a.m. with the kids, had worship at 7:00. Then we went to work from 8 until 4, and then led worship at night. Our band motto for ministering to youth is ‘90 percent offstage, 10 percent on.’ You have to get people to trust you.”

During their tour last summer, the group included a return to McMurry for one of their summer camps. “It was great to be back and see where it all came together,” stated Phillip, and then reflecting back on the band's time at McMurry, he continued, “McMurry was



## McMURRY'S RISING STARS



received from Dr. Philip Craik and Dr. Charlie Hukill in the theatre department. “They were really great to us. They opened up the theatre and allowed us to hold benefit concerts. Also, the McMurry Student Government and Campus Activities Board really supported our idea of ministry.”

Phillip Cole sums up the band's desire for every performance in this way, “Burgundy Road's passion is to be a reflection of Christ, and our ministry is to play music. In doing so, our biggest desire is to lead ourselves in worship and find a place of vulnerability before God, whether in front of 300 people or 1000 people. If we can create vulnerability before Him, then worship happens.” He continues, “Very often, it (Christian music) becomes just another form of entertainment, so we really want to continue to teach vulnerability and reality in worship for a God who wants our best.”

McMurry is proud of the impact of

“Our biggest desire is to lead ourselves in worship and find a place of vulnerability before God, whether in front of 300 people or 1000 people.”

these five young men and the music ministry that was given birth at this university. It is our belief that they were

incredible to us, allowing us to do ministry on campus so freely. If it wasn't for Prayer and Praise, we would not have had the opportunity to become organized as a band and learn how to do worship.”

They expressed appreciation to former McMurry Chaplain, Jim Wingert, for his encouragement. “We really love that guy. He would have us over for dinner and lunch a lot,” said Phillip. “He really supported what we did as part of McMurry's student ministry.” Phillip also remembers the tremendous support the band

destined to meet here for the accomplishment of a grand plan, and their obedience to their call to ministry will lead a new generation of Christian servants to this place to prepare them for unique fields of ministry. Shaping and molding Christian leaders to impact future generations for Christian service—this has been our heritage and will continue to be vital to our mission for the future. ■

# Shaping a Safe and Healthy Future

## Dr. Arturo Felix “Happy” E. Castro

*1997 Graduate of McMurry University with a B.B.A. in Business Finance*

**Service with a smile!** Whether it is military service or medical service, that is what you get from Happy Castro. Happy was born Arturo Felix E. Castro in 1972 in the Philippines. The name “Felix” means “Happy” in Latin. Whether his christening was prophetic or he just grew to fit the moniker, he was appropriately named.

In 1992, Happy moved with his family to Los Angeles, California. He began his undergraduate work in Business Finance at U.C.L.A. During that time he joined the Air Force and was stationed at Dyess Air Force Base. In Abilene he spent a good deal of his daytime hours serving his country and then spent his “free time” pursuing a bachelor’s degree at McMurry. It was at McMurry that his course would change as he began to take the first steps toward a lifetime of service to mankind in another field—the field of medicine. He graduated from McMurry in 1997 and entered medical school at U.N.T. Health Sciences Center-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth.

During this time, Happy had finished his commitment to the Air Force and joined the Air National Guard. From November 2007

to January 2008, he was called upon to serve as a Flight Surgeon for the 332nd Air Wing, historically known as the “Tuskegee Airmen.” This deployment was in Al Assad, Iraq with the Michigan Air National Guard. “I must say that I am so proud to have served with so many brave and wonderful young men and women, most of whom are still there serving much longer tours than I did and under much more dire circumstances.” Happy added, “I worked in both the clinic and the hospital and was witness to an incredible amount of bravery and honor, furthering my faith in America and our capability to do anything we set our minds to.”

When asked how his experience at McMurry University helped prepare him, a student with a B.B.A. in Business Finance, for medical school, Happy was quick to answer. “Although medicine is a very high tech profession, patients are really only interested in two



“I must say that I am so proud to have served with so many brave and wonderful young men and women.”

things. Number one, they want to know their doctor cares about them and what they are going through. Number two, they want to know, to whatever degree possible, what happens next.” Dr. Castro says that “this is conveyed to the patient through one-on-one

interaction. You must listen to be able to help. My professors at McMurry shared one-on-one time listening to and answering my questions. Now that I am on the other end of the conversation and I am now the doctor, I must give my patients the same gift my professors gave me – personal attention.”

Dr. Castro went on to say, “I

can't tell you the name of a single professor that I had at U.C.L.A. but I can tell you that Dr. Gary Wilson wrote my letter of recommendation for medical school. He didn't ask me to bring my information to his secretary and they would put something together. He told me to come to his office and he asked me questions. He wanted to help me know I was making the right decision. When he wrote my letter, he was able to do it because he had listened to me.” He further emphasized the point by adding, “During my organic chemistry class, I had a question that I could not resolve. I asked the teacher, Dr. McMahan, if he could help me with it. He took me into his office and spent the next two hours answering my questions and working with me personally until I understood. My instructors were never too busy to listen to me, and I want to give that same attention to my patients. That is one of the greatest gifts McMurry gave to me.”

Dr. Castro has fond memories of his time at McMurry. He said that there would often be long periods between classes during which he was unable to return to base. He spent that time making friends and getting to know McMurry. “When I receive my *Chieftain*, it is like getting a letter from my family. I immediately turn to the back and look for my classmates. They were my family while I was in Abilene, and it gives me a good feeling to think of them and of my time spent there.”

At the present time, Dr. “Happy” Castro has one year of residency to complete at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan. He is pursuing subspecialty training in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. He is on course to graduate in 2009. At that time, he hopes to return to Texas to start a practice. McMurry University appreciates his service and is very proud to have Dr. Arturo Felix “Happy” E. Castro in our alumni family. ■



# Shaping a Future of Happy Smiles

## Kay Leigh Younggren

*2002 Graduate of McMurry University with a B.S. in Biochemistry*

Never underestimate the influence of a recommendation from a McMurry graduate. In 1998 Kay Younggren was graduating from High School in Artesia, New Mexico and was looking for the right college “fit.” Artesia is a small town and everyone knows everyone else. Kay said, “I knew several people in the community and a few teachers who had gone to McMurry. They were all fine people and I greatly respected their opinions. I listened when they encouraged me to visit McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. I visited McMurry and found that the small campus and close-knit community of students was just what I was looking for.”

Kay came to McMurry in the fall of 1998 and graduated in the spring of 2002 with a B.S. degree in biochemistry. She went on to Baylor College of Dentistry which is part of the Texas A&M Health Sciences Center. After graduation she returned to Artesia, New Mexico and began her dental practice.

Kay has remained connected to McMurry during the six years since graduating. While at Baylor, she also participated in a Building Advisory Board who made recommendations for the proposed enhancement to the McMurry School of Natural and Computational Sciences program. She is also currently serving on the Alumni Board.

When asked how her “McMurry experience” helped influence and shape the person she has become, she said, “It gave me the foundation to build on.” She applauded the small class size, explaining that within weeks of enrolling at McMurry she really knew her instructors, and they knew her. “My professors found

McMurry graduates in practice locally who I could shadow while I was making my decision about pursuing dentistry. This was very helpful.” Kay was also a member and an officer of Gamma Sigma social club. She believed that the things she learned while in leadership of that organization helped prepare her for the daily career challenges that don’t begin with “Open wide!” Kay said, “Having learned to serve as an officer in Gamma Sigma really helped me to develop my ‘people skills.’ This is so important when it comes to managing a dentist office and the people who operate it.”

Learning to serve is one of the things Kay mastered that has carried over into her personal life. She is active in the Artesia Lions Club, First United Methodist Church and the Emmaus Community. Probably the most insightful thing about Kay’s “non-dentist” activities is what she does with her free time. She volunteers once a month at the detention center to provide oral health care to the inmates. Prior to her volunteer work, there was no service offered. Then every Friday, which happens to be her day off, Kay volunteers at an elementary school, tutoring her mother’s first grade class in math and reading. She also provides oral health education to the kindergarten and first grade classes. It looks like she has come full circle. Instead of being the graduating senior looking for a good college “fit,” Dr. Kay Younggren is perched on a small chair or the floor encouraging a first grader, and displaying the character and qualities that she first recognized in the McMurry graduates she respected

“McMurry gave me a foundation to build on.”

and admired ten years ago when she was making her college decision. Someday when she is asked by a student to make a recommendation of a university that would be a good “fit” for them, Dr. Kay Younggren will have a suggestion, and we are certain they will listen to what she has to say. ■



# Shaping the Wheels of Commerce for Future Prosperity

## **Jorge Montoya**

*1994 Graduate of McMurry University with a B.B.A. in Business Management*

Five thousand miles separate Vitoria, Spain, and Abilene, Texas, but Jorge Montoya found his way to McMurry University and to a career in television. Jorge originally came to the United States from his home in Spain through an international student exchange program. He completed his senior year in high school in Rotan, Texas. “I had a great experience in Rotan. This was only supposed to be a one-year project. My dad probably still regrets letting me go,” said Jorge, smiling.

His student exchange experience was so positive that he began looking for a way to stay and go to college. “I wanted to play basketball, something I was doing in Rotan and all throughout my life, and I chose to go to McMurry.” He adds, “It was a great experience, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.” Jorge played for Coach Hershel Kimbrell his freshman year and then for Coach Ron Holmes, and he credits both men with teaching him guiding principles for his future life. In the academic area, he credits Dr. Gene Williams, Ann Spence and Dr. Phil Egdorf for being his mentors as he prepared for a career. He is especially appreciative of his advisor, Dr. Pat Lapoint, “who helped an 18-year-old foreign student who had just learned the English language. She spent a lot of time with me, and you can’t get that type of attention at big colleges.”

Jorge was active on campus in other areas as well, including serving as treasurer for McMurry Student Government for three years. In addition, he was an active KIVA member, was Key Man for Delta Beta women’s social club and was a member of the Spanish Club. It was at McMurry that he met his future wife, Shannon, who also participated in sports and was active in campus organizations. After graduating in 1994 with a degree in business management, Jorge traveled across town to get his master’s degree in sports management from Hardin-Simmons University.



“Job success isn’t dependent on where your degree comes from, but on the values that you learn there through the college experience. Those values serve you well in the workplace.”

After graduation, Jorge was hired by the local FOX-TV affiliate in sales, and a year later joined the KTXS-TV sales team. According to Jorge, “Everyone kept telling me you have got to have sales experience, so I went into the television business. I really liked it and started moving up. The people at KTXS took notice and I was hired.” From KTXS, Jorge accepted a position as a sales manager in Montana, where he represented four NBC stations. “At the time, it was just Shannon and me, so we considered it an adventure. We were there for four years and loved it.”

But Jorge was destined to return to Abilene. After hearing of a job opening for general manager at KRBC-TV, he made a decision to set a new course for himself and his family. “We were expecting our first son, Logan, at the time and Shannon had family here, so we chose family over beauty [of Montana]

and came back in 2003,” he explained. When KRBC merged with CBS affiliate KTAB in 2004, Jorge returned to KTXS as general sales manager. Because of his past work experience, it proved to be an easy transition. In addition to the ABC affiliate, he also manages The CW Network, the San Angelo ABC affiliate and the Spanish language station KTES-Telemundo.

Regarding his educational experience at McMurry, Jorge states, “When we got out into the business world, even though we were competing against people with degrees from bigger universities, we saw that job success isn’t dependent on where your degree comes from, but on the values that you learn there through the college experience. Those values serve you well in the workplace.”

In addition to their son, Logan, who was born after the family’s return to Abilene, a second son, Finley, was born almost two years ago. According to Jorge, “Abilene has always been a great community. We know a lot of people here and it is a nice place to raise our family.” He adds, “It would take a lot for us to move from here, but you always have to keep your options open.”

In his role as father, Jorge is already planning ahead. He stated, “McMurry was great to Shannon and me, and it’s a great place to get an education. When our kids are ready, we will certainly encourage them to go to McMurry.” The University looks forward to the next generation of Montoya children, who will join other alumni in shaping a bright future, whether in Abilene, Texas or Vitoria, Spain. ■



# Shaping Our Future Leaders

## **JoLisa Hoover**

*1992 Graduate of McMurry with a Degree in Multi-Disciplinary Studies*

When the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, was looking for 25 exceptional teachers throughout the country, she had over 1,000 applications among the nation's finest educators, all hoping to be selected to serve in Teaching Ambassador Fellowship positions with the U.S. Department of Education. By July 2008, after all of the sifting and sorting was complete, Secretary Spellings announced that one of those 25 exceptional educators would be JoLisa Hoover, McMurry graduate of 1992 from Leander, Texas.

According to the Department of Education, the 25 Teaching Ambassador Fellowships are awarded to

the "Classroom Fellows." They will serve their regular teaching contracts with their districts and will be paid to perform additional Fellowship duties for the Department of Education. As practicing classroom teachers, these Fellows will share an important perspective for—and will gain more knowledge about—education policy and program development. They will share their experiences with other Fellows and with the Department of Education at designated times throughout the year. It will allow outstanding teachers, such as Ms. Hoover, an opportunity to contribute to the greater debate about education in America while still performing vital roles in their classrooms and schools.

The selection of JoLisa may have been a surprise for her, but it did not take McMurry University by surprise. Those who have watched her grow as a leader on and off campus have always known she had something special. JoLisa came to McMurry to officially begin the career path that would lead her to the steps of the White House, but that path actually began many years before. Even JoLisa's earliest entrepreneurial endeavor involved children. As a teenager, she established a self-described "baby-sitting empire" and provided childcare services to over 30 families in her hometown. One of those "clients" was McMurry ex '69,

Martha Warren. “If JoLisa couldn’t babysit for us, we simply stayed at home.” Martha and her sister Charlotte Martin ’71, (currently serving as Executive Assistant to the Athletic Director at McMurry) helped encourage JoLisa to consider and eventually enroll at McMurry for her undergraduate studies. While pursuing her degree, she was actively involved in Theta Chi Lambda women’s social club, Chanters, theatre, and was also a preceptor for the pilot program that would later become The Servant Leadership Center of the Southwest.

JoLisa earned her master’s in educational psychology from Texas A&M University. Currently a 4th-grade teacher at Grandview Hills Elementary School in Leander, Texas, she was named the 2005 Houston Regional Winner of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award, Leadership Elementary category. She has spent four summers working with children as a Kid’s Club Wrangler at Wind River Ranch, a Christian family guest ranch in Estes Park, Colorado. She worked as a Sea Camp counselor at Texas A&M in Galveston and has an extensive background working with children’s music ministries. She has done consultant work and presentations for the Bryan, Amarillo, San Marcos and Leander Independent School Districts and the Texas Department of Agriculture. She is also credited for her assistance in Noah McCullough’s book, *The Essential Book of Presidential Trivia*.

When asked what was unique about her McMurry experience, JoLisa said, “There were so many people who encouraged me.” She felt that they went beyond what was expected of them as teachers and helped her grow in all areas of her life and her spiritual walk. There really was a “personal touch” from her instructors that made all the difference. The faculty

and staff at McMurry taught and served with “such kindness and genuine concern” for their students. This uniqueness made a lasting impression on her approach to education and gave McMurry a special place in her heart for the role it has played in her professional development.

She has continued to serve the University through participation on the McMurry Servant Leadership Advisory Council. Since 2005, she has served as the Vice-Chair, Secretary and the Chair of the Council.

Throughout her teaching career, JoLisa has taken the “service with a personal touch” that she received at McMurry and has very successfully applied it to her students. “One thing I have learned during my 16 years of teaching is that the most important lesson you teach is to inspire students to be persons of character and to love learning,” she said. “I teach students that they can either be a ‘lifter,’ someone who makes those around them better, or a ‘leaner,’ someone who drags others down.” The goals of Servant Leadership are clearly displayed in her words and on every line of her resume.

On July 16, 2008, JoLisa Hoover and the other Teacher Fellowship honorees had a private meeting with First Lady Laura Bush and U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Through this Teacher Fellowship, the entire nation is going to learn what McMurry University has known for a long time – McMurry University can put you on the path to anywhere you want to go. Don’t be surprised if it leads you to the White House—just ask JoLisa Hoover! ■

“The most important lesson you teach is to inspire students to be persons of character and to love learning.”

# Shaping Positive Relationships

## **Shana Bristow**

*1992 Graduate of McMurry University with a B.A. in Business*

Even though 15 years separates Shana Norman Bristow from her college days at McMurry, she still draws daily from her college experiences in learning to succeed in the fast-paced world of international corporate public relations. A 1992 McMurry graduate, Bristow currently serves as senior vice president for Fleishman-Hillard International Communications. Her agency work has focused primarily on corporate clients. Though she has worked with many industries, her main focus is on healthcare. She is currently working with an oncology group, and much of her efforts for them focus on cancer prevention and early detection.

Regarding her job responsibilities, Shana states, “I do media relations. When a reporter wants to talk to one of my clients, I help arrange that interview and prepare the spokesperson.” Her duties at Fleishman-Hillard also include making company announcements, suggesting stories to the media to educate them about clients, and conducting internal communications for companies. Shana admits that she wasn’t sure she would like working in an agency because it was so different from previous work experiences, but she realized “there are great opportunities and sometimes you have to weather the learning curves and challenging times to achieve success, and then be able to use the lessons learned to help others.”

Shana’s career journey has convinced her that each career position a person holds helps set the stage



for subsequent job opportunities. “For me, it’s easy to trace my path back to McMurry,” she states. A year after graduating, she spent five years in various capacities at McMurry. That experience helped her land a job at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in Washington, D.C. She explains, “The combination of these two experiences positioned me well for my current position.”

Shana credits her college experience as an important factor in her career success, stating that “going to a small university gave me the opportunity to hold leadership positions in a variety of organizations. That hands-on experience working with diverse personalities and learning the fine art of multi-tasking has proved invaluable.” Her multi-tasking skills are also valuable as she balances work and family. She explains, “Like every



“Sometimes you have to weather the learning curves and challenging times to achieve success and then be able to use the lessons learned to help others.”

working mother, I strive to achieve balance in my life. I couldn't have achieved everything I have professionally without another McMurry graduate, my husband, supporting me at every turn.”

McMurry's core values remain a focal point for Shana in both her professional and personal life. "McMurry's core values hang on my office wall as a reminder that they are universally good tenants to follow," said Bristow. She continues to explain that "some of the most rewarding aspects of my job closely align with McMurry's core values. For example, I have an opportunity to mentor junior staff members, especially those on the team I lead."

Bristow is proud of her McMurry education and says it gave her the tools she needed to succeed. "I work with people all over the country who hail from public

relations and journalism powerhouses like the University of Texas and University of Missouri Journalism School," she explains, "but I found the fundamentals of a liberal arts education helped me hold my own and gave me the well-roundedness to tackle any project that came along."

Shana demonstrates her appreciation to her alma mater and is giving back through her membership on the McMurry University Alumni Board of Directors. In addition, she and her husband, Steven, a 1992 McMurry graduate, also serve as members of the Servant Leadership Center of the Southwest Advisory Board. Shana is truly a rising star destined to make a positive impact through her profession, her family and her commitment to shaping the future of new generations of McMurry graduates. ■

# Shaping the Legal Profession

## Ogonna Merritt

*2000 Graduate of McMurry with a Degree in English and Communication*

During her time at McMurry as a member of the women's basketball team, Ogonna Merritt spent many long hours on a bus. In order to keep up with her academic work, she often spent those long trips studying and writing papers. Little did she know that she would learn a valuable lesson that she utilizes to this day. She explains, "Because of the travel involved, it taught me how to manage my time. That is important in my job now because no matter how much I travel, I know how to properly schedule my time." Instead of a bus, Ogonna now spends much of her time on an airplane traveling the country as an attorney for a national firm. She is an advocate for individuals filing for Social Security Disability claims. While the mode of transportation has changed, Ogonna still utilizes her travel time to prepare for many cases at one time.

Ogonna excelled both in the classroom and on the basketball court during her time on campus. She was a two-time All Conference Selection and was named the American Southwest Conference Athlete of the Year in 2000. Ogonna was also selected to the Academic All Conference Team in 2000. She received national recognition during her time at McMurry when she was named the Arthur Ashe Jr. All American Sports Scholar, which honors African American student athletes who maintain a



"I believe that your experience at a smaller school is a more realistic preparation for the one-on-one situations you will face in the workplace."

3.2 cumulative GPA or better and are active on their campuses and in their communities. As a double major in English and Communications, Ogonna credits former McMurry English Professor Dr. Charles Etheridge as being an influential faculty member during her time as a student at McMurry. According to Ogonna, "He was always encouraging in the classroom,

and while he was supportive of me being a student-athlete, he never allowed that to be an excuse for not being prepared for class." She also believes that her education has prepared her well for her career as an attorney. "Being an English major taught me to carefully analyze texts and be deliberate about the material I was reading. That skill has served me well in the legal profession."

After graduating from McMurry in 2000, Ogonna worked for a year before attending Law School at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. While attending Texas Southern, she recognized another important lesson from McMurry. "Because McMurry is a small school, it places you in situations where you communicate on a more personal basis." She shared that rather than being a "number" at a large school, McMurry's size gave her the opportunity to acquire better communication skills that she now utilizes on a day-to-day basis. "I believe that your experience at

a smaller school is a more realistic preparation for the one-on-one situations you will face in the workplace.”

After law school, Ogonna spent a year doing contract work before joining her current firm. Ogonna now works in assisting clients whose initial claims for Social Security Disability have been denied. “It’s rewarding for me because I enjoy using my legal expertise to help people who really need my help. Many times I know that their well-being is dependent upon the assistance I can give them in helping grant their claim.” Because of the nature of the type of law she practices, Ogonna estimates that she appears in court an average of 25 times a month.

Despite the hectic nature of her schedule, Ogonna keeps it all in perspective. She states, “For me it is about the clients that I am trying to help; sometimes I wish I could do more to help them.” At McMurry, her drive and desire to excel pushed her to achieve great success on the basketball court. Now she is pushing to excel in another “court” but is using that same determination to achieve more in her professional career. If her past performance is any indication of her future achievements, her clients couldn’t be in better hands. ■

# Shaping the Voice of Broadcasting

## George Levesque

*1996 Graduate of McMurry University with a Degree in Theatre*

To many people, the thought of talking to thousands of people every day as a news anchor is a terrifying thought, but to George Levesque '96, it is something that comes very naturally. “As a theatre major at McMurry, being an anchor satisfies the ‘performance part’ of what I do. I get to have a voice, and I feel very grateful that I do.” George is the anchor for the number one rated 5:00 p.m. news show in Abilene, “KTXS Live at Five,” and he also serves as the News Director for the Abilene ABC affiliate.

George has always felt comfortable in the public eye. As a theatre major at McMurry, George starred in



many campus productions. But he credits McMurry theatre professor, Charlie Hukill, for always mentoring him in a positive way. “He taught me the most by being tough on me.” In particular, George recalls a specific meeting after enjoying a very successful freshman year at McMurry. “I thought I was at the top of my game. I had been cast in leads and had a few good reviews

written about me in the paper. Charlie brought me back down to earth. He told me my attitude had made me a sloppy actor. He also said that until I refocused on my craft, I wouldn't be cast in any lead roles by him. It worked! I buckled down and worked harder than ever. I earned his respect, and became a better actor and a better person for it." To this day, Charlie remains a mentor to George and they meet for lunch every week.

Much of what he learned at McMurry has influenced George in his current position. As a "West Texas boy" from Colorado City, he states, "My communications courses taught me to lose my West Texas accent." In addition, George still relies on what he learned as a political science minor to help him advise political reporters at KTXS in their assignments. George also credits McMurry professor, Dr. Philip Craik, for convincing George to consider a career in television news. "He was my advisor and the person who convinced me that television news would be a good career for me. He suggested that my love of news and my interest in politics might make anchoring a good career choice."

Looking back on his McMurry experience, George states that he "loved McMurry." That was evident

by his involvement in many activities. In addition to his involvement in theatre, George was active in Chanters and HEI men's social club and was the Sweetheart for Gamma Sigma women's social club. When asked if he has any advice for current students, George simply

"I earned his respect, and became a better actor and a better person for it.

admonishes them to "soak in the experience. I know that all those activities I was involved in gave me skills that led me to where I am today." He also encourages students and alumni of McMurry to stay involved. Despite his busy schedule, George and his wife, Sydney, stay involved with McMurry. In addition to attending theatre productions, they attend almost every home basketball game. Incidentally, if you ever attend a McMurry basketball game at Kimbrell Arena, the voice of the public address announcer is none other than George Levesque. ■

# Shaping the Future of Technology

## **Cornell Watts**

*1996 Graduate of McMurry University with a Degree in Computer Informations Systems*

Before enrolling at McMurry in the fall of 1992, Cornell "Lamont" Watts never traveled too far from his hometown of Alvin, Texas. He shared that "before being recruited by McMurry to play football, I didn't even know where



## "The faculty cares about you and they want to give you every opportunity to be successful."

Abilene was. But I am glad I went; it exposed me to many opportunities and opened many doors."

Currently working as a Senior Implementation Project Manager for Dell, Cornell is responsible for all service implementations for the Austin-based company. As a business major specializing in computer information systems, Cornell has effectively utilized his degree. After graduating from McMurry in 1996, Cornell received his master's of business administration at Texas Southern University. From there, he went to work for several companies specializing in computer information systems, including a stint working for the federal government managing the information systems for the Defense Logistics Agency in Washington D.C. He joined Dell in 2006 and moved back to Houston in September 2007 to manage various implementation projects for Dell across the country.

When asked what characteristics of his job he likes the most, he responds, "I enjoy working with technology and providing that technological expertise to people and companies who can benefit from our services."

Cornell attributes his success in the business world to his academic experience at McMurry. He credits faculty and staff members like McMurry's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Beverly Lenoir: "Dr. Lenoir had a very caring demeanor about her; she was always concerned for my well-being and I knew she cared about me as a person." Cornell is appreciative of the quality of education he received at McMurry. He recalls visiting with a friend who went to Harvard. "I discovered that I was exposed to all the educational opportunities that she was, and the education I received was comparable to hers."

While excelling in the classroom, Cornell also became extremely involved with the extracurricular activities at McMurry. In addition to playing football all four years he was at McMurry, Cornell sang in Chanters and was a member of KIVA men's social club. His leadership abilities also became evident as he served in Indian Insight and in the McMurry Student Government.

In addition to receiving an outstanding education, Cornell points out what makes McMurry unique: "The faculty cares enough about you that they want to see you succeed and give you every opportunity to be successful." He fondly remembers the influence of former McMurry Athletic Trainer, the late William "Doc" Hadley. "Doc was the wisdom of McMurry," he says. "He was able to transcend many different barriers and was able to relate to all of the students he came in contact with." Not only was Cornell influenced by Doc's words of wisdom, he was influenced by his actions. He shares, "He always told me to do the right thing, but more importantly, he taught me that by his example."

"Doing the right thing" is an attribute that Cornell demonstrates daily as he gives back to his community. In addition to his success in the business world, Cornell manages his own real estate development business. "Growing up, my family did not own their own home, so I want to try to give people that opportunity." Cornell's ventures include developing neighborhoods throughout the Greater Houston area that provide what Cornell describes as "affordable luxury." He sums up his personal mission statement by concluding, "In all I do, I try to be about helping people." McMurry is proud of our many graduates like Cornell Watts who prove that "good guys can finish first." ■

## ATHLETICS UPDATE

# McMurry's Most Successful Year in its NCAA History

The 2007-08 athletic year proved to be the most successful in McMurry's NCAA history as the school finished 41st in the United States Sports Academy Directors' Cup standings.

The No. 41 ranking is not only the highest in McMurry history; it is also the highest for any American Southwest Conference school in the 2007-08 athletic year. Only Trinity, who finished 13th overall, was a higher-

ranked Division III Texas school.

The Directors' Cup, in its 13th year, honors all sports champions in the NCAA Divisions I, II and III and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Points are awarded for postseason appearances (beyond conference tournaments), with more points awarded the further a school advances.

### THE SPRING IN REVIEW

**Women's Golf** The 2008 spring season was a great one for the McMurry women's golf team as McMurry won its first ever American Southwest Conference Championship in April, and then finished 15th at the NCAA Division III Golf Championships in Waverly, Iowa, in May. This was McMurry's third appearance in the national tournament as a team since the school joined the NCAA in 1996. The National Golf Coaches Association honored McMurry head coach Russ Evans as West Region Coach of the Year. Barbara John received all-West Region honors.

**Men's Golf** The McMurry men's golf team finished fifth at the American Southwest Conference Golf Championship in April, with Aaron Garza being honored as a second-team all-conference selection by virtue of his 10th place finish at the conference championship. Garza also won the individual portion of the West Region Invitational in early April as he led McMurry to a fifth place showing as a team. For his stellar play at the West Region Invitational, Garza was named the ASC Golfer of the Week.

**Tennis** The McMurry tennis program had perhaps its most successful season in the spring of 2008 as the season ended with two women, four men and head coach Mark Hathorn earning awards

from the American Southwest Conference. The men's team made its first-ever postseason appearance in the ASC Championships, while the women made their second consecutive playoff appearance.

On the men's side, head coach Mark Hathorn was named ASC West Division Coach of the Year after leading the McMurry men to a 6-1 record in league play and a 12-7 overall record. Bryan Rainwater and Will Davis were each named to the first team all-ASC West Division and Daniel Olivares was a second team selection. Also, freshman Tony Williams was named the ASC West Division Freshman of the Year.

On the women's side, Kristin Bray was a first team all-conference selection and Amy Torti was a second team selection.

**Baseball** In Lee Driggers' last season with McMurry, the McMurry baseball team won its fourth American Southwest Conference Baseball Championship in program history and hosted the Division III West Region Baseball Championship, where its season ended. Senior third baseman Derek David ended his collegiate career with a bang as he hit an American Southwest Conference record 26 home runs. David also posted school and conference records with 79 runs, 86 hits, 73 RBI and 175 total bases. For his amazing year, David won three Division III Player of the Year awards (National



*Aaron Garza*

For the full athletics update, please visit us on the web at <http://athletics.mcm.edu>.

## ATHLETICS UPDATE

Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, American Baseball Coaches Association and D3Baseball.com). Brent Voorhes also received national recognition as he was selected as a second team academic all-American by *ESPN The Magazine* and the College Sports Information Directors of America. Driggers was selected as ASC West Division tri-coach of the year, and nine players were ASC all-conference selections, including four on the first team. After Driggers resigned in August, longtime McMurry assistant coach, John Byington, was announced as his successor.



**2008 National Outdoor Men's Track and Field Champions**

**Track** The McMurry men's track and field team won the school's first-ever team national championship in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in May; meanwhile, the women also had a solid showing at the national meet as they finished in sixth place. Before the national meet, the men won their 10th-straight ASC title and the women won their third-straight and ninth in the past 10 years.

### FALL PREVIEWS

**Football** Now in his second year at the helm of the McMurry football team, head coach Donny Gray and his staff hit the recruiting trail hard in the offseason as they brought in over 150 players to training camp in August. Defense might be the key for McMurry as eight of 11 defensive starters return, including four all-conference selections in free safety: Trey Brown and linebackers Joe Alexander, Gene Vogelmann and Andrew Wallace. McMurry opened its season September 6th against perennial Division III power, Trinity University.

**Volleyball** A familiar face has returned to coach the McMurry volleyball team as Cammie Petree is once again leading the McMurry volleyball program. Petree, already the winningest coach in program history with 191 wins, returns to the program after a two-year hiatus and takes over a team that returns many key cogs from last year's squad that went 19-10 and advanced to the semi-final round of the ASC postseason tournament. The stellar set of juniors return this year, including middle blocker Terah Brown, who was last season's ASC West Division Co-Player of the Year, as well as ASC West Division Newcomer of the Year; outside hitter Danielle Kelton, who was a second team all-ASC West Division selection last year; and setter Shannon Higgins, who was an all-ASC West Division honorable mention last year.

**Soccer** Both the McMurry men's and women's teams are looking forward to hitting the field for the 2008 campaign. On the men's side, second-year coach Tim Grove added 12 new players to his squad and also returns all-conference performers Humberto Sepulveda, Nathan Perschke and Chris Crawford. On the women's side, second-year McMurry coach Stan Levrets had his first true offseason in which he was able to add 11 new players to his team. He plans on fielding 16 women this year, as opposed to just 12 players that he had on last year's squad.

**Cross Country** The McMurry cross country teams, under the direction of David Chandler, are prepping for another solid showing in 2008. Last year, both teams finished second at the American Southwest Conference Championships before the men finished 10th and the women finished 14th at the regional meet in Newport News, Virginia. The men's team returns Ken Wheeler and Brad Mullens, who last year became the first runners in school history to earn all-region honors in their first two seasons. The women have a young but very talented squad that should contend for the conference title. McMurry will host the Texas Division III Championships September 27 at the Abilene State Park in Buffalo Gap. ■

# ATHLETICS UPDATE

## Rowland Selected as 2008 Inductee into College Football Hall of Fame

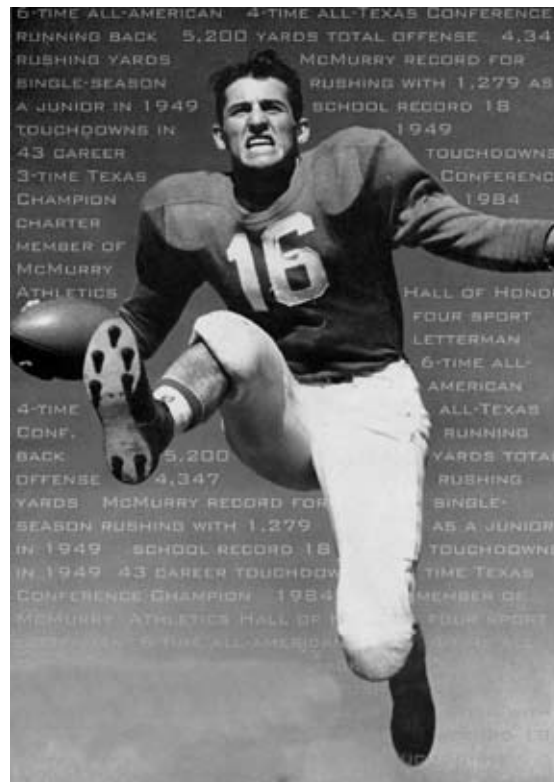
McMurry's all-time leading rusher, Brad Rowland, was recently inducted into the 2008 College Football Hall of Fame. Archie Manning, the chairman of The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame announced the Divisional Hall of Fame Class, which considers players and coaches from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA), Division II, III and the NAIA for induction.

Rowland played his final season for McMurry in 1950; however, his 4,347 rushing yards still stands as McMurry's career record 58 years later. The Hamlin native led the Texas Conference in rushing all four seasons and helped McMurry to three consecutive conference titles from 1947 to 1949.

He still holds the single-season rushing record for a 10-game season at McMurry after running for 1,279 yards his junior year. That same season he scored 18 touchdowns and his 108 points is a single-season school record. He also holds the career record for career points with 258 equaling 43 touchdowns in four seasons.

Rowland was all-conference all four seasons and was recognized for his academic success when he was named Who's Who Among American College and University Students. He went on to a one-year career with the Chicago Bears in the National Football League before

serving two years in the U.S. Army. He later worked in agribusiness for 40 years. He was recognized as the first small-college player to start in the East-West Shrine Game following his senior season.



Rowland was one of twenty inductees in this year's class. Joining him were such well-known football legends as Doug Flutie (quarterback, Boston College, 1981-84 and former Heisman Trophy winner), Joe Paterno (head coach, Penn State, 1966-present) and Ahmad Rashad (running back, Oregon, 1969-71).

This year's class was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame during the Enshrinement Festival, July 18-19, in South Bend, Indiana.

"The NFF prides itself on honoring the very best in college football history," said Manning. "This year's divisional class is no exception, and it's our duty to reward them for their outstanding accomplishments on the gridiron,

earning them a spot among the greatest to ever play or coach our sport."

The criteria for induction includes being named a first team all-American, being 10 years removed from intercollegiate football, and community contributions among other qualities.

Rowland was a six-time all-America selection while at McMurry and was a charter member of the McMurry Athletics Hall of Honor in 1984. ■

Join the other McMurry alumni soon at  
McMurry Nation! [nation.mcm.edu](http://nation.mcm.edu)

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since returning to McMurry three years ago, it has been my goal in the Office of Alumni Relations to connect, engage and involve all McMurry alumni with our institution. In many ways we have made strides in reaching that goal—participation at Homecoming and other alumni gatherings has increased. A growing sense of pride among our alumni is demonstrated by an increase in the percentage of alumni contributing to McMurry University. Now I am excited to announce a new initiative that I believe will be a transforming benefit to all of our alumni...*McMurry Nation*.

*McMurry Nation* is our new alumni online community and website that will allow you to stay connected with McMurry and each other. This new site will connect, engage and involve you with McMurry and with fellow alumni and friends of the University. *McMurry Nation* will be the place on the web for all alumni to gather to receive current news from the University, register for upcoming events and connect with other alumni. There are many exciting aspects of *McMurry Nation* that will benefit you.

*McMurry Nation* will provide us a way to effectively and consistently provide you, our alumni, with updated news from the University. This new community will give us the capability of easily communicating with you on a consistent basis through e-newsletters. In addition, you will be able to select the news you would like to receive from the department(s) of the University you are most interested in. For example, if you were a music major and were in band, you can choose to always receive updates and news about the band program.

*McMurry Nation* will also inform you of upcoming



University events and alumni gatherings that you will be able to register for online. This will provide an added benefit of convenience and ease in engaging with McMurry. In addition, pictures and recaps of those events will be posted on our site for all alumni to view and enjoy.

What if you had the ability to connect with other McMurry alumni throughout the country? There is now a way...*McMurry Nation*. The most exciting aspect of McMurry Nation is the ability it will give you to connect and network with other McMurry alumni. You will be able to search for other members of the community and connect with those classmates you have not communicated with in years. In addition, through the “Profile” section of *McMurry Nation* you will be able to post information, including pictures, that will keep others informed about you. *McMurry Nation* will offer you many of the same benefits that other social networking sites offer, and if you currently use sites like Facebook, you will easily be able to interact with such sites.

It is now time to show your pride in McMurry by joining *McMurry Nation*. When we launch *McMurry Nation*, you will receive your Constituent ID number from the Office of Alumni Relations. Then just log on to [nation.mcm.edu](http://nation.mcm.edu) and you will be asked to create your own user name and password. It is that easy to become a part of something special and unique...*McMurry Nation*. I look forward to your connection, engagement and involvement with this exciting new initiative.

# FRIENDS & FAMILY



The Class of 2008 processes through the line of faculty and staff on their way to their Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 10, 2008. ▲

Dr. Paul Fabrizio presents Jason Owens the W. Anthony Hunt Award that recognizes the Outstanding Male Graduate. ▶



Dr. John Russell presents graduating senior Marie Sward with the Harry Soloday Award that recognizes the Outstanding Graduating Senior. ▲



Dr. Paul Fabrizio presents Tarra Richardson the Ginny Carlson Award for Outstanding Female Graduate. ▲



Dean Vanessa Roberts is pictured with Sheryl Maxwell who received the Don Allen Memorial Award that recognizes the Outstanding Non-Traditional Graduate. ▲



Dr. Russell visits with Shirley LeBow '57 and her husband Reece, along with Bud Reynolds '57 and his wife Marilyn at the Alumni and Friends Gathering in Albuquerque. ▲

# FRIENDS & FAMILY



Jane Harvey '61 visits with Barbara Miers '59 at the Annual Iris Tea that was held on April 15, 2008. ▲

Dr. Doris Miller, Professor of English at McMurry is pictured with Dr. Cyril Stone '46 at the Alumni Reception at the New Mexico/ Northwest Texas Annual Conference. ▶



Mrs. Marcia Solomon '63 visits with other guests at the Iris Tea. ▲



Dr. and Mrs. Russell visit with a guest at the Alumni Reception at the joint Annual Conference of the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conference of the United Methodist Church. ▲



Kelley Stowers '06 and her fiancé Rhett Lawrence are pictured with Melissa Bemis Madera '04 and her husband David at the Alumni and Friends Gathering in Albuquerque on June 6, 2008. ▲



Marie Sward '08 shares about her experience at McMurry at the New Mexico/Northwest Texas Annual Conference. ◀

SAYCHEESE

# FRIENDS & FAMILY



Heidi Henderson '00 is pictured with her infant son Roland at the Alumni gathering in Albuquerque. ▲

Representatives of all three baseball conference championship teams are pictured with the coaching staff at the "Weekend of Champions" in March. ▶



Josh Lee '04, Albert Carrizales '07, and Joe Fichera '00 throw out the ceremonial first pitch during the "Weekend of Champions" that honored the conference champion baseball teams of 1998, 2001 and 2004. ▲



Members of the 1998 ASC Championship Baseball team were one of three teams recognized during the "Weekend of Champions" that was held March 28-29, 2008. ▲



## A Freshman's Diary - McMurry College 1935-36

In the depth of the Great Depression in 1935, Robert Hailey came to McMurry College from his hometown of Big Spring, Texas, to begin his journey in higher education.

He spent his freshman year at McMurry and recorded it in his personal memoirs. He later finished his education at the U.S. Naval Academy and went on to a distinguished career as an officer in the U.S. Navy and after retirement as a teacher in the public schools.

Capt. Hailey's observations about professors, friends and jobs during his first year at McMurry make fascinating reading. We invite you to enjoy "A Freshman's Diary - McMurry College 1935-36" from Capt. Hailey's book A Personal History.

<http://www.mcm.edu/HaileyJournal.pdf>

If you'd like us to mail you a copy, contact Gary Ellison at (325) 793-4610.

## FRIENDS & FAMILY



Gene Maxwell '79 and Cynthia Kristinek '70 enjoy the Alumni gathering in Lubbock. ▼



Dr. Alan Howell '95 and his wife Martha '93 are pictured with Mike Goicoechea '97 at an Alumni gathering in Lubbock in April. ▲

Jeremy Mebane '95 and his wife Heather are pictured with Shelby Crews '96 at the Alumni gathering in Lubbock. ▲



## The Stone family has certainly left its mark on McMurry University.

Multiple family members spanning several generations have graduated from McMurry. Currently, there are four members of Cyril Stone's family who are students at McMurry. Cyril was a 1945 graduate who has a long history of service to McMurry, including serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and was a 2000 recipient of the Cross & Flame Award for service to McMurry and the United Methodist Church.

His legacy of service to McMurry continues through several generations as new members of the Stone family make McMurry their home. Jeanne Stone Bridges, Cyril's daughter, and a 1959 graduate of McMurry, currently has three grandchildren on campus. Zach Standefer is a sophomore majoring in music and plays the tuba for the McMurry Band. Jeanne

Stone's other grandchildren at McMurry are brother and sister, Sarah Miller and Adam Miller. Sarah is a junior majoring in physical therapy. Adam is a senior majoring in percussion performance with plans to teach music at the university level. He will marry another McMurry student, Stacia Plaster, on June 13, 2009. Stacia is a senior art major with an emphasis in ceramics.

Cyril Stone's son, McMurry ex Rev. Robert Stone, also has a daughter on campus. Erin Stone is a senior vocal music major who plays saxophone in the band and sings in Chanters. She is engaged to Jeremy Brothers, a senior art major.

Through the influence of Cyril Stone, his children and grandchildren and their future spouses, the Stone family promises to be well-represented on the McMurry campus for years to come. ■



Cyril Stone '45, his daughter and son-in-law, Sally Stone Sneed '74, and Phil Sneed '74, and great grandchildren, Adam Miller, Sarah Miller, and Zach Standefer.

## From the Alumni Association



### Opportunity

...a good position, chance or prospect for advancement, as defined by Webster's Dictionary. We as McMurry Alumni are called to be good stewards of our McMurry education and to take advantage of the unique opportunity to

invest in our alma mater. We should support McMurry with our talents, our gifts and our service. There are several ways to do this.

Talk to prospective students about McMurry. Your efforts will expose future students to the McMurry family, thus providing an opportunity to help shape a college student's life.

As alumni, we have the opportunity to return to McMurry a portion of what has been given to us. One way this is done is through involvement in alumni chapters and attendance at alumni events in your area. We all are blessed with an array of unique talents. These talents could be leading or serving in a committee or organization, decorating, or using our imagination for a particular project.

We have the opportunity to invest in the future of McMurry with our gifts. McMurry did not come about without the sacrifice of many who have gone before us. They invested in education, through financing the construction of buildings and through establishing scholarships or other types of financial aid. As our *Shaping the Future* Capital Campaign continues, we have the opportunity to invest in McMurry just as those before us have done. As we prepare for our second century, I would encourage you to make a pledge, no matter how large or small it may be, so future McMurry students can receive a well-rounded Christian education that encompasses leadership, excellence and virtue.

At our Homecoming celebration, *The Village Beckons*, to be held the weekend of October 23-26, McMurry will celebrate its 85th birthday. The various homecoming committees have been busy preparing for this event. Come, bring your friends and family, and spread the word to fellow alumni to join the fun and excitement. McMurry is the place to be for you to reminisce with friends.

Ala Cumba,  
Dale Evers '82  
Alumni Association, President

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

# classnotes



### 1957

**Dr. Weldon Crowley '57** and his wife **Patricia Bennett Crowley '58**

of Georgetown, Texas, celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 3, 2008, with a trip to Lake Tahoe with their children and grandchildren. 🎉

### 1961

**Dr. Paul E. Stubbs '61** of Austin, Texas, was installed as President of the Western Region Examining Board (WREB) at the January meeting of the Board. Dr. Stubbs has served on the WREB Executive Committee for the past two years and is currently Chief Examiner for both dental and dental hygiene clinical examinations for licensure qualification. Dr. Stubbs maintains his practice of General Dentistry in Georgetown, Texas.

### 1968

**Monna Walters-Elder '68** received her MSN in 1999. She is a nursing instructor at Lassen Community College.

### 1969

**Dwight L. Crenshaw '69** is a Lea County Magistrate Judge living in Tatum, New Mexico. His judicial division includes Hobbs, Lovington and Tatum. Judge Crenshaw holds an M.A. degree from Eastern New Mexico University and a Ph.D. from the University of Northern Colorado. 🎉



## FRIENDS & FAMILY

**Dr. John Garrison '69** was recently appointed President of San Marcos Baptist Academy. He has been Associate Vice President and Dean of Students at Texas State University. Garrison holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from McMurry University, a Master of Education degree from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. John and Carol Garrison have two grown children: Ryan of San Marcos and Mindy, who resides in College Station.

### 1970

**Dr. Sherry Bevins Darrell '70**, a Professor of English and Director of Humanities, has been named Distinguished Professor, the highest faculty honor at the University of Southern Indiana. She has taught there since 1975 and will retire in the spring of 2009.

**Mary Jane Killebrew Tatum '70** and her husband Jack recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. After teaching for the Abilene and Trent Independent School Districts, Mary Jane retired from the Blanco ISD in 2004. Currently she maintains part-interest in an antique store in the Texas Hill Country and volunteers for the Wimberley United Methodist Church and VFW Post 6441.

### 1975

**Phoebe Duggan Skelly '75** reports that she moved to Central Texas in August of 2007 where she is employed by the Belton ISD.

**Debra Tower Stevens '75** reports that after managing medical offices for 25 years, she thought that she would simplify her life by becoming a computer lab aide with the Abilene ISD Alternative High School. She has one son, Bryan, who is an officer with the Abilene Police Department, and two grandchildren, Josie and Colten. She and her husband have been married for 31 years.

### 1978

**Steve Harter '78** is beginning his 12th year as Minister of Music and Arts at First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His youth choir was featured on the website for the Oklahoma City Memorial this summer. Next summer, members of his adult choir will be singing at the 25th anniversary of the International Church Music Festival in Rome, Italy.



### 1984

**Gary Wells '84** is President of Happy State Bank and was recently appointed Vice President of the 600-member Leadership Division of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) for 2008-2009. 📧

### 1986

**Martha Cogburn Strickland Glassy '86** has been a 4th and 5th grade teacher in Bossier City, Louisiana, for nine years. She has 2 adorable grandchildren living in the Austin



### We Need You!

The **Alumni Association Board of Directors** is embarking on exciting new initiatives and is looking for more alumni input to better serve all alumni. If you are interested in serving on the alumni board or assisting in special projects, we'd love to hear from you!

Diversity in class years, geography, creative ideas and interests is most welcome. Please contact Greeley Myers at (325) 793-4603 or [myers.greeley@mcm.edu](mailto:myers.greeley@mcm.edu).

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

area. One son, Nathan, graduated from high school this year, and James will be a junior in the upcoming school year. Her husband, **Dave ex '90**, works in the tech support area of FryMaster, who makes those great fryers for McDonald's and other fast food restaurants.

### 1987

**Bradley DeHaven '87** was recently appointed Senior Pastor of Canyon Lake United Methodist Church.

**Nita Keesee '87** currently serves as the Northwest Regional Director of the TCTM. She is employed as Instructional Specialist at Craig Middle School and Math Consultant for Abilene Independent School District.

### 1989

**Chris Cutler '89** received a master's of business administration (M.B.A.) degree in December 2007, from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. His concentration was in Information Technology. Chris was recognized for being a member of the Delta Mu Delta (National Honor Society in Business Administration), having a 4.0 GPA, and was awarded the 2007 Presidential Fellowship. Chris is married to **Kris Rich Cutler '89**, also a McMurry alumna. Chris and Kris celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year and are the proud parents of Cecily, age 18, and Chase, age 9. Cecily plans to attend McMurry in fall 2008.

**Jeff Matsler '89** is proud to report that he is currently serving as an Army Chaplain for over 1000 soldiers in Afghanistan. Please keep him in your prayers and thoughts.

### 1992

**Shelly Nel Slyker Odom '92** and her husband Kyle Odom welcomed the early arrival of their twin girls on September 13, 2007. Caroline and Olivia Odom were in the hospital for about four months but are home now and are doing very well.

**Sarah Clayton Perera '92** is proud to report that she has started to work on her Ph.D., which will enable her to advance within her career field. She enjoys teaching Spanish and currently teaches both university and elementary school summer camps at North Carolina A&T State University.

### 1993

**Fred Van Soelen '93** of Clovis, New Mexico, was re-elected in March to a second term on the Clovis City Commission.

**Anthony Williams '93**, City Council Member for the City of Abilene, was recently elected to serve on the 2007-2008 Texas Municipal League (TML) Board of Directors. Representatives of Region 6, which covers the Hub of Texas—Abilene area, voted for Councilman Williams to serve as their TML Regional Director to fill an unexpired term. He is scheduled to serve through late October. More than 1,000 cities across the state are TML members. Since its formation in 1913, the League's mission remains the same: to advance and sustain the interests of the cities of Texas.

### 1995

**Harper Stewart '95** is completing his 13th year in education and is currently the junior high principal in Llano ISD. His wife, **Ashley Blanchard Stewart '93**, is completing her 15th year in education, serving as Assistant Superintendent with San Saba ISD. They have two daughters: Madilyn Grace (5) and Emma Faith (2).

**Craig Watson '95** and his wife Randi of San Antonio, Texas, welcome their baby daughter Hayes Lauren Watson, who was born June 27, 2008. Hayes weighed 6 lbs, 9 oz and was 19 in long. Craig and Randi are very excited and feel very blessed. 🍼



## FRIENDS & FAMILY



**Mindy Breeden King '95** and her husband, Justin, welcomed baby Connor Archer to their family on August 21, 2008. 🎁

**Heidi Elmore '95** had another baby girl. Laney Jane Elmore was born September 15, 2006. She and Brent now have two kids, Peyton, age 5, and Laney, age 17 months.

### 1996

**Steven '96** and **Shana Norman Bristow '92** live in Coppell, Texas, with their two sons, Carter, age 3, and Peyton, age 2. Steven is Director of Legislative Affairs at Parkland Health & Hospital System. Shana is a Senior Vice President with Fleishman-Hillard International Communications, a public relations firm.



### 1997

**Jennifer Stringer '97** and her husband, Michael, proudly announce the birth of their son Briley Austin. Briley was born April 24, 2008, weighing 5 lbs, 6

oz and was 18 1/2 in long. Big sister, Brittany, will be a sophomore at Eula High School in the fall of 2008. 🎁

**Amanda Roberts Breeden '97** and her husband, **James ex '98**, welcomed a baby girl, Riley Nicole, on February 7, 2008. They live in Anna, Texas, where James works at DFW Airport and Amanda teaches Spanish at Lovejoy ISD. 🎁



### 1998

**Theresa Burgess Dollinger '98** and her husband are happy to have another addition to their family. Cooper Michael was born on December 3, 2007 weighing 3 lbs. They report that he is doing well and loves his big sister Hannah, age 3.

**Ryan King '98** and his wife **Jenifer Brown King '00** have a 2 1/2 year old girl named Carly who welcomed baby brother, Preston, on November 8, 2007.

**Martha Watson Stone '98** and her husband **Colby '97** are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Avery Anne Stone, on February 7, 2008. Xander is a proud big brother who turned 2 on February 11.

### 1999

**Amber Justus Redman '99** and her husband, Chris, are proud to announce that they are expecting twins in the fall of 2008.

### 2000

**Joseph Fichera '00** and his wife **Corley Segovia Fichera '98** live in Pearland, Texas and have a 2 year old daughter, Audrey. Joseph works as a CPA/Tax Consultant.



**Summer Holbrook '00** recently attended the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. She is pictured here with her husband, Wes Wadle, and her father, Gregg Holbrook, at the Russia vs. Serbia men's volleyball game. 🎁

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

## 2001

**Mark Sprague '01** and his wife **Lorie '01** announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Amelia Elise, born on February 8, 2008. Victoria, age 4, is excited to have a sister.

## 2002

**Lewis White '02** resides in Dallas, Texas. He and fellow McMurry alumnus, **Olyn Poole '02**, have recently established the Law Firm of White and Poole.

## 2003

**Jennifer Bahena '03** is pleased to announce her marriage to **Robert Meador '04** on January 12, 2008, in Galveston, Texas.



### **Maci McIlhany '03**

was married to Joseph Shannon in a ceremony at Saint John's United Methodist Church in Austin on June 7, 2008. After their honeymoon in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and Paris, France, the couple is living in Austin where Maci is a 2nd grade teacher and Joseph is an electrical

engineer. Maci is the daughter of **Bill '79** and **Dana McIlhany '78**. 🎁

## 2004

**Holly Baker Bailey '04** and her husband, Jake, welcome the arrival of their daughter, Katelynn Grace, on December 22, 2007. Jake is deployed to Afghanistan as a Captain with the 101st Airborne Division.



**Heather Gates '04** reports she is working as the Director of Youth Ministries at League City UMC.

## 2005

**Carrie Gregory '05** completed her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy in August 2007. She will be getting married to Justin Clemens on December 13, 2008.



**Nichole (Stanley) Hoover '05** and **Dee Hoover '06** were married September 8, 2007 in Abilene. They live in Tulia, Texas, where Dee is a Texas State Trooper. Nichole works for an optometrist group in Canyon. 🎁

**Jennifer Vodak Julian '05** graduated from Hardin-Simmons in December 2007 with a master's degree in environmental management.

## 2006

**Catherine Watjen Harner '06** is enrolled in graduate school at the University of Idaho.

**Crystal Kline '06** lives in Washington D.C. and works for the company that photographs live shows for Disney and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus as a Photo Manager for Field Entertainment.

**Gene Skaggs '06** was recently appointed Manager for Technology Support Services with Abilene Independent School District.

## 2007

**Francis Arias '07** recently moved to Washington D.C., where she is employed by George Washington School of

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

Law. In her new position, she provides administrative support to seven faculty members.

**Matthew Crisman '07** married Jill Montgomery on June 14, 2008. Matt is now employed in the Admission Office at McMurry.

**Edward De Clements '07** is employed by Victoria ISD, Stroman campus, as a 9th grade social studies teacher.

**Meredith Jacobsen '07** was honored at the Judson ISD Distinguished Employee Ceremony in February. She was recognized as Distinguished First Year Teacher for Mary Lou Hartman Elementary in San Antonio, where she teaches 3rd grade.

After graduating in December of 2007, **Shannon Spicknall '07** was hired full-time as a Radio Announcer and Production Manager at KGNZ Radio in Abilene. KGNZ is also broadcast into four other cities: San Angelo, Snyder, Graham and Lubbock.

### 2008

**Brittney Renee Clark '08** and Chad Randall Keese were married July 12, 2008, at the Whitney Theater in

Albany, Texas, and they now reside in Abilene, Texas.

**Tanya Davis '08** is currently working for the Department of the Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. She writes and edits curriculum for satellite and radar system space control.

**Ms. Kelly Poorman '08** and **Matt Proctor '07** were married on June 14, 2008. She will attend Hardin-Simmons in the fall to begin graduate school for her MBA. Matt is employed by Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. ■

### Stay Connected!

Soon you can submit your class notes, connect with other alumni, register for upcoming events and much more at McMurry's new online alumni community: [nation.mcm.edu](http://nation.mcm.edu)



### McMurry Ex Wins Gold in Paralympics in Beijing

A little over a year ago, Jim Bob Bizzell had never heard of the Paralympic Games. Today he holds a gold and two silver medals. He won the silver medal in the 200 and 400 meter races and a gold in the 4 X 100 meter relay. His silver medal in the men's 200m final (T44) was a new personal best in the event - 22.62. It was a moment he'll never forget.

"I lost my leg a year and five months ago in a motorcycle accident, so it's unbelievable that I'm here competing," said an elated Bizzell.

No stranger to the track, Bizzell was an all-American at McMurry University until he lost his leg below the knee.

# FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

**Dr. Steven Arthur** of Abilene, Texas, died January 22, 2008.

**Mrs. Geraldine Banks '38** of Stamford, Texas, died March 22, 2008.

**Mr. Paul H. Barnes** of Albuquerque, New Mexico and a former member of the McMurry Board of Trustees died February 28, 2008.

**Dr. Charles R. Blanton '66** of Abilene, Texas, died August 7, 2008.

**Mrs. Juanita Brownd ex '46** of Hereford, Texas, died March 24, 2008.

**Mr. V.E. Bryant '47** of Abilene, Texas, died April 22, 2008.

**Mr. John L. Carpenter '38** of Albuquerque, New Mexico died March 22, 2008.

**Mrs. Sue H. Cole '50** of Anchorage, Alaska died May 17, 2008.

**Mr. Bobby W. Comer** of Lubbock, Texas, died July 4, 2008.

**Mr. Corwin C. Connell '50** of Edinburg, Texas, died February 27, 2008.

**Ms. Ruth Cutting** died January 17, 2008.

**Ms. Willena Dupree** of Amarillo, Texas, died January 27, 2008.

**Mrs. Helen Joy Egger '73** of Abilene, Texas, died August 4, 2008.

**Mr. George Ellis '60** of Johnson City, Texas, died June 3, 2008.

**Mr. Edd E. Fishel** of Brownwood, Texas, died January 30, 2008.

**Mr. Donald Ross Freeman, Sr. '61** of Lubbock, Texas, died April 15, 2008.

**Mrs. Wanda June Freeman '61** of Lubbock, Texas, died June 2, 2008.

**Mr. Clifton Gage** of Sweetwater, Texas, died April 29, 2008.

**Mrs. Clara Mae Gesin '38** of Duncanville, Texas, died April 21, 2008.

**Mrs. Mary A. Getts** of Abilene, Texas, died March 8, 2008.

**Mrs. Stella Mae Henshaw** of Bellevue, Washington died April 21, 2008.

**Mrs. Frances Herchenhahan** died March 20, 2008.

**Mrs. Burnice Ramsey Hope '33** of El Paso, Texas, died April 4, 2008.

**Ms. Molly Jean Huffman** of Lockney, Texas, died February 1, 2008.

**Mr. Charles Hutchinson** of Abilene, Texas, died February 20, 2008.

**Mrs. Marguerite Kaye Johnson '65** died February 9, 2008.

**Mrs. Suzanne Jones '52** of Abilene, Texas, died April 8, 2008.

**Ms. Catherine M. Lack** of Dallas, Texas, died July 15, 2008.

**Mr. Erasmo Martinez, Sr. '55** of Abilene, Texas, died April 8, 2008.

**Mr. Billie B. Mathis '47** of Woodlands, Texas, died April 20, 2008.

**Rev. Melvin Roy Mathis '46** of Midland, Texas, died March 10, 2008.

**Mr. Alton O. McCleskey '47** of San Antonio, Texas, died March 27, 2008.

**Ms. Linda Merrick** of Abilene, Texas, died April 25, 2008.

**Mrs. Norma Miklos** died April 1, 2008.

**Rev. James W. Miller '55** of Stephenville, Texas, died April 1, 2008.

**Mrs. Carole J. Mills '66** of Monument, Colorado died January 19, 2008.

**Mr. Milton Douglas Monzingo '60** of Pflugerville, Texas, died May 17, 2008.

**Rev. James P. Patterson '50** of Abilene, Texas, died May 16, 2008.

**Mrs. Mary Josephine Poteet '34** of Lubbock, Texas, died August 2, 2008.

**Mr. Otis Ratliff '55** of Hideaway, Texas, died February 1, 2008.

**Mr. Marvin G. Rider** died March 26, 2008.

**Mr. Cecil Ray Robinson '66** of Abilene, Texas, died March 9, 2008.

**Mr. Russell Lynn Robinson '92** of Putnam, Texas, died July 10, 2008.

**Mr. John Scott** of Abilene, Texas, died January 29, 2008.

**Mr. Fred Shelton '54** of Marble Falls, Texas, died April 8, 2008.

**Mrs. Elinor Sherman** of Abilene, Texas, died August 14, 2008.

**Mrs. Billie Nadine Smith '49** of Abilene, Texas, died April 12, 2008.

**Mr. Robert Doyle Thompson** of Abilene, Texas, died August 19, 2008.

**Dr. Hollis Burl Waldon '55** of Ripon, California died March 4, 2008.

**Mr. Kenneth W. Weaver '53** of Pampa, Texas, died August 2, 2008.

**Mrs. Ruby Elizabeth Williams** died August 7, 2008.

## Obituaries

### **Dr. Mike El-Attrache**

Dr. Mohammed "Mike" El-Attrache, 75, former McMurry Professor, passed away on May 17, 2008.

Mike was born in Jebel Druze, Syria. Upon graduating from Brumann High School in Lebanon, he came to the United States in 1952 to further his education at Texas Christian University where he obtained both a bachelor's

and master's degree. He met and married his wife, Shirley Heinemeyer, in 1957. He later completed his academic education with a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. El-Attrache moved to Abilene in 1965 and began his tenure at McMurry University. For nearly a quarter century as a political science professor, he developed and chaired the Department of Political Science and

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

was instrumental in creating the Pre-Law Program, Paralegal Studies and the West Texas Model United Nations (WTMUN) Program. In addition, Dr. El-Attrache touched many lives through the sponsorship and advisement of over 40 international students for the pursuance of a higher education at McMurry and other universities.

Academically, Dr. El-Attrache was an honorary member of the National Historical Society (Phi Alpha Theta), the American Political Science Association (Pi Sigma Alpha) and the Romance Languages Association (Phi Sigma Iota). He spent the majority of his academic career focusing on Middle Eastern affairs, and he chaired and led many panel discussions on the volatile subject. This information and his expertise was sought by numerous circulations and resulted in authorship and quotes in several published articles.

Mike will be greatly missed by multitudes of relatives and his immediate family. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, his eldest son, David, and wife, Lisa, his youngest son, John, and wife, Stacie, and grandchildren Morgan, Parker and Stone.

His loving son, Mark, preceded him in death.

### **Georgia Kimbrell '67**

Georgia Kimbrell '67, wife of McMurry alumnus and longtime men's basketball coach Hershel Kimbrell '50, passed away on August 11, 2008.

Georgia was born October 23, 1927, in Slaton, Texas, and soon moved to Abilene with her family in 1929. She spent her childhood here in Abilene and attended the public school system, graduating from Abilene High School in 1945. While Georgia was at Abilene High, she was a cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society and was elected Miss Liberty during World War II. It was at Abilene High School that Georgia met Hershel Kimbrell, whom she later married on May 21, 1948, in Abilene. She attended Hardin-Simmons University and later graduated as a McMurry College Indian with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1967.

Georgia loved children, and after graduating from McMurry, she taught a combined 23 years at Jane Long Elementary School and Mann Middle School. While teaching children was a challenge, Georgia relished her roles as a teacher, the mother of two children and a "coach's wife." She supported Hershel while he taught and coached at Garland High School and later was his biggest fan at McMurry College. Georgia considered all of the young men Hershel coached over 45 years as adopted sons.

Georgia is survived by her husband of 60 years, Hershel, and two children: her daughter, Kim Whitaker and husband, Keith, of Fairfield, Texas, and her son, Kit, and his wife, Kris, of Abilene. Georgia also had two grandchildren, Amanda Williams and her husband, Dustin, of Big Spring, and Joshua Whitaker of Stephenville, Texas. Georgia also had two great grandchildren, Alyssa and Kaylee Williams, who brought her great joy.

### **Grace Virginia Kincade '69**

Grace Kincade '69 passed away August 25, 2007. Grace was born on February 23, 1947, to Grace and Walter Dibble in Valley Stream, New York. She attended Valley Stream schools and earned her bachelor's degree in education from McMurry College in 1969 and was president of Gamma Sigma.

In 1976, Grace married Larry Kincade. During their 31 years of marriage, they lived in Anaheim and Visalia, California. They recently moved to Mansfield to be near their grandchildren.

Until her retirement in 2005, Grace was an elementary school teacher for about 20 years. Grace was preceded in death by her parents, Grace and Walter Dibble.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Kincade; daughter and son-in-law, Christy and Brad Whitman; son and daughter-in-law, Travis '02 and Adrienne Mazur Kincade '00; son Grant Kincade; grandchildren Logan and Cole Kincade; brother and sister-in-law, Robert

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

and Lynne Dibble; and godmother and aunt, Ellen Meyers. Grace also leaves behind aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and close friends who loved and admired her.

### **Dr. Roy Melugin '59**

Roy Melugin '59 passed away April 9, 2008.

The Rev. Dr. Roy Melugin was born in Clovis, New Mexico. He was married to his loving wife, Sylvia, for 49 years and was the beloved father of two daughters and grandfather of two grandchildren. He was a renowned biblical scholar of Isaiah and an admired teacher of countless undergraduate and graduate students.

A graduate of McMurry University, SMU and Yale (Ph.D.), Roy also studied at the University of Toronto, the University of Heidelberg and Claremont. His fine mind, love of writing and genuine interest in teaching made him a favorite among students and colleagues at Austin College, where he retired in 1999 and was named a professor emeritus of religion. From the time of his retirement until his death, he was the research professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School.

An ordained United Methodist minister, Roy worshipped with his wife, Sylvia, at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth. An admired teacher, Roy also loved weekly worship and the Beacons. His deep faith, love of his family and support of the church and its staff will be deeply missed even as we give thanks for his life and witness.

Dr. Melugin is survived by his wife, Sylvia; daughters, Cynthia Melugin and husband, Ned Walpin, and Annella Schneider; and grandchildren, Alexandra Walpin and Cory Schneider.

### **Sherwood Suter**

Sherwood Eugene Suter, 79, a former art professor at McMurry, died June 4, 2008.

Born in Bluffton, Ohio, on September 22, 1928, Sherwood moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan at the age of

one. He graduated from Western Michigan University and received his master's degree from Columbia University in New York. He was a U. S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict.

In 1957 he moved to Abilene to teach at what was then McMurry College. He retired from McMurry University 38 years later. During retirement, he taught art classes at Cisco Junior College. Sherwood was one of the founders of the Abilene Art Museum and a member of the Creative Art Club of Abilene. He was a member of the Abilene Lion's Club and sponsored the XO fraternity at McMurry for many years. He taught many art workshops and took part in numerous art shows, winning many awards for his artwork which is known throughout Texas and well beyond. Mr. Suter always remembered each student he taught with great admiration.

He is survived by his wife, Pattie Suter; daughter, Dawn Suter Sjurset and son-in-law, Gary Sjurset, of Lorton, Virginia; son, Mark Suter and daughter-in-law, Amy Suter, of College Station, Texas; stepson, Guy Hill of Sitka, Alaska; sister, Margaret Johnson and her husband, Henry Johnson, of Bay City, Michigan; brother, Allan Suter and his wife, Seija Suter, of Green Valley, Arizona; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one niece and one nephew.

### **St. Clair P. Yates**

St. Clair Peyton Yates, a friend of McMurry University and former member of the Board of Trustees, passed away on August 1, 2008.

St. Clair Peyton Yates, known by many as S.P. or Saint by family and close friends, was born in the family home in Artesia on September 19, 1914, the third son of Martin and Mary Emmons Yates. S.P. was reared in Artesia and graduated from Artesia High School in 1932. He received a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and attended graduate school at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1937 to 1938, where he

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

met his bride-to-be, Estelle.

Mr. Yates married Estelle Hefler on March 3, 1940 in Boston, Massachusetts. The couple returned to Artesia where S.P. joined his father and brothers in the oil business. Before World War II, S.P. purchased a drilling rig and spent his time drilling for other companies and for himself. He founded Yates Drilling Company in 1959 and served as its president until 1976, at which time he assumed the position of Vice President and Director. In March 1960, S.P. and his brothers formed Yates Petroleum Corporation and he served as President from its inception until January 1988, when he assumed the position of Chairman of the Board and most recently, Chairman Emeritus. He led the company from a handful of employees in 1960 to a firm that today employs hundreds and operates offices in Artesia, Roswell, Lovington, Denver, Rock Springs and Gillette, Wyoming. He and his brothers, Martin “Bitsy” and John, led the company to be the largest independent oil and gas producing company based in the state of New Mexico.

S.P. was a proud member of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico and the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, all of which he served in various capacities. He served on the Board of Directors of Team Bank of Dallas until its sale to Banc One in the 1980s. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Artesia most of his life, and served his church as its Finance Chairman and on the Board of Stewards. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of McMurry University.

S.P. will forever be remembered for his entrepreneurial spirit, his strong character, his sharp mind, his quick wit and his contagious laugh and captivating smile. He was preceded in death by his parents, Martin and Mary Yates, and his brothers, Harvey Emmons Yates and Martin Yates, III. He is survived by his wife, Estelle, of the family home; two sons, Peyton, and his wife, Linda, and Richard and his wife, Brenda; one daughter, Mary, and her husband, Edward; one brother, John A., and his wife, Charlotte; and

one daughter-in-law, Judy Yates. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Jennifer Peterson and her husband Dale, Mary Beth Yates, Hanson Yates and his wife Christine, Claire Lloyd-Owen and her husband Rupert, Peyton Davis and his wife Helen, Kelsy Yates Humphrey and her husband Kiri, Porter Yates, and Courtney Yates; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. ■

McMURRY  
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Homecoming '08

the Vissage Beckons...

MCMURRY HOMECOMING 2008

October 23-26, 2008

## A few events to look forward to at Homecoming 2008:

NEW  
EVENT!

### Be sure to join us following Coronation at the Welcome Tent at Tipi Village!

Hosted by the McMurry Alumni Association Board of Directors and sponsored by Chick-Fil-A. Come join us for refreshments and games for the kids prior to the Bonfire.

### Spirit Painting and Walk to Victory

Join us in this tradition as we invite the whole campus to the Spirit Painting of the McMurry football team in the Quad. Then help us form a victory line from the library to Wilford Moore Stadium as our players walk the path to victory!

### McMurry Cheerleaders Reunion

The alumni cheerleaders will be invited to start the game with the MCM cheerleaders by leading the crowd in the McMurry Beat—formerly the Indian Beat!

### Family Tailgate

Join us for this exciting event for young alumni and families with children. Come join us for a tailgate lunch, games and activities for the children.

### Class Reunion Dinners

60th Reunion/J.W. Hunt Society honoring the Class of 1948  
50th Reunion honoring the Class of 1958  
40th Reunion honoring the Class of 1968  
Decade Reunion honoring the Classes of '78, '88, '98

### Homecoming Musical & Coronation

"Dracula: The Musical?"

This delightful spoof of the classic horror tale is an unparalleled romp from start to finish. Melodic, rollicking and hilarious, the show will thoroughly entertain and prepare you for Halloween. The characters are familiar, but the plot involves some new twists and unexpected laughs as the story unfolds.



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