HOME COMING PHOTOS INSIDE!
Alumni and Friends,

It is an honor to address the alumni and friends of McMurry University as your new president. I am impressed with the pride the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students have in this 90-year-old institution. To all our alumni and friends, I look forward to getting to know you and to learn more about the impact McMurry has had on your lives.

This University has played a special and enduring part in my own life and in the lives of my family members. McMurry was the setting for my first collegiate, tenure-track, faculty experience and my first major administrative post. It is also the place where I was introduced to the concept of servant leadership, the principles of which have guided me throughout my career. My sons, husband, and I grew tremendously both personally and professionally during our 10 years at McMurry, and I am excited to renew our relationship with McMurry and the Abilene community.

There are many students that I taught during that 10-year time span who are now successful professionals and actively engaged as McMurry alumni. I look forward to reconnecting with them and all our alumni and friends as we work together to make our University even stronger. I was especially pleased to return to campus in time to participate in this year’s homecoming festivities and to be able to visit with many of you who care about this school as enthusiastically as I do.

There will be challenges as higher education continues to face changes in student demographics, the impact of technology on the learning experience, and increased global competition. Together we will meet those challenges and continue to prepare our students for fulfilling lives of leadership and service.

We will work together to make vital connections to resources in higher education, industry and business while establishing partnerships to move the community, region and state forward. McMurry University will be recognized for creating public value in a private university setting.

I look forward to your friendship and support as we work to provide our students with the most enriching faith-based higher education experience possible. With your help, we will reach that goal.

Sandra Harper, Ph.D.  
President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Dr. Harper’s Inauguration is scheduled for March 18-20, 2014
Coming Home to McMurry
This year’s homecoming blended old and new traditions to create even more excitement.

90 Years of Stories
For 90 years McMurry’s hall of fame has been in our hearts.

Servant First
Servant Leadership Model Spans Generations of Students.

The Unexpected Path
Alumni Nick Farrell is making the most out of the life he never expected to have.

A Future Together
Alumni Ryan and Ashley Higley will be eternally grateful for the scholarship help of McMurry friends and supporters Shirley and Mildred Garrison.
This year’s honorees:

Colby Stone ’97
Spirit of McMurry Award Recipient

Don Cain ’76
Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

For a complete list of our 2013 recipients please visit mcm.edu/alumni/awards
Thank You...

...for attending Homecoming 2013!

Mark your calendars!

OCTOBER 9-12

HOMECOMING 2014

mcm-gallery.smugmug.com/
Homecoming-

Ala Cumba!
Working on A New Old Main

The campus is alive with the sound of construction rolling out of Old Main. The new first floor has been poured, walls are being constructed, and electrical, plumbing and HVAC is being installed. The walkway between Cooke and Old Main has been removed in preparation for the construction of the new glass concourse between the buildings. The restoration of the lecture hall is also well underway. Old Main should be completed in time for the Fall 2014 semester.

Students Get Moving

Upperclassmen waited at the front doors of residence halls on freshmen move-in day, eagerly watching the parking lot for the first sign of those carfuls of families coming to drop off their brand-new War Hawks—and all their stuff! Despite the incredible amount of trips up and down flights of stairs, these students worked all day showing these families War Hawk hospitality as they carted box after box to move in over 240 freshman. Pictured are Alyssa Fields ’15, Aubrey Houston ’16 and Kim Martinez ’15.

Our Teachers are In Demand

All of the May 2013 graduates from McMurry’s School of Education who received their teacher certificates landed jobs before July, giving Dr. Perry Haley Brown, Dean of the School of Education, cause to celebrate. The eighteen teacher candidates landed jobs everywhere from Abilene to the Rio Grande Valley, with one of the teachers being hired in Delaware. Not only do McMurry grads find jobs quickly, but statistics have shown they stay in the profession longer than the national average. More than 86 percent of teachers who have graduated from McMurry since 2007 are still teaching.
To Win or Not To Win

McMurry theatre student David Remschel is one of two winners at the college level in the annual Texas Educational Theatre Association’s (TETA) Playfest playwriting competition. His play, entitled The Annie Chronicles, was written as a class assignment and was selected from entries throughout the state. This is the 13th winning playwright McMurry has had in this competition since 1999.

McMurry Honors

McMurry University has been honored as a College of Distinction for the 2013-2014 academic year. U.S. News and World Report’s Best Colleges Guide named McMurry as a top tier school in the Western Region for the 18th consecutive year. Also, the University was recognized as a Military Friendly School for the third year. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

A Different Kind of Slime Cap

The old tradition of wearing “slime caps” may not be around anymore, but freshmen are welcomed to campus wearing a new kind of slime—in the form of eggs, whipped cream and maple syrup. It’s all part of Welcome Week—the Wednesday through Friday before classes start where freshmen are organized into flocks to begin lifelong friendships and learn all the ins and outs of being a McMurry War Hawk. The week is filled with silly songs and skits, a trip to the ropes course at Camp Butman, pizza nights, and of course, Slime Olympics.

Charitable Giving through your IRA

If you are like many individuals, your IRA has increased in value over the years and you have more income than you may need. If you are over age 70½ the Federal government permits you to make a tax-free rollover gift from your IRA. You could make a gift of $1,000, $10,000 or any amount up to $100,000 this year to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Contact your IRA custodian and request that McMurry receive your generous gift.

To learn more about an IRA rollover gift and how it can benefit you and help McMurry, please contact us at 325-793-4761 or visit us online at mcm.edu/rollover.
We’ve Got Spirit!

A new student event is taking place at McMurry football games this fall. Student Affairs established The Zone, a special student section dedicated to increasing involvement in home games with special prizes and activities. You can also find students hanging out at special tailgates before the games.

The crosstown rivalry game against the Abilene Christian Wildcats began with running a football from the McMurry campus to Shotwell Stadium prior to the game. The first leg was run by President Dr. Sandra Harper and Wally the War Hawk to kick off the event.

You can also feel the spirit every Wednesday at noon as students gather in the quad for “War Hawk Wednesdays.” The Division of Student Affairs provides raffles, drinks, games, and other fun activities that celebrate being a War Hawk!

Volleyball Lends a Helping Hand

Every year the McMurry volleyball team volunteers their time and service to Meals on Wheels. As part of team building activities during two-a-days, they assist in packing and carrying meals for the delivery drivers. The team also volunteers annually for the Meals on Wheels Clay Shoot. The girls pair up and assist at the shooting stations by “pulling” for the shooters. During the month of October, the volleyball team makes its annual trek to Disability Resources Inc. (DRI), to help unload pumpkins for the DRI Pumpkin Patch. Not only does the team get a good workout with all the lifting, they also have the opportunity to offer hugs and encouragement to the DRI residents.

Students are Sittin’ Pretty in Windjammers

Windjammers Lounge has been given a facelift with updates including refurbished furniture and a big screen TV. The new look is courtesy of the class of 2013 and the generous support of a member of the Class of 1976, Phil Brewer and his wife Jennifer, who made a gift 10 years ago to create the Windjammers Lounge. The refurbished lounge was dedicated August 29. One of the original Windjammers, Clark Walter ’68 of New Braunfels, as well as Pat Pruitt of Midland, widow of band member Pat Hamilton ’68, were in attendance for the dedication.
Dr. Russell Leaves a Lasting Legacy

The McMurry community thanked both Dr. John Russell and his wife Gerri for their eleven years of leadership at McMurry University by hosting a picnic with students and a reception for faculty, staff and the Abilene community on September 3.

During Dr. Russell’s tenure as president, McMurry completed its largest capital campaign and made major improvements in its campus living and learning facilities.

McMurry’s endowment grew under Dr. Russell’s leadership, weathering the financial crisis of 2008 and downward trend faced by so many private and public colleges and universities and rebounding to its current level of just under $65 million. That growth was fueled in part by the $7.7 million raised in support of student scholarships during McMurry’s Shaping the Future campaign that concluded in 2010.

An aerospace engineer by training, who spent 33 years in the United States Air Force, Dr. Russell’s love of math and science was well known at McMurry where he worked to form a partnership with the Abilene Independent School District to establish a science and math magnet school for fifth grade students.

Facility improvements made under Dr. Russell’s presidency included the Finch Gray Science Building, Bynum Band Hall, Jay-Rollins Library, Hunt and Martin Residence Halls, Seidel-Swagerty Tennis Complex, and Wilford Moore Stadium. The Furr Welcome Center was also built to give visitors a more accessible and visible entry to campus.
McMurry University’s story has the same basic plot today as it had in 1923, the year the school opened under the leadership of Dr. J.W. Hunt.

As Dr. Robert Sledge, distinguished professor of history emeritus, put it 90 years later, McMurry’s story is the story of people—students, faculty, administrators, staff, donors, trustees, alumni, and friends gathered around a name, a place, a set of traditions.

Sledge wrote his “Reflections on the History of McMurry College/University” in June for incoming members of the board of trustees. In it, he quoted from the alma mater and added an observation.

“The alma mater says, “Your hall of fame is in our hearts,” he wrote. “There are public recognitions galore—but McMurry’s ‘Hall of Fame’ has a better place—in our hearts.”

Ninety years after its founding in September 1923, McMurry has added layers of subplots to its story, but the heart of the narrative remains the same—McMurry’s story is the story of people.
Administration building, now Old Main, opens and Dr. J. W. Hunt serves as McMurry’s first president.

First portion of President’s Hall opens. McMurry’s first gymnasium opens and is destroyed by a storm three years later. Indian Gym was then built in 1930.

First class graduates in 1926.

Faculty and staff sacrifice portions of their salaries to help McMurry survive during the Great Depression. Harold G. Cooke is appointed as president in 1943.

The G.I. generation brings resurgence of students to campus resulting in the opening of Vet Village. The Iris Graham Dining Hall also opens in 1947. Hershel Kimbrell, McMurry’s winningest basketball coach, enters the freshman class.

Several buildings are added including Cooke, Hunt and Martin dormitories, and the Bynam Band Hall. Dr. Gordon R. Bennett becomes president.

Radford Auditorium is built. Tipi Village begins and is featured in Life magazine in 1956. McMurry becomes first Abilene college to integrate classes.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awards McMurry accreditation.
Dr. Thomas K. Kim named president.

Dr. Robert E. Shimp becomes president and McMurry College becomes McMurry University.


Dr. Robert E. Shimp becomes president and McMurry College becomes McMurry University.

Women’s basketball is added and TIAA non-scholarship athletic conference forms with McMurry as a founding member. The United Methodist Campus Center is constructed.

Walt Driggers baseball field opens. Dr. John Russell becomes president of McMurry.

McMurry adopts “War Hawks” as new mascot. Dr. Sandra Harper becomes first woman president of McMurry.
“...a lot of places I go on campus, they have the servant leadership kind of heart.”

- LANEY ABBOTT ‘15
Servant Leadership Spans Across Generations at McMurry

by Loretta Fulton

Servant leadership is more than just a concept—or even the name of a program—for McMurry students. It’s palpable. It’s felt all over campus. Laney Abbott ’15, a junior sociology major from El Paso, Texas, couldn’t help but notice.

“It seems to me,” she said, “that a lot of places I go on campus, they have the servant leadership kind of heart.”

Abbott definitely has it. So does Gordon Storey ’14. The two McMurry students are far apart in age and experience, but they both are examples of the emphasis that McMurry puts on service as a way of life.

Abbott is a preceptor, or teaching assistant, in the Servant Leadership...
program at McMurry, which is led by Mark Waters, associate professor of Servant Leadership and director of The Center for Global Studies. Storey, 46, is on track to graduate in May 2014 with a degree in multimedia graphic arts and design.

Storey wants to use the skills associated with that degree to promote nonprofits, including the Dyess We Care Team that he founded while stationed at the air base in 2000.

That kind of dedication to service is typical of McMurry students while they’re on campus and long after they leave. Currently, McMurry offers a number of ways for students to serve, both on campus and in the community.

The Servant Leadership program has students working with A Habitat for Learning, Bowie Elementary School, Windcrest Alzheimer’s Care Center, Habitat for Humanity, and the Legacy Complex.

Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity is well known for projects such as campus recycling, highway trash pickup, the Disability Resources Inc. pumpkin patch, Boy Scouts events, Friends for Life, Habitat for Humanity, the city animal shelter, and Hope Haven living center.

Abbott is a good example of the dedication that McMurry students have toward service. She spends an hour a day, Monday through Thursday, tutoring children at the Cornerstone Addition built by Habitat for Humanity.

As a preceptor, she also is responsible for organizing Servant Leadership students to work on the landscaping at the addition.

An hour a day might not sound like a long time, but just try tutoring six children ranging from second through fifth grades. Abbott creates worksheets to help the children in specific subjects. “It’s really tiring,” she said, “but it’s been rewarding to do at the same time.”

Abbott grew up with the concept of servant leadership all around her. The daughter of a United Methodist minister, she watched the concept come to life in her home and it rubbed off on her. She found the perfect place to continue her interest in service. Her mother and an aunt both graduated from McMurry, and Abbott soon discovered that she fit in nicely, too.

Everywhere she looks, she sees servant leadership at work.

“Every time you turn around,” she said, “you see some kind of active service.”

And when she leaves campus, she just might see one of the service projects headed by Storey and his We Care Team. She might even see McMurry students working alongside the Dyess airmen on the team.

The We Care Team is well known around Abilene for assisting with minor home repairs and helping nonprofit organizations with their fundraising events. Over the years, McMurry has been a big supporter of the We Care Team.

That willingness to help the team didn’t go
unnoticed by Storey after he retired from the air force and decided to return to college in 2010.

“I’m a huge believer in, ‘If people are supporting your cause, you support them,’” Storey said.

Storey founded the Dyess We Care Team while working in the equal opportunity office at Dyess. He worked with people of all ranks in every phase of base operations.

In his daily work, Storey noticed that the art of mentoring was dying and that people seemed to be “too busy” to help mentor younger people around them. That’s when the We Care Team idea popped into his head.

“I was just looking for a tool to develop leadership,” he said, “and community service was that tool.”

People get assistance from the We Care Team at no cost to them. The team gets a grant from the military, and Abilene businesses help with costs.

No one on the team, including Storey, gets paid. Storey’s paying job is a counselor with Friends for Life, an agency that works through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

All of Storey’s activities—volunteering with the We Care Team, finishing a college degree, and working as a counselor—might sound like a lot for a man with “retired” by his name. Don’t expect him to suddenly slow down once he gets his McMurry diploma.

“I do keep very busy,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun.”
The Unexpected Path
A Life Changed Forever

BY KATHERINE MANSON
On March 9, 1978, Nicholson Farrell's life was changed forever. In an instant, Farrell was involved in an oil field accident that confined him to a wheelchair.

ASIDE FROM THE ACCIDENT, Farrell has traveled a path through life that he considers to be similar to most. He began his freshman year at McMurry University in 1970 where he played football, lived in Gold Star residence hall, joined the social club Ko Sari, and was an active young man.

For him, his college experience was one that paved the way for his future. “I truly enjoyed the whole experience of attending McMurry and playing football,” Farrell said. “This was a campus where I felt like I was at home. From the team and coaching staff to the faculty and students, I had a wonderful experience.” But for Nick Farrell, his journey in life has been far more courageous and unexpected than the typical college graduate. In 1974 he graduated with a bachelors degree in business management and began his life ready to face what the world, and God, had prepared for him.

Like many recent college graduates, Farrell lived his 20s with uncertainty and a drive to find his place. “I left the campus where I knew a lot of people and went into the real world not sure what I would do with my life. The plans I made didn't materialize,” he said.

“I was a typical young man who went through life with one foot in Christianity and the other foot in the world,” said Farrell. For his first four years outside of college, he experienced professional success, never finding fulfillment. “I was living on the promise that Jesus was my Lord and Savior, but I didn’t live my life like a Christian.”
Through his journey of finding his peace and purpose, Farrell tried to make it in the world by himself and live the life of what he considers to be a “wild man, partying and drinking.”

“I was never happy with my life and I was trying to find a way to happiness,” explained Farrell.

Only four years after graduating from McMurry, Farrell’s path to peace and happiness came through the life-altering moment in March 1978.

“My world really changed,” explained Farrell. “But by God’s grace, friends and family, this was not the end.”

Through the challenges he has faced, Farrell has learned and conquered his path to happiness.

“My life has been a roller coaster of ups and downs. People kept telling me that my life was something I needed to share with people. So, I finally did what a lot of people told me to do and I wrote a book.”

“In Spite of Me, God Loves Me” is the story of Farrell’s journey to fulfillment. Although he has been successful in business, managing several retail stores, owning his own business and serving as an active member in numerous organizations, Farrell’s true journey to fulfillment came from an eye-opening moment that changed his life and led him to God.

“Since the accident, I have found what I was missing and changed my life to serve God,” explained Farrell. “This is the story of the mistakes I have made and the ways God has saved me from harm, and even myself. By learning more about God and what he wants for my life, I have found a way to live in joy and peace even though I’m confined to a wheelchair.”

For Farrell, life is not defined by the moments that change your life, but by how you react, learn and grow from those moments.

“I felt compelled to write this book to show others that it doesn’t matter what you have done so far in your life,” Farrell said. “There is time to turn to God and seek His guidance. He is there waiting for you to ask Him into your life.”

Mr. Farrell’s book may be purchased at www.tatepublishing.com bookstore or by contacting him at nickfarrell@tx.rr.com

“My world really changed. But by God’s grace, friends and family, this was not the end.”
Ryan Higley ’04 and Ashley Wann ’04 started dating at Dumas High School and knew they had a future together. Ryan graduated in 2000 and set off for McMurry in pursuit of studying biology/pre-dentistry, and the following year when Ashley graduated, she too wanted to take the path leading to McMurry.
The problem was, with an older sister in school at Texas Tech, and a younger brother heading to college in a short time, her parents thought it would make better sense for Ashley to attend Texas Tech. Their grand plan was to have all three kids together in Lubbock, for both the ease of getting together, and for the more cost-effective nature of a state school. A challenge was thrown out, that if the cost of a state school and private school were equal, then they might reconsider for Ashley.

After numerous scholarship applications, in addition to qualifying for some academic scholarships, Ashley approached her parents with good news; the costs were equivalent, and the decision was made; Ashley felt that McMurry was the place for her.

Shirley and Mildred Garrison, whose names are on McMurry’s campus center, established the scholarship to help students from Amarillo and the surrounding area attend McMurry. The Garrisons support of McMurry has spanned years and provided hundreds of students with financial assistance.

In 2001, after graduating from Dumas High School, Ashley reunited with Ryan at McMurry. She graduated three and a half years later with a degree in Communication, and after working in sales and marketing from San Antonio to Oklahoma, she is now doing volunteer work in Lubbock with The Plaza assisted living center, Lubbock Dream Center, Covenant Foundation, and several other organizations where needs arise.

Ryan and another surgeon own an oral and maxillofacial surgery practice in Lubbock. At McMurry, Ryan enrolled in the “3 plus 4” dental program that secured his acceptance into the University of Texas Health Science Center Dental School in San Antonio, he said, if he maintained grades and met other requirements of the program.

After three years at McMurry, Ryan moved to San Antonio to begin dental school. Upon completion of his first year of dental school, he was granted his B.S. degree from McMurry. Oddly, Ryan might have been in San Antonio from the beginning if not for another scholarship opportunity.

He recalled that upon a return trip from visiting Trinity University in San Antonio, his dad received a phone call from Dr. Philip LeMasters regarding a new program he was heading up at McMurry—an Honors Program that came with a scholarship offer.

“That was the sign I needed to go to McMurry,” he said.

The scholarships that made it possible for both Ryan and Ashley to attend McMurry led to great things for both. At McMurry, Ashley was a member of T.I.P. and Ryan was in Ko Sari. Both were also very active in campus
life including McMurry Student Government, Servant Leadership, Campus Activities Board, Religious Life, and intramural sports.

While at McMurry, Ryan met McMurry alumnus and Abilene-based oral surgeon Dr. Charles Bloomer ’76 who became his mentor.

“During my second year of dental school he invited me to join him on a mission trip to Lima, Peru with Health Volunteers Overseas,” said Ryan.

At the time, Ryan was wrestling with what area of dentistry to specialize in, and was encouraged by Dr. Bloomer and the mission trip experience to focus on oral surgery.

“He taught me a great deal during this trip and opened my eyes to a career in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. We completed a jaw reconstructive procedure for a young girl with a significant facial deformity,” Ryan said. “Dr. Bloomer was also in a teaching role with local surgeons in Lima as this type of surgery was very rare in Peru and much of South America. Dr. Bloomer continued his encouragement throughout my surgical residency and I am happy to have him as a colleague today.”

Ryan and Ashley both benefitted from scholarship aid in getting their degrees from McMurry, and both are extremely grateful. They’re especially thankful to the Garrisons for making it possible for Ashley to join Ryan in Abilene. Mildred Garrison passed away in 2006, but Ashley communicated with Shirley on a few occasions to express her gratitude for his generosity and support of the scholarship.

The Garrison’s Giving Continues to Create Scholarships

Businessman and civic leader Shirley Garrison and his late wife Mildred have made major contributions to the improvement of academic life and physical appearance of the McMurry campus, as well as assisting students through scholarship aid with his long association with McMurry University.

A long-time United Methodist and advocate for McMurry University, Garrison served on the McMurry University Board of Trustees from 1979-1988 and again from 1989-1995. He was a member of the Shaping the Future Campaign Cabinet. In addition to establishing the Shirley L. and Mildred Garrison Endowed Scholarship Fund, Shirley provides annual gifts to fund scholarships for McMurry students whose home is in Amarillo and the surrounding Panhandle counties. His generosity has led to the renaming of the campus center to the Shirley L. and Mildred Garrison United Methodist Campus Center.

A 1936 graduate of Idalou High School, Garrison served as a county agent for several years before entering the U.S. Army for service in World War II. After the war, Garrison continued his career in farming and teaching. He farmed until 1980 and then became involved in the cattle business.

In recognition of his longtime commitment to McMurry University, Garrison received an honorary doctorate in 1999.
McMurry Football to Re-Join the Lone Star Conference in 2014

McMurry University once again found a conference home for its football program, when it was announced that the school has accepted an invitation from the Lone Star Conference to compete as an affiliated member beginning in 2014.

“It is with great anticipation for the future that we are welcoming McMurry’s football team back into the Lone Star Conference,” said Wagnon, commissioner of the Lone Star Conference. “This is a decision that should bring great benefit to the student-athletes at McMurry as they will enjoy competing in the Football Festival at Cowboys Stadium, taking part in our exciting new conference playoff and competing alongside some of the best NCAA Division II programs around.

“This move also adds great value to the LSC. McMurry has been very competitive as it transitions into membership at the Division II level, winning eight ballgames. Additionally, their location in Abilene is ideal, and bringing the total number of LSC football teams to eight is a perfect fit for our new scheduling model.”

This will actually be the second go-round in the Lone Star Conference for McMurry, as the school’s athletics teams were originally LSC members from 1964-72. In the eight seasons (1964-71), McMurry football’s best showings were back-to-back third place finishes in 1967 and 1968.

McMurry Director of Athletics Ron Holmes sees the return of McMurry football to the Lone Star Conference as a win-win situation.

“We are excited to once again see our football program competing as a member of the Lone Star Conference,” Holmes said.

FOOTBALL

McMurry University football head coach Mason Miller is not one to shy away from challenges and the 2013 War Hawks football team was more than willing to emulate its first-year head coach.

For starters, Miller embraced a 2013 slate of games that included no less than three NCAA Division I FCS foes—Ablene Christian, Stephen F. Austin and Incarnate Word—and five Lone Star Conference opponents, including two NCAA Division II playoff teams from the 2012 season - Midwestern State and West Texas A&M.

Add to that the graduation of the program’s all-time passing leader and holder of virtually every passing and total offense record in all-American Jake Mullin ’13, and it’s a scenario that would have even the most grizzled veteran coaches running for cover.

“The expectation is always to be successful,” Miller said of the 2013 McMurry squad. “But more importantly, we are trying to build this program toward the caliber it has to be to compete in the Lone Star Conference (beginning in 2014).”

While the won-lost record may not have been what Miller or the team would have wanted, McMurry stood toe-to-toe with some of the best football teams in NCAA Division II and showed that it was willing to compete.

As a team, McMurry set records for total offensive plays, plays per game, total offense and yards per game (well over 500).

The War Hawks’ successes are made even more impressive by the fact that Miller graduates just seven seniors off of this year’s roster.

VOLLEYBALL

To win a national championship is hard. To repeat is even tougher. That’s the challenge McMurry University head volleyball coach Cammie Petree ’83 accepted for 2013.

Petree welcomed back 12 returners from the War Hawks’ 2012 National Christian College Athletic Association National Championship team. With a wealth of experience back on campus, the goal for 2013 season was straight to the point – defend their national championship.

The War Hawks, who are in their second season as a provisional NCAA Division II and Heartland Conference members, enjoyed several milestones early in the season.

Petree, who has guided the War Hawks for 18 seasons, earned career coaching win No. 300 in a 25-22, 25-16, (23-25) and 25-19 four-set win over Western State Colorado University.

“I feel very blessed. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to coach dozens of outstanding young women that each contributed, in their own way, to this milestone,” Petree said.

MEN’S SOCCER

The goal of the 2013 McMurry University men’s soccer was undoubtedly to play defense.

“Defense is the most important aspect of soccer and that’s something I preach to this team every day,” head coach Paul Tate said. “Strong defense gives you a chance to win every game. Teams that are strong on defense have a blue collar mentality and I like that.”

Behind senior goalkeeper Neil O’Sullivan ’14, the War Hawks lead the Heartland Conference with 113 saves and an average of nearly seven per contest. The team finished their season 4-12 overall and 2-7 in conference.
WOMEN’S SOCCER
With 14 returners and a group of five returning seniors, chemistry and familiarity was undoubtedly the strength of the 2013 version of the McMurry University women’s soccer team.

The War Hawks used that strong combination to post several program records: Most wins in a season (7), most goals in a game (7) and most goals in a season (33).

McMurry also had a 2-1 overtime win over NCAA Division I foe Alcorn State University on the road.

Senior Rachel Moore ’14 stepped up as a leader and was a key force for the War Hawks. Two War Hawks were also named to the 2013 All-Heartland Conference Team – Sophomore Aleria Luna ’16 and junior Kristen Grant ’15.

CROSS COUNTRY
The McMurry University War Hawks and head coach David Chandler kicked off the 2013 Cross Country season with a strong opening meet as McMurry hosted its own Bill Libby Invitational on September 7 at Nelson Park. The men placed second and the women sixth in the year’s opening competition.

“Our saying this season is opportunity creates opportunity,” said Chandler. “If you set yourself up and perform well…there’s going to be more opportunities.”

With much of the team’s 2012 talent returning, Chandler’s optimism and high expectations for the men was well founded. Returning runners — Michael Dowd ’15, Hector Flores ’16, Shane Floyd ’14, Dustin Jaramillo ’16, Spencer Patterson ’15, and Anthony Todd ’16 — showed marked improvement during the course of the season in some tough races.

Joining them were freshman Kirk Hodel ’17 and Scout Hale ’17, along with junior transfer Kameron Hartfield ’15, all of whom proved to be welcome additions to the War Hawks’ squad.

On the women’s side, many of last year’s competitors come in a little more seasoned and well-conditioned. Returning runners Alyssa Fields ’15, Lauren Peery ’15, Mary Affleck ’16, Chantel Ruffin ’15, and Carissa Terry ’16 all improved in 2013.

Peery and Fields – both juniors – led the McMurry team in the bulk of their races and set the pace for the year. Both ladies went sub-20 minutes for the 5K race on three occasions during 2013.

Floyd, the only senior on either roster, McMurry cross country looks even stronger in the future.

GOLF
McMurry’s men’s and women’s golf programs each play a five-match fall slate of competition, before resuming action next spring. Both squads competed in their respective National Christian College Athletic Association meets in late October, with Matt Porter ’15 placing 20th in the men’s championship and Arabella Cruz ’17 11th in the women’s invitational.

The War Hawks women also welcomed back a strong contingent, as returners made up five of seven roster slots. The team’s lone senior is Makenzie Stone ’14 and the only junior is third-year player Leah Morgan ’15. The returnees also include sophomores Randi Hanfeld ’16, Shelbi Hobbs ’16 and Cameron Wallace ’16.

The two newcomers to the team are Cruz and Kelly Lanford ’17, both freshmen.
Most McMurry graduates talk about the variety of experiences they had on campuses, from athletics to theater to student government. It wasn’t exactly like that for Johnny Ray Watson—but close. Watson was recruited in the late 1960s by Coach Hershel Kimbrell to play basketball when McMurry competed in the Lone Star Conference.

Watson grew up in Lorenzo, near Lubbock, and started singing at age 10 in a small African-American Baptist church there. “Basketball was my first love,” Watson said, “and singing was my second love.” So, when Watson came to McMurry he had dreams of playing basketball and singing in the Chanters chorus.

But Kimbrell was having none of that. He wanted Watson to focus on basketball. Watson obliged but found an outlet for singing anyway, with the coach’s blessing. At the time, the national championship tournament was held in Kansas City. So, Watson figured out a way to sing to the crowd at old Indian Gym before home games. “I would get on the microphone and sing, ‘We’re going to Kansas City,’” Watson said, still chuckling at the thought. He also played in a band with two cousins and sang and played the piano at local churches.

Watson, who is now 62, found more than basketball and singing at McMurry. He also found out what he was made of. Watson grew up in church but acknowledged that he strayed some from his upbringing while in college. He had to learn to live away from home for the first time and to adjust to a new lifestyle. He said he was trying to move away from his upbringing but that God had a different idea. “At the time, I knew God had his hand on me,” Watson said.

A couple of fellow students invited Watson to a Bible study at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and even went out of their way to make sure he attended. He did, and the lessons obviously took hold.

Watson left McMurry after three years and hoped to be drafted by an NBA team. But a knee injury ended his professional sports dream.

But Watson still had his second love—singing—to fall back on. After leaving McMurry and missing out on a basketball career, Watson set out on a career as a “traveling evangelist/singer.”
Dear Alumni,

As the new Alumni Director at McMurry University, I am excited to be a part of this wonderful community. I thank all of the alumni who have been so gracious in welcoming me to the campus during our recent homecoming and those who have reached out to me by phone or email.

I want you to be confident the Office of Alumni Relations is here for you. We are going to keep you informed of all the great things taking place on campus, help you connect with other alumni, provide you with opportunities for professional growth and networking, and make sure you are always incredibly proud of your alma mater.

Engaging alumni in meaningful ways through my association with the McMurry Alumni Board, meeting you through alumni gatherings, and expanding on campus events and activities are just some of my priorities. As ambassadors of McMurry University, you can help maintain and build upon our proud and deep-rooted legacy of developing servant leaders for life.

Good ideas come from everyone, so please send any thoughts you would like to share with me and other members of the University. I also invite you to stop by the Alumni Relations office the next time you are on campus, to learn more about how you can become involved. In the meantime, if there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 325-793-4608 or couts.suzann@mcm.edu.

Suzann Coutts
Director of Alumni Relations

Will You Answer The Call?

Current students will be calling alumni and friends to talk about the McMurry Fund, as well as what’s going on around campus. When you share your McMurry experiences and favorite memories you share a history with that student and the importance of supporting your Alma Mater.

Thank you for answering our call!

Johnny Ray Watson ’71

“Coach Kimbrell was probably one of the strongest father images I had besides my father. He was very influential in my life.”

- Johnny Ray Watson ’71

and spent the next dozen years or so singing in churches within the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

His Southern Gospel routes led to making several albums, but even bigger things were in store for him. Watson was the featured artist of some of America’s great ministries, including the Moody Bible Institute, Bill Glass Prison Ministries, and the Billy Graham Crusades. Watson was invited three times to sing with Billy Graham’s team, which put Watson in an elite status.

“That’s the Super Bowl of all gospel singing,” he said.

Watson, who was inducted into McMurry’s Athletic Hall of Honor in 1993, now lives in Bastrop and is fighting a tough battle. Diabetes forced the amputation of several toes and caused kidney failure. Watson is now on dialysis as he awaits a kidney transplant.

Though life is tough for him now, Watson still laughs easily and remembers fondly the relationships he formed at McMurry. He still occasionally visits with his former McMurry teammates. “We laugh and tell jokes on each other,” he said.

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Class Notes

’67 HARVIELEE MOORE ’67 retired as superintendent of Deming school district in June. She spent 45 years with the Deming school district, the last nine years as superintendent. We wish her the best in her new adventure!

’70 GREG FERIS ’70, athletics director of Wayland Baptist University, has been named the Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year for the third time in his career.

’84 GARY WELLS ’84, senior banking officer at Happy State Bank in Amarillo, was recently honored by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas with its 2013 Excellence in Leadership Award. Congratulations Gary!

’89 Abilene Frame-N-Art Shoppe, owned by LINDA STRICKLIN ’89, was honored by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce in May 2013 with the Business Salute Award. After receiving her BFA in art from McMurry, Linda went on to Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas where she earned her MFA. Linda taught art at McMurry University from 1993-2003 until purchasing Abilene Frame-N-Art in 2003.

’91 DR. CECILIA J. ARAGÓN ’91 has recently been appointed to serve as Director of Chicano Studies Program at University of Wyoming.

’01 JIM KERBOW ’01 now serves as the defensive coordinator at 5A Division 1 Tyler Robert E. Lee High School.

’02 SARAH SHEPPARD SHAVER ’02 has been appointed Chair of the Theatre Department at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Sarah was an honor student in English and theatre while at McMurry, and she was a winner in the Texas Educational Theatre Association’s Playwriting Competition with “Fruit Punch Anyone!” Her full-length original play, “Redeeming Mama” was written as an honors thesis and produced as a main stage production at McMurry. Good luck, Sarah!

’04 APRIL WYNN ’04 received her PhD in Genetics from NCSU. She is photographed with Richard (Max) Wynn, Ph.D. ’80 and Sharon Wynn ’80 at April’s dissertation defense.

’06 CHRIS ANDERSON ’06 has been named a fellow in the nationally recognized City of San Antonio Management Fellows program. Upon completion of the program, the
Management Fellows are given help by city staff in finding a fulltime position that matches their career interests. The program’s selection process is rigorous and competitive; applicants from across the country vie for one of three available fellowships. During the initial round of interviews earlier this year, approximately 167 applications were screened until this year’s Management Fellows were chosen. Anderson received his master’s in public administration in the UTSA College of Public Policy. “I am interested in the positive impact I can make on others through service,” said Anderson. “This fellowship is the perfect way to not only prepare myself for the next stage of my career but also sharpen my skills as an adaptable and dependable leader in my community.” Congratulations Chris!

’06 **CRYSTAL KLINE RANDAZZO** ‘06 and her husband, Dom Randazzo have been assigned to Rwanda. Dom has been appointed Consulate General.

’10 **DR. BLAINE WEICK** ‘10 has joined The Dental Group of Amarillo. Blaine graduated with a BS from McMurry in Biology and then attended the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Dentistry. He and his wife Lisa are excited to be back home in Amarillo. Congratulations Dr. Weick!

**ROB SLEDGE** a retired McMurry University history professor, recently took family members on a trip to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the capture of Sledge’s great-grandfather on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Sledge descendants are pictured in front of a monument to the 2nd Mississippi Regiment. They are (from left) his son Robert Lee “Bobby” Sledge II, of Austin; two grandsons, Ryan Turner, of Irving, and Eric Turner, of Abilene; and a nephew, Michael Sledge, of Austin.
Imogene Holmes
Imogene Dolores Dixon Holmes, mother of McMurry Director of Athletics Ron Holmes, passed away on Sept. 25, 2013. Born Aug. 10, 1925, in Ranger, TX, she spent most of her life in Van Horn, TX, where she met and married the love of her life, Kenneth Bailey Holmes, who passed away in 2004. Imogene and her husband Kenneth were strong supporters of McMurry athletics and their legacy at McMurry still stands today through their generosity and support of the University and its athletic programs.

As members of the United Methodist Church, the Holmes’ affiliation with McMurry came long before their son Ron began attending McMurry in 1973. When Dr. Gordon Bennett was McMurry’s president he sought out the Holmes who made their home in Van Horn. He asked for financial support and the couple responded.

Later, when Ron Holmes attended school and became a member of the Indian basketball team, their interest in McMurry athletics reached a new height, and even more so when he became McMurry’s head basketball coach in 1990. Their financial support was so appreciated that today a plaque with the Holmes’ picture hangs in the north hallway of Kimbrell Arena.

Rev. Cyril Stone
Reverend Richard Cyril Stone ’46, 95, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 in Abilene. Rev. Stone was the driving force behind the establishment of the McMurry Cross and Flame Award, established in 2000 by the McMurry Alumni Association to strengthen the relationship between McMurry University and the United Methodist Church by recognizing individuals for service to their churches and to the University.

Cyril was born on April 16, 1918 in Artesia, NM. He attended McMurry College, now McMurry University, where he met and married Mary Corinne Daniel. After their wedding, they lived in his home town of Artesia for several years, and then returned to McMurry for about two years. He went to Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he earned both a Master of Theology and Master of Arts. He served many churches in the Northwest Texas and New Mexico conferences until his retirement in 1984.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity at McMurry University and earned a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary. Cyril loved McMurry and was very active with the Alumni Association. He was given the Cross and Flame Award in 2000 and the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.
We’re your biggest fans!

Thank you for giving.

The pages of McMurry’s recently published annual report are filled with incredible stories of the lives positively affected by our University as well as exciting news of McMurry’s sound financial future because of gifts from alumni like you. Total giving for the 2013 fiscal year was almost $3 million, and the McMurry Fund saw a 33% increase in gifts from the previous year. Plus, the current endowment of $68,698,899 has grown over 12% since May 2012.

FY13 TOTAL GIVING

$2,891,376

THE McMURRY FUND

*FY’09 reflects the final year of “Shaping the Future” campaign.
Now Challenging All Alumni!

The Dodge Jones Alumni Giving Challenge is back and better than ever. Dodge Jones is now challenging all alumni, raising the match to $150,000. Visit mcm.edu/dodgejones to see how your donation can be doubled, or even tripled.