A University in Motion

THE McMURRY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS
We're off on the start of a new school year, with all the excitement and anticipation that comes with the beginning of an important journey. I find, on the occasion of Gerri and me undertaking our tenth year as McMurry’s First Couple, a great opportunity to reflect on some of the elements that have been a segment of the McMurry Experience with which we have been privileged to be a part. This issue of the *Chieftain* has helped to sharpen some of that reflection.

I think of the experience we offer our students that provides them with the knowledge and skills to be responsible citizens of the 21st century. Experiences that recognize the importance of learning that occurs outside the classroom and in non-traditional methods will better equip our students for the complex world into which they will graduate—these experiences are found throughout McMurry’s curriculum. Meaningful internships and opportunities to apply foundational principles in the solution of “real-world” problems add an important depth to the educational experience.

From a perspective further developed at McMurry, I am convinced that knowledge and skills alone do not define the success of a college education. In addition to those important attributes, success should also be marked by the cultivating of an attitude for service—developing the hearts of servant-leaders and committing our gifts and talents to better our community, our churches and our schools. McMurry students find a wide variety of opportunities to nurture the development of a servant’s heart, greatly extending the value of the knowledge and skills they’ve acquired.

Few activities bring students, faculty, staff and alumni together with the impact of intercollegiate athletics. For student-athletes, the opportunity to compete for four more years is a strong motivator to go to college and succeed while there. For our students, watching—and cheering for—a McMurry student-athlete presents an opportunity to encourage success of their classmates. For faculty and staff, an intercollegiate contest is more than entertainment. It’s a chance to see our students “compete” in a different forum—on the field rather than in the classroom. For alumni, an athletic event draws them back to the campus that was transformative in their lives. McMurry’s recent move to NCAA Division II serves to energize all of these groups and to provide a new and exciting intersection for members of the McMurry Family.

The McMurry War Hawks took flight in the spring, a punctuation mark to a process that engaged many of those same students, faculty, staff and alumni. The War Hawk rollout continues, energized by student involvement that is honing leadership skills in ways that will pay dividends to the mascot launch itself, and to the students and groups involved.

Gerri and I have been blessed by our time at McMurry and by the elements that have defined our McMurry Experience. We have observed—and been a part of—a university community moving ahead in so many areas. Perhaps Nancy Smith has it right—and you can read about it…*McMurry in Motion*. I think you’ll enjoy the *Chieftain* as we tell the story…the story of motion.

Kind Regards,

John H. Russell, President
EDITOR’S MESSAGE

Simply being in motion is neither positive or negative. Activity may or may not lead to a positive outcome. Sometimes one can expend valuable energy that leads nowhere, when one feels like he’s running in circles. Or the more frustrating result is to feel that one’s actions are actually moving him farther from his goal, as in taking one step forward and two back.

I can assure that McMurry’s motion is positive for the university, resulting in enrollment growth and financial strength. While other universities of similar size may appear stagnant and in a sense running in place, we’re initiating and embracing changes that will position us favorably to attract record numbers of students in the future and to accelerate our standing as a first-class academic institution in which our alumni will express pride and invest resources.

Our vision for the future is clear, and we are moving steadily onward and upward. It is my desire that as you read the stories in this issue of the Chieftain, you will get caught up in the excitement. We want you to join our team. This is not a sprint and there is no finish line. This is a relay marathon and we need many strong leaders to set the pace and train new leaders to whom we will one day pass the baton.

McMurry is indeed a university in motion, and we are challenging other universities to keep up with our progress. My bet is that we will leave them in the dust.

Nancy Smith

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ON THE COVER
Students Becky Overton, Deen Coleman and Alyssa Allen
It has been well publicized that college students today face a daunting task in their job search after they walk across the stage at graduation.

In a tough economy, good paying jobs in many career fields are few and far between, and competition is fierce. Companies with job openings that offer above average wages plus attractive benefits packages are deluged with applications from many capable candidates. How do graduates prepare themselves for a competitive job market? And how does a university committed to seeing its graduates in future careers that are financially sustaining and personally satisfying provide them with the “extra something” they need to beat out the competition?

McMurry University takes pride in the quality of graduates it produces, and its faculty members have a reputation for providing value-added enhancements to the classroom instruction our students receive. So what is McMurry doing to beef up the résumés of our students before they hit the job market? Many students participate in internships designed to provide them with opportunities to apply classroom concepts and theories in actual work settings. Interns are “employed” on-campus, at local businesses and even at large corporations in metropolitan areas. For young graduates who
will be competing for jobs against more seasoned applicants, these internships demonstrate on the résumé practical and relevant experience beyond classroom competencies. The immediate benefit for the student is three hours of course credit, and in the case of a paid internship, a small stipend sweetens the pot. And even better, the intern begins to develop a network of business contacts, and it’s not unusual for a high-performing intern to be offered a full-time position after the completion of the internship.

According to Dr. K.O. Long, Dean of the School of Business, some degree programs require internships while others are voluntary but encouraged. Faculty members are diligent in securing internships for students by taking requests and by making calls to business contacts to arrange internship opportunities. During a semester, there is an average of 18 to 24 interns in place through the School of Business. Dr. Long touts the positives for businesses as well as interns. “Supervisors have the benefit of a student working for them for little or no cost, but more important, they benefit by having a student who is currently studying issues relating to their business. They glean the student’s perspective and a better understanding of the demographic population they represent. It’s a ‘win-win’ for both supervisors and interns, and businesses who have had interns before typically request to have one again,” he said.

The positive impacts are certainly evident, but internships don’t happen without a significant amount of work expended on the part of both the interns and their supervisors. A work plan for each intern must be in place and the supervisor must complete a document called a learning contract, which itemizes the specific tasks that the intern will be expected to participate in or complete. Both parties must turn in an evaluation at the completion of the internship. Most complete an average of 120 hours in order to receive three hours of course credit, and in addition to the tasks assigned by the supervisor, the intern generally must complete accompanying academic assignments, such as reports, journals, and presentations.

Matt Smith, Exercise Science and Human Performance major, participated in an internship this summer at Hendrick Health Club. One of his culminating activities was to present a PowerPoint presentation related to how the Club could increase enrollment in certain classes through flexible daily and seasonal scheduling.

“I studied average attendance patterns and presented options with the financial implications of each,” he said. “I showed them how new class attendance options could increase new memberships and the number of ‘re-signs’ after the first year.”

Senior marketing interns, Alex Crisman and Alaisha Guerra, were employed by the Office of Institutional Advancement this summer, and the impact of their accomplishments will far outlast the tenure of their internships. Riding the wave of last spring’s mascot search, both Alex and Alaisha responded to the daunting task of spearheading the marketing campaign and promoting the McMurry War Hawks with incoming students and upperclassmen at football games, homecoming and special events. Their work plan required that they manage a budget, develop a strategic plan for the allocation of resources, conduct product research, negotiate agreements and contracts, and handle the procurement of promotional components. They worked with outside vendors and other departments on campus, and according to Alex, that proved to be a challenge: “I had to learn to balance my vision with someone else’s

“I had to learn to balance my vision with someone else's and reach compromise. When I had a really good idea, I had to try to convince others, while working with and respecting levels of authority.” - ALEX CRISMAN
At McMurry, our mission to better the lives of our students compels us to insure that practical tools leading to gainful employment must accompany the more abstract and lofty goal of knowledge acquisition. 

and reach compromise. When I had a really good idea, I had to try to convince others, while working with and respecting levels of authority.” Certainly sounds like a “real-world” application.

The Office of Alumni Relations benefitted from the marketing savvy of senior Matt McGlaun, who researched and developed the framework for the launch of the Student Alumni Association, an organization to solidify students’ connection with, and responsibility to, the university past graduation. Matt established a membership structure with fees and benefits, planned a kickoff event, developed a promotional brochure, designed advertising pieces and conducted a recruitment campaign for new members.

Of his internship experience, Matt shared his pride in “getting the organization off the ground. I was able to get a lot done in a short amount of time, and I learned a lot about working with budgets. My public speaking skills improved also, through having to make presentations to incoming students and their parents at SOAR.”

Alex and Alaisha were also proud of their accomplishments during the limited timeframe they were provided. Alex became more confident in his ability to “try new things and take risks, and if something doesn’t work, I’m O.K. with getting back on my feet and trying again.”

These interns are indeed exceptional. What qualities do interns possess that help guarantee a successful internship experience? According to Dr. Long, “Employers want to see students who take instruction and who take initiative. They want students who recognize this as an opportunity and who will make the most of it.” Matt Smith feels that he did indeed make the most of his internship opportunity. “I worked hard and I think I made a good impression. I feel pretty confident they would hire me if they have an opening, and if they don’t have an opening, they will give me a good reference.”

McMurry is a university in constant motion, always looking for ways to improve the educational experience for our students. It is our intent to increase internship opportunities in number and scope and in degree programs across campus. Dr. Long encourages alumni to offer internships and reminds them that these opportunities don’t have to be in Abilene.

Increasing the scope of career preparation initiatives is on the docket for the School of Business and will likely include job shadowing experiences with local businesses to help students explore various occupations and to solidify their career choices and better connect them to the local business community. Other areas of focus will be résumés, portfolios, and the integration of these components into existing classes. Dr. Long emphasizes the importance of alumni involvement in their efforts. “This year, we will be building a resource network of business leaders and alumni and looking for input from them in the development of new initiatives.”

Developing a more comprehensive four-year career preparation integration will no doubt increase the value of the internship as a capstone experience leading directly to the job market. McMurry certainly adheres to the belief that the acquisition of knowledge is, in and of itself, a worthy endeavor for any university. But our mission to better the lives of our students compels us to ensure that practical tools leading to gainful employment must accompany the more abstract and lofty goal of knowledge acquisition. For McMurry’s part, helping our students jump ahead of their competition will likely show up in admirable placement rates, stronger connections with alumni and ultimately, a stronger donor base. The bottom line is that the success of our university is in direct correlation to the success of our graduates; and the success of our graduates is in direct correlation to the quality of the educational product we provide them. And our graduates can be assured that the quality of their education is our first priority.

If you are interested in offering an internship, contact James Greer, Director of Career Services, at (325) 793-4880 or email jgreer@mcm.edu.
Our internship position came about after the selection of our new mascot. The University Relations staff is very creative, so when the War Hawks mascot was chosen and then revealed, they were overflowing with branding and marketing ideas. Wanting student involvement and insight along with fresh ideas, they came up with an idea for a summer marketing internship...

Alex Crisman and I started this journey with a number of tasks to complete, and as the weeks have passed, the staff has, on a weekly basis, walked in the office and given us more! Our main task was to brand McMurry as the War Hawks, incorporating the mascot into the university as much as possible. The best way that Alex and I thought to incorporate the War Hawks was to obtain a mascot, either live or costumed. After researching both options, we came to the decision that the costumed mascot would be the priority for the coming school year, and that the prospect of a live mascot would be an ongoing project because it would require a substantial amount of time and research. After researching about six mascot costume companies, we decided to go with a company called BAM Mascots. They were very proactive during each step of the process. They sent us sketch after sketch until the costume was to our satisfaction; they sent fabric swatches so that we would know exactly what we were getting; and they sent us picture updates during the actual production process. Overall, we were extremely happy with the company and our final product.

With that task completed, Alex and I moved on to other branding projects. We researched many interesting ideas that we believed would be exciting to see around campus, and we discussed all of them with campus administrators. Alex stumbled upon a company that created sticker signs, and we brainstormed a couple of places around the...
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campus where we could use some of their work. We decided to place step signs on the steps directly across from the entrance to the campus center. With some help from our resident graphic designer, Mallory Edens, we picked some graphics and sent the art off to the company for production. Since we had formed a relationship with them, we moseyed around their site and found some other items that caught our interest.

After comparing prices with several companies, we asked them to produce some War Hawk floor decals. One floor decal was to be used on the floor of the cafeteria, and then the other was to be decided after we could get a visual of how the first one was going to look. Using the graphics that we sent over for the step signs and floor decals, the company suggested a few items that we had not given thought to, such as a football runner flag and a banner with a unique snap-in frame. After considering their suggestions, we decided that they would be great additions to the branding items that we had previously purchased.

Some other items that we believed would be perfect for our branding theme included a “fathead-type” wall decal and a banner for the south end zone fence. The wall decal was going to be placed on the newly renovated ‘wall of champions’ located in the campus center Sports Grille. The end zone banner began as a suggestion to “give that fence some character,” and ended up being a great opportunity to incorporate the War Hawk, so we ran with the idea. We asked the local company who had produced the original ‘wall of champions’ to help us with the end zone banner and the wall decal for the Sports Grille.

We also researched promotional giveaway items to be distributed to students at the beginning of school and at certain campus events. The first item was a War Hawk key chain that was distributed with new campus-wide parking permits. We found out that all students, faculty, and staff would need to get an updated parking permit, so we decided to offer the free key chains as
an incentive to get the new permit, which would help campus security distribute them effectively and quickly. The second item was a War Hawk window decal that was distributed during the naming of the costumed mascot. The naming process took place during the first and second week of school, and the window decals were offered as incentives to get students to cast their votes. A small number of decals were given to the Office of Alumni Relations, and the rest were given to the bookstore to sell. After the initial distribution of key chains, the rest were given to the Admissions Office and the newly-created Student Alumni Association.

As interns, Alex and I have learned a lot about the behind-the-scenes part of campus operations that students usually do not have the opportunity to experience, and we are very grateful. Personally, I have enjoyed being part of this monumental event in McMurry’s history of launching a new mascot. I look forward to returning to McMurry in the future and saying, “I did that, I started that, and I helped with that.” This was a very successful and fulfilling internship, and I hope that the work we have completed will be just as beneficial to McMurry University.
REACHING OUT
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION AND A MISSION TRIP TO HAITI

BY MARK WATERS

Why invest time and money in a college education? Our materialistic, consumer-driven society tends to answer this question very simply and directly: “To get the best job possible.” Jobs are important. We all need to earn a living. Income is a practical necessity of life. Nevertheless, if the sole purpose of a college education is financial, then faith-based and liberal arts colleges are, to put it bluntly, superfluous. Secular professional schools can accomplish this task quite nicely.

Readers will not be surprised to learn that I will argue precisely the opposite. In our consumer-driven society, a faith-based, virtue-based education is more important than ever. Education and, indeed, life are sucked dry of meaning and color when the central value-focus is securing a job and making money. A college education should enrich one’s life and values, not simply prepare one to obtain a job. Christian minister and writer Frederick Buechner says that God’s call—vocation—“is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” A college education should help students discover their deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger, and equip students with the knowledge and skills to address the deep hunger that captures their passion.

Developmentally, college students are at a formative and transformative stage of life. They are sprouting seeds with beautiful potential. A college education should be developmentally appropriate; it should be about formation and transformation, not just training to earn money.

Indeed, my conviction is that students will earn money more fruitfully and ethically and with more personal fulfillment if their education is transformative, not just pragmatic.

The transformation that I advocate is not manipulative or coercive. Genuine work toward transformation always respects the values, views, and perspectives of the student who engages in the transformative process. I do not have a pre-set agenda for “transforming” students. The best formation and transformation result from a student’s discovery of (1) his or her deepest self, created in the image of God, (2) his or her passion or bliss, and (3) how this passion relates to the real world. In other words, transformative education helps students to discover the place where their deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

How can these three elements converge in a college education? It can happen in the classroom, in the library, in the residence hall, in the theatre, on the athletic field, or elsewhere. But I am convinced that one of the best intentional ways to foster authentic transformation—converging the three elements in the preceding paragraph—is to expose students to real-life experiences that complement the classroom experience. These kinds of experiences can come through service-learning, extra-curricular activities, travel, and more. Examples include Model U.N., annual mission/academic trips to
the Navajo Nation, service learning components in many courses, archeological digs in Jordan, participation in the Parliament of the World’s Religions, and McMurry Religious Life’s MICAH project. (MICAH involves building missional relationships with Mexico/Middle East, India, China, Africa, and Haiti.)

A case in point is our recent mission trip to Haiti. Fundraising for the trip began with a stroke of genius, a student-led project initiated by Lindsey Lowry ’10, known as Cite’ Lespwa (Creole for City of Hope). Approximately 1.5 million Haitians were left homeless following the January 2010 earthquake. An estimated 800,000 still live in tents. Students raised funds for the trip by creating Cite’ Lespwa, a tent city, for one week on campus. Students, plus a handful of faculty and staff, stayed in tents from one night—or parts of two nights in my case—to an entire week. Through fundraising on the corner of South 14th and Sayles and concomitant awareness-raising, students raised about $6,000 for the trip. Classroom instruction on fundraising is valuable, but imagine the transformative learning that took place through actually participating in Cite’ Lespwa.

Thirteen of us arrived in Haiti prepared to help build houses with a wonderful interdenominational organization, Partners in Development. We worked hard and genuinely contributed to the construction projects. But the lasting impact of the trip was building relationships. For instance, we got to know Jean Marc (pronounced Jon Mak in Creole), a twelve-year-old young man who worked with us every day at one of the worksites. His smile, work ethic, and compassion inspired us all. He lives in conditions that we would consider

CITÉ LESPWÁ: CITY OF HOPE
When disaster struck in Haiti, McMurry responded. RLC students, led and organized by Lindsey Lowry, implemented a fundraiser where students lived in tents to support Haitians without homes. They also hit the streets asking for donations. In one week they raised $6,000 toward a mission trip to go build homes in Haiti.
Jean Marc and many other new Haitian friends remind us that we are all more alike than we are different. We want fulfilling relationships, happy lives, and we want to make meaningful contributions to those around us.

harsh (I imagine that he generally has one meal a day of rice and beans), yet he lives with joy and compassion. Getting to know Jean Marc reminds us that service is not pity. He does not need our pity, which is patronizing and demeaning. He does need our support and assistance, as do thousands like him. Jean Marc and many other new Haitian friends remind us that we are all more alike than we are different. We want fulfilling relationships, happy lives, and we want to make meaningful contributions to those around us. Memories of Jean Marc and others transform us to be more intentional in our compassion, our vocations, and our lifestyles.

Another example: In December of 2009 we took a group of students to the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Melbourne, Australia. The Parliament meets in a different location every five years. Melbourne drew approximately 6,000 people representing 80 countries and 220 religions. Some readers might be concerned that participation in such an event could water down students’ Christian faith. I am confident that I reflect the sentiment of each participant when I say that participation deepened and expanded the Christian faith of each one of us.

For instance, one student, Chuck, was sitting in the convention hall foyer area between sessions when he noticed that the Islamic gentleman seated next to him was weeping. Chuck gently engaged the man and learned that he just received word that his wife had left him while he was away. Chuck not only served this man, his faith was deepened because he was genuinely following Christ by listening compassionately to him. And the transformative lesson that Chuck will carry for the rest of his life is that following Jesus means relating to others as human beings, not as stereotypes. It is easy to stereotype Muslims in the wake of 9-11, but Jesus always related to people, not stereotypes. If we are to follow Jesus, we can do no less. Chuck is now planning to be a hospital chaplain. If I or a loved
one need a chaplain during a hospitalization, I want someone like Chuck whose “follow-ship” of Christ was deepened by an experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom.

So, what is the point of the foregoing examples in the context of this article? My point is that students (indeed all of us) will be positioned to discover or re-discover our deepest self, our passion or bliss, and how this passion relates to the real world. This occurs when we open ourselves to experiences like Cité’ Lespwa or mission trips and engage in relationships with people like Jean Marc or with the gentleman in Melbourne.

A solid college education not only conveys academic content, it invites students into experiences in which they discover where their deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.
It is no secret that the cost of a college education can often be one of the largest expense items that families will ever face, and for many, the cost may seem insurmountable. What measures can we take as a university to help students and parents reach the summit that is a college degree without a mountain of debt?

As the Texas Legislature and federal government planned funding cuts for higher education in the form of Tuition Equalization (TEG) and Pell grants early this year, McMurry University was busy making sure the anticipated cuts did not harm our students. “We began planning for the anticipated shortfall back in January, based upon preliminary budget discussions that were occurring in Washington and Austin,” said McMurry University President Dr. John Russell. “We held two campus-wide town hall meetings—one hosted by McMurry Board Chair Mr. Phil Brewer—to address the anticipated challenge, and we lined out the planning criteria that would be used in addressing the challenge.”

Out of those meetings, Dr. Russell said a number of priorities were established. “One of the top priorities was to minimize the adverse impact on our students of uncertain federal and state financial aid by controlling tuition, room and board increases for the coming academic year.”

In addition, the entire McMurry community engaged in a student-led letter-writing appeal to their elected representatives on behalf of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant. The letters, along with efforts by many other students, faculty and staff from private colleges across Texas, helped bring back some of the proposed funding that had been cut in the initial state budgeting process.

A similar battle was being waged on a national level over Pell grants. After months of debate in Congress, a key piece of the debt reduction deal now includes $17 billion toward the funding of the Pell Grant program in FY 2012 and FY 2013. It also lists Pell Grants as an essential program for low-income individuals that would be protected in the event of an automatic across-the-board cut to meet deficit reduction targets. Even with the additional funding, Pell Grants will need an additional $1.3 billion in this fall’s appropriations process.

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to maintain the $5,550 maximum grant. Funding for the other federal student aid programs such as SEOG, work study and Perkins will be examined this fall.

The state TEG is awarded to students who are economically disadvantaged and need financial aid to help pay tuition at private institutions. On average, TEG covers approximately one-fifth of student's overall tuition costs. There are forty nonprofit, tax-exempt, general academic independent colleges and universities in Texas enrolling about 114,125 students (about 11% of all the state's college students), who count on TEG to make their college affordable. Ten percent of all Texas college students attend one of the forty colleges and universities, and the schools award 23% of all Texas BA degrees and 25% of professional and graduate degrees.

"The TEG program has established a rare win-win-win situation. First, the taxpayers of Texas win because the average TEG award is less than one-third of what it costs the state to support a student at a public university. Second, Texas students win because the program enables them to choose which type of college or university best meets their educational needs. Third, the State of Texas wins because TEG helps the private sector of higher education in Texas to meet the growing need for places in our state's colleges and universities. The Higher Education Coordinating Board projected that we will need 500,000 more places for college students by 2015. "The TEG program is good public policy," said Dr. Jon N. Moline in a Facebook post on the Independent

Keeping Costs Down

McMurry University has established both short-term and long-term strategies to help keep the cost of attendance affordable for our students, while providing a high quality education. Responding to the budget challenges of the 2011-2012 academic year, the University established plans for dealing with the decreased revenue brought on by the reduction in state and federal funding.

Among the most important short-term initiatives are the following:

- McMurry planned for smaller entering/returning classes which generated conservative revenue projections;
- Because of previous generous endowment gifts and careful endowment management, McMurry was able to divert additional endowment returns to support student financial aid and campus operations;
- The University filled openings only for the most critical faculty and staff positions and instituted a process for more closely aligning future hiring with McMurry's strategic priorities;
- Salary increase considerations were deferred until after fall enrollment information is finalized and more accurate revenue projections can be completed;
- McMurry was able to realize cost savings through a summer four-day work week for most employees (and achieve a more family-friendly work environment); and
- Cost savings have been achieved through more competitive utilities and health care insurance agreements.

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Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) site.

The campaign by McMurry students and others to contact their state legislators helped lower some of the proposed budget cuts, which had started off at 45% in some budget negotiations. However, as the Texas Legislature finally passed a two-year state budget, McMurry University received a 28% reduction in TEG funds for the 2011-2012 year. “The maximum amount of TEG was also reduced to $3,518 compared to last year’s amount of $3,908,” said Rachel Atkins, Director of Financial Aid at McMurry.

How has McMurry responded to the TEG reduction? “First, we have decided to award students $3,000 in TEG a year in order to give it to more students. Second, we increased the maximum amount of the McMurry Need Grant. Lastly, McMurry increased its Endowed Scholarship by an additional $125,000,” said Atkins. “We won’t be able to replace the full loss of TEG, but we hope these changes will benefit our students. We won’t know the full effect of the TEG reduction until we bring in the 2011-2012 class.”

Steve Crisman, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at McMurry, said the University will continue to partner with donors to help provide students with an affordable education in the future. “There is a focus on the part of the University and donors to make college education affordable,” Crisman said. “People are doing that by setting up endowments and legacy gifts, and the University will be
launched a campaign in the near future to further grow endowments for student scholarships.” And, Crisman added that the recently concluded “Shaping the Future” capital campaign raised almost $9 million, surpassing its initial $6 million endowment goal, another indicator of donors’ willingness to provide funding for students to attend McMurry.

It’s that focus that helps students like Shayleigh Uribe to attend McMurry. Coming from a large family with six children, Shayleigh’s parents were not able to help her attend college. However, she was able to come to McMurry in part because of a TEG grant and other scholarship help the university.

When she heard that TEG was threatened by state budget cuts and that McMurry was organizing an effort to save it, she volunteered to write to her state representatives to tell her story and ask for help in restoring TEG funds to the budget. Shayleigh’s state representative responded to her letter and stressed the importance of the TEG program to the state’s overall economic well-being, as well as its importance in providing better educational opportunities to all Texans. Letters like Shayleigh’s and others helped convince lawmakers to restore much of the TEG to the state budget.

That’s good news for Shayleigh. “It (TEG) helps so much for people like me to be able to come to college,” she said.

For the long term, McMurry has implemented policy decisions in the past few years to reduce the cost for students, including:

- **Resisting program creep:** Colleges and universities traditionally find it easier to grow program length than to hold the line or reduce the number of hours required for graduation. In 2005, McMurry took a seemingly unprecedented step in aligning (reducing) almost every academic major to the 120 credit hour standard of the regional accrediting agency. And it did so while maintaining academic quality.

- **Dual-credit, AP and CLEP credit:** Today’s college students have an ever-growing number of opportunities to gain college credit prior to showing up on campus as a full-time student. The Advanced Placement Examinations (AP) and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) provide students the opportunity to validate the relevance of education and/or experience through the award of college level credit. Together with McMurry’s robust offering of dual-credit courses to high school juniors and seniors, these AP and CLEP programs are bringing students to campus with a solid head start on their academic journeys.

- **Block Tuition:** More than ten years ago, McMurry went to a “block tuition” model that sets a tuition rate for full-time students that is the same whether enrolled for 12 credit hours or 18. An intended consequence had been that full-time students would average higher credit hour loads after the block tuition model was implemented.

Since these three initiatives were put in place, the percentage of McMurry students graduating in three or three-and-a-half years has increased from seven to more than 21 percent. Earlier graduation—and one or two fewer semesters of tuition payment—brought about by right-sized programs, dual-credit and AP/CLEP programs, and a tuition pricing schedule that encourages full academic loads is a potential cost saver. The combination of these short and long range cost saving ideas will help McMurry University continue to provide our students with an affordable, high quality educational experience.
The move to DII would mean bringing back scholarship athletics to the institution for the first time since the 1976-77 school year.

Careful planning, research and strategy for the transition began more than a year ago, and the university’s board of trustees approved the application process to move from NCAA Division III to Division II on Dec. 17, 2010.

“It’s a great day for McMurry, and we have been excited about planning for the move. Now the pins and needles feeling is over,” said Athletic Director Ron Holmes. “We’re ready to move forward in an official capacity, and we’re closer to getting our teams eligible for the
Acceptance by the NCAA means that McMurry begins its candidacy period in 2011-12 and will be eligible to compete in NCAA Division II playoffs for the first time in 2014-15. The War Hawks will compete one final year in Division III as a member of the American Southwest Conference (ASC) in 2011-12.

The board’s approval of the process was based on the impact of the move on the entire McMurry community. After careful consideration of many factors including recruiting, admissions, athletics and academics, the board, along with University President Dr. John Russell, concluded the move for the athletics program would benefit the entire institution.

After the announcement, Russell reiterated his excitement regarding the positive impact expected for the university. “We started down this road because of the impact the Division II transition has had on the academic profile of those schools who have journeyed before us. And while that motivated our initial investigation, we’ve learned of the variety of benefits that accrue with a successful transition to NCAA Division II,” said Russell. “We are eager to get underway and are appreciative of the confidence placed in us by the McMurry Board of Trustees, the Heartland Conference and the NCAA.”

During the candidacy process, the Heartland Conference has agreed to accept McMurry as a member beginning in 2012-13. That would allow for 12 of the War Hawks’ 19 intercollegiate sports to be sponsored by the Division II conference that features schools from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Football, men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track, along with men’s and women’s swimming, will compete independently.

In the first year of the candidacy period and McMurry’s final year in the NCAA Division III and the ASC, the institution will begin work required by the NCAA to move forward towards a minimum of one probationary year. The two-year candidacy period for McMurry begins this school year with McMurry concurrently competing in its final year in Division III.

Between now and June 1, 2012, McMurry’s task list is long: 1) visit a Division II campus selected by the NCAA Division II Membership Committee; 2) conduct a Division II Institutional Self-Study Guide; 3) demonstrate involvement and commitment of the McMurry president in the Division II membership process; 4) receive an on-campus assessment conducted by an NCAA-approved outside group to determine the readiness of McMurry to become an active member; and 5) produce an annual report of McMurry’s strategic plan for moving forward in Division II.

There remains much work to be done, but the expected benefits make the process worth the effort. We’re off and running and looking forward to the finish line.

DII process details in this article were released in a press release issued by Sports Information Director, Kyle Robarts, on July 12, 2011.
SPRING SEASON REVIEW

Outdoor Track and Field
Kevin Cunningham won the national title in the 400-meter hurdles and helped his teammates Gavan Bass, John Keith and Kenneth Turner win the 4x100-meter relay title on the way to a third-place finish for McMurry's men at the 2011 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships. McMurry finished with 50 total points and was third behind North Central College (58) and Wisconsin-La Crosse (56). The third place finish is the third-best finish for McMurry's men in school history behind the team's national title in 2008 and runner-up finish in 2009.

The McMurry women placed fourth at nationals in the 400m relay with a 47.12. Kendra Coleman, Shanita Coleman, Carla Burton, and Clemitra Smiley jumped three spots from their No. 7 seed in the preliminaries. The women finished with six points, placing them 37th out of 82 schools that sent competitors.

Baseball
After a rocky start early in the season, McMurry entered ASC conference play and earned a berth in the ASC Baseball Championship. The team posted a 17-27 overall record and entered the tournament as the No. 4 seed from the American Southwest Conference West Division. McMurry knocked off No. 1 east seed UT-Tyler to advance to the championship round with a two-game sweep in a best-of-three series April 29-30. However, Concordia-Texas defeated McMurry 1-0 Friday in the final round of four and HSU finished off the War Hawks 9-3.

Men’s and Women’s Tennis
The 2010-2011 men's tennis team had one of its most successful seasons ever, going 21-4 for the season. The men finished second in the ASC West going 5-1, after winning the West the last two years. They went on to lose in the semi-finals of the conference tournament to eventual champs UT Tyler. The men lost four seniors and welcomed back three all-conference performers. One of the season's highlights was beating three Division II scholarship programs.

The women's tennis team finished 3-3 in conference, losing out on a chance to go to the conference tournament for five of the last six years. We had several all-conference performers in Hilary Stone in singles and Stone and Chelsea Miller in doubles. The women's team lost only two seniors and will be very tough with the addition of a few freshman and many experienced returning players. They hope to be able to compete for a conference championship. “We played a very tough schedule and had a young team, and we will only be better because of the experience of our great schedule,” said Coach Mark Hathorn. “I look forward to the next season.”

Men’s and Women’s Golf
Monica Harris and the McMurry War Hawks golf team cut 16 strokes off their first-round score to place second at the 2011 American Southwest Conference Women's Golf Championships.

The War Hawks shot the lowest team total in round two and fell just five strokes shy of McMurry’s first ASC title since 2008. Harris tied for third place with a two-round total of 160 where she trimmed six shots off her first-round total of 83 to lock up first-team all-conference honors.
Katie McElroy joined Harris on the all-conference team as a second-team selection after a career-best sixth-place finish at the championships. Courtney Norton joined McElroy on the second-team, tying for 10th place.

McMurry’s Matt Ragovin placed 17th out of 48 golfers in the three-round men’s golf championship tournament. He posted a three-round total of 239 (78-85-76).

**FALL SEASON PREVIEW**

**Football**

Since the arrival of Hal Mumme in 2009, McMurry University’s War Hawks football team’s improvement is continuing to be recognized. Dave Campbell’s 2011 edition of his annual *Texas Football* magazine has the War Hawks projected to finish third in the American Southwest Conference in 2011.

After posting a 16-31 record from 2001-2008, Mumme arrived and has posted both a .500 overall and league record in two seasons. Last year in 2010, McMurry posted its first winning season since 2000 at 6-4 and finished 4-4 in conference play for the second-straight season. With three pre-season all-Americans at the helm for the upcoming season and a challenging non-conference schedule, the War Hawks will look to take the next step.

**Volleyball**

“We are excited about taking the court for our first time as War Hawks and are looking forward to another successful season,” said head coach Cammie Petree. “Our court captains, senior Bailey Marcum and junior MJ Vickers, are all-conference players who have proven their excellence on the court through their consistent, relentless play. Our classroom captains, juniors Carlie Fehl and Tonjaka Scott, have been recognized by the conference—with Marcum and Vickers—for their commitment to academic excellence and classroom performance. With this type of leadership both on and off the court, our team will be winning in many ways this season.”

“Although our roster this year will include only three returning starters (Marcum, Vickers, and Jasmine Qualls), we are still loaded with all-district and all-state players—both returning and new—who can bring the excitement and execution needed to move forward into post-season play. We plan to finish our DIII career with success and are already laying the groundwork to carry our winning tradition to the next level.”

**Men’s and Women’s Cross Country**

The 2011 Cross Country teams look to bring in new energy with a significant number of new freshmen, said Coach David Chandler. “I feel like both teams will be strong this fall and will improve on our performances from the 2010 season. We have some exciting meets on our schedule that will also help raise the energy within the team. It has been great competing at the NCAA Division III level, and having one last chance to host the Texas Division III Championships will be a great honor for us.”

Will Morris
Brenda Morton Breeden
ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ABILENE, TX

Brenda Breeden has served as a dedicated ambassador to both McMurry University and the United Methodist Church for over 40 years. She is being recognized for her many years of service with the 2011 McMurry University Cross and Flame Award for the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Brenda began her relationship with McMurry as a student in the 1960s where she worked as a student worker in the business office. After marrying, she left McMurry for a few years but soon returned as a full-time business office employee. She has now served as the smiling face at the McMurry business office window for over 30 years, currently as Director of Student Accounts. She is well-respected by her co-workers, being selected to serve on the Staff Council, SACS Advisory Committee, and in 1997-1998, she was honored as Staff Member of the Year. She also received the Cabinet's Exemplary Service Award in 2007. Brenda returned to the classroom, earning an associate degree in 1996 and her Bachelors in Christian Education in 2000.

Brenda comes from a large "McMurry family," including a brother, husband, two daughters, a son, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and a niece—all who attended McMurry, several by her influence. She serves as the McMurry representative for her home church and is a member of the McMurry Women's Club, where she is currently serving a second term as president. She participates in the club's activities, including baking cakes for students on their birthdays and joining the members as they design and assemble their annual quilt, both used as fundraisers to benefit student scholarships.

Her service to the United Methodist Church is one of longevity, diversity and passion. "Active" cannot begin to describe her involvement with St. James UMC, and specifically the United Methodist Women. In her home church of St. James UMC in Abilene, she is a “jane-of-all-trades”—an endless vessel of diversified talents. On any given Sunday morning, you can find Brenda in one of the following roles: photographing for the church scrapbook, operating the sound booth, putting on a puppet show, teaching second grade Sunday School, or cataloging books as the church's librarian. When she's not at church, she has been known to repaint nativity scene characters, work on the church's yearly scrapbook, support the church's fair booth, or put together costumes for the Living Last Supper. On top of all this, Brenda also serves on the District Committee of Ministry.

She has served on numerous church committees including Lay Leadership, SPRC, History & Archives, and as chair of the Worship Committee. Currently, she serves on the committee organizing an event celebrating St. James’ 50th birthday. With each St. James event, she takes the initiative to promote the event to family, friends and co-workers, encouraging them to attend.

She has served as not only the president for the local United Methodist Women chapter, but as president for the district for five years. Other past roles in the UMW include communications director for the Abilene district, vice president in the local chapter, district vice president, and she currently serves as the chair of local arrangements for the UMW's South Central Jurisdiction. In addition, she currently serves as treasurer of the local chapter. Brenda regularly attends UMW conferences representing her district, including the yearly legislative event in Austin. She has served for one year as assistant dean and one year as the dean of the UMW’s School of Christian Mission.
For their many years of service to McMurry University and the United Methodist Church, Karen ’61 and Gene ’60 Young of Albuquerque, New Mexico, have been named the 2011 recipients of the McMurry University Cross and Flame Award for the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Gene graduated in the class of 1960 with a BS in music, and Karen graduated in 1961 with a BBA. Gene's father, Dr. B. E. Young, was in one of McMurry's earliest graduating classes in 1929. Gene and Karen's daughter, Gena Young Wilimitis, graduated in 1990 and worked in the advancement office after graduation.

Gene was the band director for five years in Plains, Texas. In 1961, he became the first choir director at the new sanctuary at Plains Methodist Church. Karen worked at the local bank for a year in Plains while finishing her degree, and then taught school for two years. Later she became a stay-at-home mom to Gena and Ginger. For the five years that the Youngs lived in Plains, they were instrumental in encouraging several students to attend McMurry College.

Gene entered the insurance industry in 1965 and Karen joined him after their girls started school. They have worked together ever since.

They have lived in Lubbock, San Antonio, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Moriarty, New Mexico and Albuquerque. At each location they have been involved in their United Methodist Church in many capacities. Gene has been a Sunday school teacher, substitute choir director and a member of numerous committees. Karen has been a treasurer of the United Methodist Women and a church office volunteer. Both served actively in the Lubbock Area McMurry Alumni Association (Gene served as president), and have been active members of their church choirs, Sunday school classes, MYF helpers, McMurry Ambassadors for Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, and as McMurry Ambassadors for the Albuquerque District.

They moved their membership to First United Methodist in Albuquerque in 1989, and are presently active in the Chancel Choir, Sunday school and many other committees and activities.

While at McMurry, Gene played the cornet in the band, Karen was a maidenette and flutist as well as Professor Bynum's secretary. Their commitment to McMurry’s band continued in Plains, where they were hosts to the band. In Albuquerque, they have helped the McMurry Band and Chanters secure locations to perform at various churches and high schools in the Albuquerque area.

At McMurry they were also active in KIVA, Gamma Sigma, Circle K, Wah Wahfaysee and Sigma Tau Delta. The KIVA Exes Association was formed in 1989 at the 50th anniversary of KIVA. Gene is active in KEA and has served as president.

Karen and Gene were involved in Tipi Village while on campus. Gene’s interest and background in Indian lore has continued to keep them both active in McMurry’s homecoming traditions. Upon seeing a lack of quality and confusion about tipi judging rules, Gene and Karen created the McMurry Tipi Handbook in 1990. It became the official handbook of Tipi Village in 1994 with approval of McMurry Student Government. The handbook was most recently revised in 2005 and is in use today. Gene has been a judge at Tipi Village since that time. He has participated in workshops on campus for the last two years in an effort to stimulate continued interest in Indian culture.
McMurry University has named Dr. Jerry Campbell ’68, President of Claremont School of Theology in Upland, California, as its 2011 Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Campbell will be recognized at McMurry University’s homecoming activities set for October 6-9, 2011.

In an outstanding career in higher education, Dr. Campbell credits his education at McMurry as being vital to his success. “McMurry introduced me to professors who helped me get serious about theological studies.” During his four years on McMurry’s campus, he credits many former professors like Dr. Robert Monk, Dr. George Coats and Dr. Walter Hofheinz for providing him a strong foundation in the formation of his career.

After ten years as a chief administrator of the information services division at the University of Southern California, Campbell was named president of Claremont, a United Methodist School of Theology on March 23, 2006. As president, he quickly took over at the helm of a school that was in serious financial trouble. He not only turned it around, but led the board and the faculty to a highly creative and significant vision for the future and is turning the school into a university that will attempt to address the issues of a complex society.

Prior to his position at Claremont, Dr. Campbell served at the University of Southern California as Chief Information Officer and University Librarian (1997-2006) and Dean of the University Libraries and University Librarian (1996-1997). He also has served in senior administrative positions at Duke University, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and The Iliff School of Theology.

Dr. Campbell holds a Ph.D. from the University of Denver, a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina. As his academic and professional journey culminated at Claremont, Campbell still credits McMurry for being a special part of that process. “The religion professors at McMurry were able to interest me in the critical study of theology and biblical criticism, which eventually led me to focus my doctoral dissertation on the history of biblical criticism in America.”

As a youth raised on a farm in Matador, Texas, Campbell came to an understanding that he was being called into the ministry. Influenced by his local pastor, he decided to attend McMurry. “I came to McMurry at a time when they had a wonderful generation of staff who became very influential for me.” Now as the president of Claremont, Campbell is eager in his role to help address the issues that face the church.

“One of the challenges that I face is to help a school of theology carry out its job in addressing the declining membership of the church. It is our intent to help equip our students to help the church carry out its ministry,” said Dr. Campbell, who is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Campbell is a member and has served as president and board member of the Association of Research Libraries, as president and board member of the American Theological Library Association, and as a board member of EDUCAUSE (formerly EDUCOM and CAUSE).
WE WANT YOU to serve on the Alumni Board!

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is looking for new members. The Board is entering a new era and embarking on exciting initiatives. We want you to be part of it.

If you are interested, please contact one of the following board members or call (325) 793-4608 or email poorman.josh@mcm.edu.

Daniel L. Alexander ’97
Dr. Mark Alexander ’89
Dr. Richard Michael Bennett ’65
Steven Bristow ’96
Jack Darnell ’55
JoLisa Hoover ’92
Dr. Alan Howell ’95
Melody Hunt ’79
Dorothy Kayser ’58
David Lynn ’82
Dr. Ralph M. McCleskey, Jr. ’65
Staci Patyrak ’04
Jincy Drennan Ross ’96
Christina Sharpling ’96
Rick Stivers ’71
Martha Stone ’98
Carla Davis Woolley ’73
Kay L. Younggren ’92
Dr. Cyril Stone ’46, Alumni Director Emeritus
Thursday, October 6

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Ryan Fine Arts Gallery
ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT: Jonathan Kimbrell
Artist Brownbag to take place at Noon in Ryan Fine Arts

5:00 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park
MCMURRY BAND CONCERT

5:30 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park
SUNSET CEREMONY & TIPI RAISING

6:00 p.m. | Library Mezzanine
FRIENDS OF THE JAY-ROLLINS LIBRARY
HOMECOMING LECTURE SERIES
Perspectives on the Middle East by Rev. Bill Libby

7:30 p.m. | Ryan Little Theatre
HOMECOMING MUSICAL: The 1940’s Radio Hour

Friday, October 7

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Furr Welcome Center
ALUMNI REGISTRATION
McMurry Bookstore open from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park
TIPI VILLAGE TOURS
Tipi Judging to take place Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Ryan Fine Arts Gallery
ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT: Jonathan Kimbrell
Artist Reception to take place from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Ryan Fine Arts

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | McMurry Tennis Courts
ALUMNI & FRIENDS TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SCAN ME! USE THE QR SCANNER ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO ALUMNI & FRIENDS ONLINE CONTENT
12:15 p.m. | Diamondback Golf Club
MCMURRY GOLF CLASSIC
12:15 p.m. Lunch, 1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
Registration information available at mcmurrysports.com/2011golfclassic

3:30 p.m. | Aldersgate UMC Sanctuary
CHANTERS CHORAL CONCERT
Reception immediately following in the Aldersgate Fellowship Hall
Rehearsal to take place in the Sanctuary from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. | Class Reunion Dinners
J.W. Hunt Society ★ Honoring the Class of 1951
Bishops Hall, Radford (elevator and handicap access available)
Including the Class of 1960 and prior
50th Reunion ★ Honoring the Class of 1961
Mabee Room, Garrison Campus Center
40th Reunion ★ Honoring the Class of 1971
Village Market Meeting Room, Village Market Dining Hall
25th Reunion ★ Honoring the Class of 1986
Lytle Land and Cattle Co. (1150 East South 11th St.)
Including the classes of 1985 and 1987
10th Reunion ★ Honoring the Class of 2001
Lytle Land and Cattle Co. (1150 East South 11th St.)
Including the classes of 2000 and 2002

5:30 p.m. | Presidents Dining Room, Campus Center
MISSIONS DINNER
Learn about McMurry’s Missions Programs

6:30 p.m. | Phillips Activity Center
ALUMNI SWIM MEET

7:00 p.m. | Ryan Little Theatre
HOMEcoming musical

The 1940’s Radio Hour
Presented by McMurry University Theatre
Oct. 6-8 & 13-15

The 1940’s Radio Hour is a play with music by Walton Jones. Full of 1940’s music, dancing and old-time sound effects, the play portrays the final holiday broadcast of the Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade on the New York radio station WOV in December 1942. The spirit of that bygone era when the world was at war and pop music meant “Strike Up the Band” and “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” is accurately captured throughout the play. The production will feature a live on-stage jazz band under the direction of Dr. Mark Wilcox.

7:30 p.m. | Radford Auditorium
MCMURRY HONORS

Alumni Awards & Coronation
Join us as we present the Distinguished Alumni and Spirit of McMurry Awards to deserving and dedicated alumni; recognize this year’s Cross & Flame Award recipients; and select the 2011 Homecoming Court.
Bonfire and Pep Rally to take place in Wah Wahtaysee Park immediately following Coronation.

★ Social Club Reunion Schedule Available at Registration.

Saturday, October 8

9:00 a.m. – Noon | Furr Welcome Center
ALUMNI REGISTRATION
Complimentary snacks & beverages
McMurry Bookstore open from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. | Wilford Moore Stadium
34th Annual McMurry 5000 Road Race
Late Registration & Check-in: 6:45 a.m. - 7:30 a.m., Hunt P.E. Center Room 200
Awards at 9:00 a.m. Call (325) 793-4632 for more details.

9:00 a.m. | Library, first floor
J.W. Hunt Society Breakfast & Induction ('61)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Ryan Fine Arts Gallery
ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT: Jonathan Kimbrell

10:00 a.m. | Bynum Band Hall
Music Alumni Breakfast

10:00 a.m. | Village Market Meeting Room Southside
Social Sciences & Religion/Honors/Model UN
Includes History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Religion & Philosophy

10:30 a.m. | Science Building Room 104
Natural & Computational Sciences Reception

10:30 a.m. | Windjammers Lounge, Campus Center
MCMURRY UNIVERSITY RETIREE FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION

11:00 a.m. | Alabama 59, Southside
ALUMNI TRACK REUNION

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Gypsy Ted Art Gallery
Student Art Exhibit: McMurry Graduates

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | PREGAME BBQ
Indoor seating in Kimbrell Arena; covered seating between Goldstar Residence Hall and Hunt P.E. Center.
Bring your kids by the Bounce House!

12:30 p.m. | Wilford Moore Stadium (Blue Tent)
Cheerleaders Reunion

2:00 p.m. | Wilford Moore Stadium
Football Game: McMurry vs. Sul Ross State
Half-time presentation of Chief & Princess McMurry, Class Favorites and Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

7:30 p.m. | Ryan Little Theatre
HOMEcoming musical: The 1940’s Radio Hour

10:00 p.m. | Interior Courtyard, Garrison Campus Center
Social Club Songs & Alma Mater

Sunday, October 9

9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. | Aldersgate UMC
Homecoming Worship Service
Rev. Lane Boyd ’70 presiding
New Alumni Website
We have been hard at work the past few months undertaking an overhaul of the Alumni and Friends section of our website. With the launch of our new and improved Alumni and Friends site, you will be able to stay more connected and engaged with McMurry. You will find news stories, alumni spotlights, and an RSS feed to the McMurry Facebook page. The new site will also feature a more user-friendly events calendar, event registration and a more personalized donor experience. Check it out at www.unite.mcm.edu or click on the Alumni and Friends tab at www.mcm.edu.

New Alumni Award
It is my pleasure to announce the creation of the Spirit of McMurry Award. This award is a way to recognize an alumnus each year who has graduated in the last 20 years and has excelled in the following areas:

- Excellence in profession
- Service to community
- Service to McMurry

If you have somebody you would like to nominate, be on the lookout for information about nominations for the 2012 Spirit of McMurry award.

Homecoming Awards Ceremony
We are excited about this year’s homecoming, scheduled for October 6-9. We would like to invite you to the “McMurry Honors” event on Friday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Radford Auditorium. This is an event designed to honor both our alumni and students. We will recognize the Cross and Flame award recipients and present the Spirit of McMurry and Distinguished Alumni awards. Immediately following, we will begin coronation, where we will honor our students with the selection of the class favorites and Chief and Princess McMurry. After the beating of the drum, we will proceed to Wah Wahtaysee Park for a short pep rally and the lighting of the bonfire.

First Year for Alumni Mentoring Program
Our Alumni Board has been hard at work this year, and there are two things in particular that you should know about. You may have already heard about the McMurry Family Legacy Network. It is a program designed to create an avenue for incoming students and alumni to get to know each other. Students and alumni who signed up for the program filled out a short survey and then were matched based on common interests. Each alum has sent an initial letter, email, or Facebook message welcoming their student to campus. They will continue to communicate by sending a letter, email, or Facebook message at least once a month. This is a great program that will help our first year students feel connected to the university and also keep our alumni up to date with what’s happening on campus. If you did not participate this year, be sure to sign up next year.

Alumni Relations Staff Change
You may have already heard that Greeley Myers has accepted a position as Major Gifts Officer with Trinity University in San Antonio. This is a great opportunity for Greeley and we wish him the best. Josh Poorman will continue to serve as Associate Director of Alumni Relations and will assume Greeley’s responsibilities in the Office of Alumni Relations. If you have questions or suggestions regarding how we can better serve you, please contact Josh at poorman.joshua@mcm.edu.
Growing Our Online Community

Students, parents, alumni and fans will now be greeted with a new homepage when they visit the McMurry University website. The new face of the site was launched Monday, August 1, after hundreds of hours of programming, designing and analyzing input, according to university officials.

Featuring revolving banners, tabs, and accordions to allow for increased information and usability, the new homepage design also incorporates multiple organizational structures to accommodate varying navigation styles. An RSS feed also pipes in continual updates from the university’s news blog so visitors can stay up-to-date on the latest happenings.

The design team is in the process of building a template for the rest of the site that incorporates the look and organization options seen on the homepage. The design style has also been incorporated into the McMurry news blog (mcmurryuniversity.wordpress.com) and McMurry has a plan in place to overhaul their entire web presence over the next few months.

McMurry’s sports information department also released a new athletics website in July, implementing several interactive features and the new War Hawks imagery. The new look includes a larger picture for articles, an interactive internal advertising bar, and the ability to use social media to post comments and “like” articles written for the official web site for McMurry University athletics. Social media links are available, including Twitter (@mcmSports) and Facebook (facebook.com/mcmurrysports), as well as several videos on the McMurry Athletics YouTube channel (youtube.com/mcmurrysports).

McMurry has also been working to expand its social media presence. To further this venture, the university has teamed up with Sharp Social Media to evaluate its social media strategy and to bring our many administrators together with a unified communication plan. One of the first elements to be implemented will be welcome pages on each of the university’s official Facebook pages. This will unify the main McMurry page (facebook.com/mcmurryuniversity), the Admissions page, and the pages for each of the schools both visually and by offering links between those pages and to the university website and Twitter page (@mcmuniv).

Calling All Alums!
We need your help...

For many years, McMurry’s alumni magazine has been titled Chieftain because of our McMurry Indian mascot. McMurry now has a new mascot, the War Hawks, and McMurry alumni from 2011 on will have a connection with the War Hawks mascot. We need your help to select a new name for our alumni magazine that reflects our new mascot and respects our history. Send in your nomination by mailing the below form or submit a nomination online at www.mcm.edu/magname. All nominations must be submitted by Friday, November 18. The Alumni Association Board of Directors will review the nominations, and the new name will be introduced with the Spring 2012 issue. Thanks for your part in helping to write this new chapter in McMurry’s history!

**NOMINATION FORM FOR NAMING McMURRY’S ALUMNI MAGAZINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME SUGGESTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MY NAME AND GRADUATION YEAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please return completed form to:
Office of University Relations
McMurry University
Box 938 McMurry Station
Abilene, TX 79697
by November 18, 2011

Thank you for your nomination—we appreciate your involvement as a valued alum of McMurry University!
class notes

1957

Wendell Hess ’75 received the Normal, Illinois 2011 Citizen of the Year Award. He grew up working on a cotton farm and got his bachelors degree in biology and his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Kansas. He joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University where he served as head of the Chemistry Department, Director of Science Program, Associate Dean, Acting Dean, Provost, and Acting President. He also served as a consultant to Argonne National Laboratory. He is married to wife Loretta, and they have two children and three grandchildren.

1972

Dr. Roy Spore ’72 was welcomed as new minister of Waples Memorial United Methodist Church of Denison, Texas. He was ordained as a deacon in 1973 after graduating from McMurry University with a degree in Christian education.

1975

Glenda & Keith McMenamy ’75, Truett Austin ’66, and Jared Roan ’99 were in attendance at First Baptist Academy’s 2011 high school graduation in Dallas on May 20th. The McMenamy’s son Rob graduated that evening. Truett Austin is the upper and middle school science teacher at FBA. Jared Roan was FBA’s upper and middle school principal for four years and became headmaster at Weatherford Christian School in Weatherford, Texas on July 1st.

Did you know? You can update all your information and submit your class notes online at unite.mcm.edu.

Receive your alumni magazine by email!

McMurry has mailed printed copies of the Chieftain to our alumni for many years. However, the cost of printing has skyrocketed in recent years. We will continue to print the alumni magazine for those who wish to have one, but we are offering the option for alumni to request the online version only. This will help the University save money on printing and we will “kill fewer trees,” thus doing our part to be environmentally-friendly. This new option will begin with the Spring 2012 issue. If you’re interested in participating in our new online Chieftain opt-in program, please go to www.mcm.edu/magonline and complete the brief form. That’s all there is to it!
1978

Leigh Ann Roark Jones ’78 recently retired as library coordinator of Frisco ISD after 31 years in public education. In August, she will start as library director of Parish Episcopal, an independent school in Dallas. She received her Ph.D. from Texas Woman’s University in 2006. Her husband, Bo ’77, is a project manager in the cell industry. They have two sons and two grandsons. They live in Providence Village, Texas. Ala Cumba!

1987

Michael Parsons ’87 was named as a new director for First Financial Bank. He is the president of Momentum Operating Company and lives with his wife, Betsy, in Albany, Texas. They have five children and eleven grandchildren. After graduating from McMurry University, he attended and graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Note from Laura Leigh McLeod Davis ’87
Our son, Marshall Davis, attended McMurry’s band camp last week. He loved it! Thanks McMurry for not changing the spirit of the place.

1993

Greeley Myers ’93 has served McMurry as the Director of Alumni Relations since the fall of 2005. He recently was hired as a Major Gifts Officer at Trinity University. McMurry will miss him, but we wish him the best of luck in San Antonio.

1997

John ’97 and Ginny Doggett Donaldson ’98 are proud to announce the birth of their son, John Drew Donaldson, Jr. on August 9, 2010. John, Ginny and Drew live in Lorena, Texas, where John is employed as a software consultant and Ginny works part-time as a speech-language pathologist.

2000

Christopher Nash Montoya ’00 was promoted from Vice President to Senior Vice President of First Financial Trust & Asset Management Co. N.A. in Abilene, Texas. McMurry congratulates Chris, who was also the past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is married to wife Jennifer.

2001

Michael ’01 and Marie Bowers ’03 introduce their cute little McMurry fan, Evan! He was born January 4, 2011 and is an absolute joy!

2002

Cheyenne Oldham Wuthrich ’02 owns Wuthrich Photography & Design in Graham, Texas. She and her husband Derek Wuthrich ’02 are also part owners in a new buisness at Possum Kingdom Lake called Pondera Outfitters. It is scheduled to open this fall and will be Possum Kingdom Lake’s outdoor headquarters. Derek also teaches at Graford ISD.

Travis Kincade ’02 started in April as Sales Manager of Special Program Accounts for Mouser Electronics in Mansfield, Texas. He manages the sales team that works with Mouser’s premier customers. Mouser is a leading electronic component distributor that supplies parts to electronic manufacturers all over the world.

Adrianne Mazur Kincade ’00 started in May as the Group Life Coordinator for First United Methodist Church in Mansfield, Texas. Adrianne coordinates all group life activities for the church, including adult Sunday school classes and Bible studies. She also continues her position as an adjunct communications professor for Tarrant County College.
2003

Cody and Jami Roberts ’03 are moving from Abilene to Minneapolis, Minnesota for a job promotion. Jami has been promoted to a Division Sales Manager and will manage the largest revenue division in the country for Sanofi Pasteur, a vaccine company. She will manage nine pharmaceutical reps in her new position.

Maci McIlhany Shannon ’03 was named the 2010-2011 “Teacher of the Year” for Blake Manor Elementary School where she teaches third grade. Maci is the daughter of Bill ’80 and Dana ’79 McIlhany of Austin, Texas.

2006

Kelly Stowers Lawrence ’06 and husband Rhett welcomed their first baby on July 18, 2011 at 5:45 a.m. Her name is Annie Grace Lawrence. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 inches long.

2007

Hank ’07 and Hannah Lester Squiers ’09 were married by McMurry chaplain, Tim Kennedy, in Abilene, Texas on June 25, 2011.

2008

Allison Redfearn ’08 graduated in May from Harvard Divinity School of Theological Studies with a concentration in religion, ethics, and politics. Last summer Allison traveled to Jordan to study Arabic. While a student at HDS, Allison worked as an intern at Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts in young adult programming and adult Christian education. Currently, Allison has moved to Louisiana to spend time with family and to apply for jobs and volunteer opportunities.

2009

Heather Hyde Schmidt ’09 was married in December to Marc Schmidt. They live in Washington D.C. where she is a music teacher and choreographer and Marc works for the Discovery Channel.

2010

Kristen Gilmore Cotton ’10 and husband Tyler celebrated their 1st anniversary on July 31, 2011. They recently moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where Tyler will attend law school at Wake Forest University. Kristen said, “We are excited to see what God has in store for our life together!” Ala Cumba!

2011

Jordan Rae Stansell ’11 of Fluvanna, Texas was selected as the assistant women’s basketball coach at Western Texas College in Snyder, Texas.

Chuck ’11 and Elizabeth Whiting ’10 Jones met at McMurry and were married on July 2, 2011 on their two-year anniversary. Chuck is working at AT&T in Abilene and Elizabeth is working at the elementary school in Clyde, Texas.
Obituaries

Harry Moody Bettis

Harry Moody Bettis, age 85, passed away from this life on Saturday, June 4, 2011 in Graham, Texas. He is survived by son Harry Bettis, Jr. and wife Kelli of Midland, daughter Mary Bettis Hayes and husband Bill of Dallas, son John and wife Paula of Midland, and eleven grandchildren: Grant Bettis, Emily Bettis Hines and husband Kenneth, Seth Donnell, Ashlee Donnell McGuire and husband Drew, Melissa Donnell, William Hayes, John Hayes, Rob Hayes, Mimi Hayes, Turner Bettis and Hartley Bettis. He is also survived by his brother Zach Bettis of St. Louis, Missouri and sister Ann Enloe of San Angelo, Texas. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Bob Turner Bettis, and his second wife Jean Spurgin Bettis. Also surviving Harry is his extended family of the employees of Bettis, Boyle and Stovall, Inc.

Mr. Bettis was born March 16, 1926 in Brownwood, Texas to the late Harry Bettis, Sr. and Elizabeth Dabney Bettis. Harry was educated in the public schools of Olney, Texas, and upon graduation, he attended Texas A&M University. He was granted appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point, and he graduated in the class of 1948. He later obtained a masters degree from Purdue University. Harry served in the Air Force as a B-29 and B-50 bomber pilot, achieving the rank of captain.

Upon completion of his military service, he moved his family to Graham, Texas in 1955 and began his career in the oil and gas industry. He was one of the founding principals of Bettis, Boyle and Stovall, Inc. Harry was a member of the First United Methodist Church and was a vital and active part of the Graham community. He served on the Graham National Bank board of directors as chairman, and was also on the Graham Hospital Board. He served as president of the Graham Country Club, was a member of the Graham Industrial Association, Graham Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club. He served as president of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers where he was honored as Oilman of the Year in 2006, and he was a member of the Independent Petroleum
Harry was a dedicated member of the Republican Party.

Mr. Bettis lived his life to the fullest. He was a true American hero by serving his country and his community with pride and honor. He was bigger than life with a heart and passion for the “oil patch.” He lived his life by the credo, “A man ought to have at least one bet out every day; otherwise he might be walking around lucky and not know it.”

Henry Bedford Furr
Dr. Henry Bedford Furr was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Furr, Sr. in Breckenridge, Texas, and passed from this life on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 in Abilene, Texas. His parents and one sister, Jewel Furr, preceded him in death. He and Oneta Roberts were married in Wichita Falls, Texas, at First United Methodist Church. Dr. Furr is survived by his wife, Dr. Oneta Furr of Abilene.

Dr. Furr pursued careers in both education and business. He was valedictorian of his Breckenridge High School class and also of his graduating class at John Tarleton Agricultural College, where he rose to the rank of Cadet Colonel, the highest ranking cadet officer. He graduated with high honor from Southern Methodist University. He and his wife earned doctoral degrees at the same time from North Texas State University—the only married couple to accomplish that achievement up to that time at that institution. He was charter president to accomplish that achievement up to that time at that institution. He was charter president of the Texhoma Field Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. After serving a number of years as a classroom teacher, he became Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Wichita Falls, both for secondary education and for business administration.

In early adult years, he worked as announcer and account executive for Radio Station KWFT in Wichita Falls, and went on to become sales and promotion manager for United Electric Company of that city. He served as keynote speaker for numerous conventions, both regional and national. Dr. Furr was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, having held several responsible positions, including that of Certified Lay Speaker.

He was a member of Kiwanis International over fifty years, holding many positions at the local club level. He was a past president of the Abilene Kiwanis Club and had served as president of another Kiwanis club. He organized three new clubs and served as Lieutenant Governor. He was a recipient of the Kiwanis Legion of Honor.

Dr. Furr will be remembered as an outstanding scholar with a quiet but relentless passion for helping others.

Mary E. Whatley Jones
Mary Elizabeth Whatley Jones was called home by the Lord on Monday, June 27, 2011. She was born in 1914 in Hale County, Alabama to Frederick S. and Mary B. (Hicks) Whatley. She graduated from Hale County High School as valedictorian. Later, she graduated from the University of Alabama, where she was president of her chapter of the Chi Omega Fraternity and was secretary to the Dean of Women. On June 3, 1937, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church of Greensboro, Alabama, she married Morgan Jones, Jr. and quickly became active in Abilene community service and social life.

At St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Abilene, she was active in the Women of the Church and completed two courses of Disciple Bible Study. Mrs. Jones was a founding member of the Junior League of Abilene, serving as the first vice president. She also worked with the Red Cross, receiving the Award of Merit, and the Young Women’s Christian Association. She was an active member of the Library Board, the Taylor County Health Advisory Board, and the Abilene Alumnae Pan-Hellenic Association. She was active in the Girl Scouts, where she earned the Thanks Badge, and was instrumental in establishing Camp Boothe Oakes near Sweetwater.

In the field of family history, she published five
books on genealogy for the Jones, Whatley, Hicks, Stickney, and Johnson lines. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her only sister Fredericka Whatley McSweany, and her son-in-law, Col. Henry K. Bass, Jr.

Surviving family members include her daughters, Harriet Jane Jones Bass of Abilene and Elizabeth Kenan Jones Keyes (husband Griff Keyes) of Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition, she has four grandchildren: Lt. Col. Henry Morgan Bass (wife Lisa) of Christiansburg, Virginia; LTC (Dr.) Charles Frederick Bass (wife Mary Kate) of Abilene; Mary Margaret Keyes of Little Rock; and Morgan Griffith Keyes (wife Jennifer), also of Little Rock. She was the proud great-grandmother of Eric Henry Bass, Ethan Spencer Bass, Elizabeth Anne Keyes, and Morgan McCall Keyes. Also surviving are her niece, Bettie Charles Findlay Kilgore (husband Russell Kilgore), of Fairhope, Alabama, her great-nephew, Russell Kilgore, Jr., and great-niece Burton Kilgore Prewitt. Double first cousins include Mary Anne Whatley Berryman (husband Warren) of Colorado and Margaret Jean Whatley Guin (husband David) of Florida.

**Vida R. Swanson**

Vida Swanson, age 96, of Abilene, passed away Monday, April 25, 2011. Vida was born January 27, 1915 to Wilbur Edwin Reed and Lucy May Means Reed in Yale, Oklahoma. She was orphaned at the age of fourteen and raised by her older sisters. She married Harry Norman Swanson on April 22, 1932 in Guthrie, Oklahoma. She retired from AFES in 1985. She was an avid bridge player and member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, H. Norman Swanson; sisters: Esther Merrill, Lottie Ziemer, Joan Shira, Billie Cranfield, Agatha Veal and Nathalie Shelthrop; one brother, Robert B. Reed; and one granddaughter, Penelope Sue Swanson.

She is survived by her son, Michael Swanson and wife Mary Evelyn of Abilene; her daughter, Nancy Powell and husband Charles of Kennedale, Texas; three grandsons: Steven Powell and wife Cynthia of Arlington, Michael Powell of Garland, Kevin Swanson and wife Laura of North Richland Hills; a granddaughter, Kathy Reinert and husband David of Abilene; ten great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and ten loving nieces and nephews and their families.
Past Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Pug Parris ’73 and Stephen Mittelstet ’67 with Dr. Russell

Know a McMurry alum who deserves one of these awards?

Nominate them for the Distinguished Alumnus Award or the Cross and Flame Award. Read criteria and submit your nomination at unite.mcm.edu