

Spring 2010

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**Tangled Destinies**  
**A tribute to the Garrisons**

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Wellness Center Pictorial • Special Online Media**

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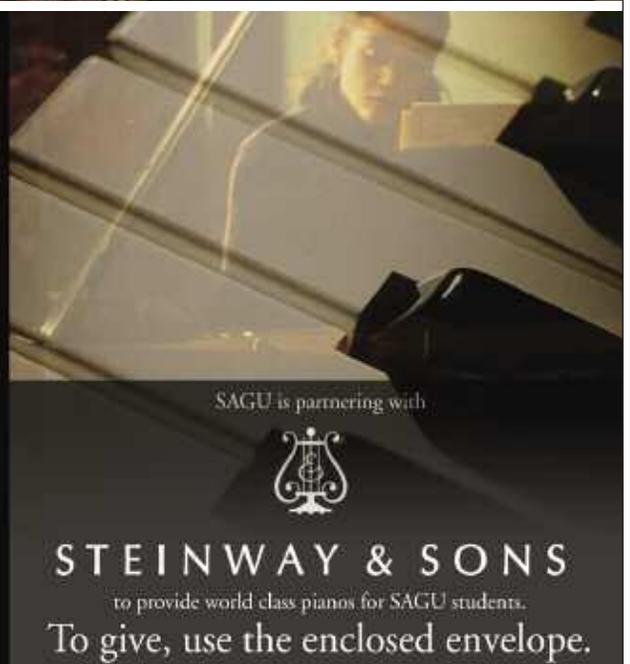


## Tangled Destinies

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**About Southwestern Today** SPRING 2010 · VOL 13 ISSUE 3

Southwestern Today is a publication of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a nonprofit institution of higher learning.

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Statement of Purpose: The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross-culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.



Kermit S. Bridges, D.Min.,  
President

## Charitable Gift Annuities

In trying to create new avenues for our donors, we are excited to announce the start of our Charitable Gift Annuity program. With this new program, you can give and receive! Charitable Gift Annuities have become the most popular gifting vehicles in today's volatile market. The Charitable Gift Annuity with Southwestern Foundation is fixed for life. Your lifetime payment amount is dependable and unaffected by economic downturns. Establish a CGA for yourself, or anyone you choose, with a charitable donation of \$10,000 or more. You may choose either a Single Life or a Joint and Survivor Annuity. You may also choose to defer payment for a higher annuity rate.

## Continued Momentum

In 2004 we began a new capital campaign called Momentum for a Higher Purpose to fund the construction of Teeter Hall and Bridges Hall, our newest state-of-the-art residence halls housing over 460 students. In a way, it was a second phase to the Momentum for a New Millennium campaign, which raised the funds needed to construct the 111,000-square-foot Sheaffer Full Life Center completed in 2000. The momentum arising from the construction of these facilities has resulted in a decade of growth culminating in our having topped the 2,000 mark for the first time ever with an enrollment of 2,013 this past fall.

If you have returned to campus within the last 10 years, you have had the opportunity to view the expanded campus facilities. The Full Life Center continues to serve as the hub for campus activity: chapel, dining, athletics, and more. Teeter and Bridges dorms provide students a comfortable home away from home.

For more than a year students have been anxiously awaiting the completion of the new 32,000-square-foot Garrison Wellness Center. We dedicated this impressive fitness center this past December and students began enjoying it from the moment they returned to school this January. There has seldom been a moment since the beginning of the semester that students aren't utilizing the cardio equipment, indoor track, gymnasium, weight resistance machines, freeweights, racquetball courts, or the pool. It is a gratifying experience to put in a bit of time on the elliptical machine and suddenly find myself surrounded by students fulfilling the fitness requirements of one of their Physical Education courses.

Since our inception, SAGU has fulfilled the academic and spiritual needs of our students. It is really satisfying to see our campus finally obtain the facilities needed to fulfill our physical development as well.

### By the Numbers

Statistics can be a helpful tool to assist a university such as ourselves to measure institutional health. Recently Jay Trewern, our vice president for business and finance, discovered that more than half of the square footage on the SAGU campus has been constructed within the last 10 years. Within 10 years, we have newly built

313,932 square feet of a total 621,915 or 50.5 percent. Within 10 years, we have newly built and fully renovated (changed usage) 377,426 square feet of 621,915 or 60.7 percent. Lastly, within 15 years we have built and fully renovated 440,116 square feet out of 621,915 or 70.8 percent.

We're not exaggerating when we tell alumni and friends that if you haven't visited the campus in the past 10 years, then get ready to see a brand new campus.

### Alton & Johanna Garrison

The success of our two Momentum campaigns would not have been possible without the support of faithful alumni and other great leaders. Of particular note, I would like to thank Alton and Johanna Garrison. The Garrison Wellness Center was dedicated in December to honor these truly great individuals. And now an impressive display can be seen daily in the lobby of the wellness center, paying tribute to their fanstastic lifetime achievements.

Without restating the information found in their story on page 6, I would at least like to say that it is remarkable how God, in his infinite wisdom, aligned the paths of these two remarkable individuals—individuals who were literally oceans apart. Yet, their hearts were united in ministry and music.

When I look back at their path, where their ministry has led, and how they have been able to provide leadership and assistance to SAGU, I cannot help but wonder what great friends and alumni will emerge in the next ten years. Perhaps several of the graduates from our burgeoning College of Arts and Professions will be the next to step up and help prepare an even greater legacy for future student bodies.

### The Future

Though the Momentum campaign is quickly drawing to a close, I believe that we are just now gaining momentum for greater things to come. This is a new year, and it is full of new opportunities. Be on the lookout for new programs and developments at SAGU as God continues to provide for us through prayer and contributions.

Follow us at [www.sagu.edu](http://www.sagu.edu) or [www.facebook.com/SAGUFans](https://www.facebook.com/SAGUFans). ■

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

# Charitable Contributions of Appreciated Property



by Craig Rinas, CFP®  
Planned Giving Director

**W**ith tax season upon us, we tend to reflect upon options for the next year that can help our financial positions.

One of the best ways to give and maximize your tax deduction at the same time is to donate appreciated property. The benefits of donating appreciated property can best be seen through the examples of our friend “John.” He originally purchased \$10,000 in stock of XYZ Corp in 1985, and the current fair market is \$50,000.

**Example 1:** John sells the stocks and now owes \$6,000 in federal taxes ( $\$40,000 \times 15\%$  capital gains tax). He then gives the remainder of the funds, \$44,000, to SAGU. With this gift, John will realize a tax savings of \$12,320, assuming that John is in the 28% tax bracket.

**Example 2:** Instead of selling the stocks, John gives the stocks directly to SAGU. John will NOT have to realize any of the capital gain or pay any capital gains tax. He also will receive a charitable deduction in the

full \$50,000, which will give him a tax savings of \$14,000 (assuming the same 28% tax bracket). By the numbers, Example 2 is a WIN-WIN for both John and SAGU.

Please note that these stocks must have been held for more than a year in order to get this favorable tax benefit. Also, specific kinds of property may have different specific limitations that are for those items only. Finally, with other income and tax variables that are unique to individuals, alternative minimum tax may be triggered. Please check with your tax professional to make sure that this strategy is right for you before donating your appreciated property. ■



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# Tangled Destinies

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# A TRIBUTE to the Garrisons & the inspired events leading to their marriage & ministry.

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**A**lton Garrison, born January 22, 1947, grew up in Sour Lake, Texas. His father was an alcoholic who sought change when he found out his wife was pregnant. He didn't want his child reared in the home of a drunkard. Alton's father converted to Christ just five months before Alton's birth. He received a call to preach shortly after that conversion, and was appointed pastor of a Pentecostal church in Sour Lake before he had preached even one message.

At the age of eight, Alton became the pianist at his dad's small church. Even as a child, Alton felt he would be a preacher one day. Alton's call was confirmed as a teen during an all-night prayer meeting at youth camp.

Alton began his evangelistic ministry as a teenager, traveling on weekends and during the summers. After graduating from Hardin-Jefferson High School, Alton attended Lamar Tech

recall, the grass had not been cut and it looked pretty unkempt." However, as Alton walked onto the lawn, he experienced a special moment with the Holy Spirit. Alton knew that this campus was where he was supposed to be.

Alton arrived home late the next night. He woke his parents to share his decision to attend Southwestern. Alton's dad was thrilled, though his mom was somewhat upset because she wanted him to be a concert pianist. Alton entered SAGU in 1966.

While at Southwestern, Alton was part of a traveling music group named "The Master's Four." He really enjoyed the relationships he formed while at Southwestern. Alton particularly remembers the impact of Dr. Harrison and Dr. Moon's homiletics class.

In 1951 a girl named Johanna was born in Holland to Henk and Jan Nio Oei Rijfkoegel. Johanna's Dutch father was



**Alton & Johanna Garrison cut the ribbon at the Garrison Wellness Center dedication, joined by university and General Council representatives.**

for one year and majored in performance piano. While at Lamar, Alton continued his evangelistic ministry.

He was traveling with two friends conducting revival meetings during the summer, when they drove through Waxahachie and by Southwestern. "It was between semesters and no one seemed to be around," Garrison reflected. "As I

a survivor of the Nazi holocaust, and her Chinese mother was born and raised in Indonesia in a devout Buddhist home. The two met when Henk was sent by the Royal Dutch Army to Indonesia to help suppress a revolution for Indonesian independence. A month following the wedding, Henk's unit returned to Holland, and Jan never saw her parents again.

# Tangled Destinies

Jan had originally become interested in Christianity at an early age through a Dutch Catholic school in Indonesia. Her family's Buddhist beliefs, however, had a strong hold on her. In Holland, Jan went with a friend to a Billy Graham crusade. It was there that Jan first truly heard the gospel. Jan was drawn once again by this Jesus she had seen an image of so long ago and turned her life to Christ.

During the war, Henk had grown bitter and cynical towards God. Henk's father was killed by the Nazis. His mother and sister died in a bombing. Henk and his brother were forced to hide from the Gestapo for fear of their lives. Nevertheless, Henk agreed to visit church with his wife. He remained aloof at first, but eventually accepted Christ in a home Bible study. Both Henk and Jan were later filled with the Holy Spirit during an American evangelist's ministry.

Johanna was the firstborn of seven children. She grew to love Sundays as the day of great activity in the week. In the summers, the family rode their bicycles past the winkels, over the Rhine, to church. In the winters they walked to the bus station and took a bus to church. Sunday afternoons, Henk would often take the older children on hikes.

In 1961, the Rijkogels immigrated to the United States. Henk had desired to leave Holland for some time, and the door suddenly opened to make their departure possible.

Johanna was only ten years old. It all happened very suddenly, giving her little time to think through what was happening and its implications on her life. The family moved to Garden City, Kansas, where a sponsoring family helped them find employment and housing.

None of the Rijkogels knew English. But they jumped in, determined to learn and do for themselves everything they could. Johanna and the rest of the family slowly adjusted to the new culture. In addition to language, there was a new way of dress, new social skills, and other cultural aspects the family had to learn in order to assimilate to their new home.

Johanna reached high school and the time to make a college decision. Johanna had considered going back to Holland. She had fond memories of her childhood there and still knew the language. Still, Johanna decided to remain in the States, become a U.S. citizen and attend an American college.

Her father wanted Johanna to go to an A/G school. She had studied classical music in Europe and entered the Music Education program at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri.

Johanna graduated from Evangel with a bachelor's degree and began teaching. She taught music and coordinated music at schools in the Kansas public school system. Johanna was also directing the choir and teaching the Young Adult Sunday School class at First Assembly of God in Garden City, Kansas. There, two lives would intersect. Alton came to conduct a revival in 1975 and met Johanna. They married March 4, 1977. Together, they led a daily radio program and a weekly televi-

Alton's ministry often incorporated music in his years as an evangelist. During those years, he recorded ten albums. According to Garrison, "Music prepared the hearts of those who attended to receive the preached Word."

In 1986, Alton began sensing a transition to pastoral ministry. He soon received a call from a deacon at First Assembly of God in Little Rock, Arkansas. The call led to an opportunity to pastor.

Though Alton had no pastoral experience, he developed a process for church leadership and discipleship based on Acts 2. "Holy Spirit empowerment is necessary to achieve the miraculous transformational process of revitalizing a church that has been on a spiritual and numerical plateau," said Garrison. "Like the apostle Paul, who said he became all things to all men, we must reach, impact, and change our culture by the power of the Word."

Under the Garrisons' pastoral leadership, new church facilities were constructed in Little Rock.

The Garrisons also spearheaded an extensive lay ministry that led the church to give an unprecedented \$1.4 million to missions in 1996.

In 2001, Alton was elected Superintendent of the Arkansas District Council. During his tenure, Johanna assisted in creating and launching the District Superintendent's Ministers and Spouses Mentoring Group. Alton was also elected to serve as the Gulf

Region executive presbyter in 2001 and served until he was elected as Executive Director of

Assemblies of God U. S. Missions in 2005. During his tenure with U.S. Missions, he and Johanna established the "Reach America Coalition."

Alton has served as the Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God since 2007. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Division of Church Ministries and Discipleship.

Alton's ministry over the years has been diverse. "It seems that every change has brought new challenges and a requirement for new skills," com-



**Clockwise from Back Left: Devin Ferguson, Alton Garrison, Terry Phipps, President Kermit Bridges and Dr. George O. Wood share a laugh during dedication ceremonies.**

sion program in Dallas, Texas, called Promise and Praise. Johanna handled the business aspect of their ministry.

During 18 years of evangelistic ministry, Alton ministered across the U.S. and in various countries, including Thailand, Hong Kong, Africa, Holland, Panama, Singapore, India, Canada, and Austria. During a visit with Johanna's mom, the Garrisons were burdened by the hold of the occult on the people in Indonesia. They held several crusades in Indonesia during the 1980's in effort to win the lost and build churches.

mented Garrison. "I think the diversity of ministry preparation at Southwestern has been very helpful. Also, the example of the faculty that demonstrated faithfulness to every phase of God's call [helped prepare me for my ministry]."

Alton has continued to give back to his alma mater since his graduation. While pastoring in North Little Rock, he was the national chairman for the university's Momentum for the New Millennium capital campaign. Garrison led First Assembly of God in North Little Rock to contribute a \$500,000 lead gift to launch the campaign. At the time, this gift was the single largest gift the university had ever received. The campaign raised a total of \$6 million to construct the Sheaffer Full Life Center and purchase the former North Campus.

According to Alton, "I accepted the responsibility of serving as campaign chairman not only because of my great appreciation and affection for Southwestern but also because I believe one of the most important tasks of the Church is training the leadership of tomorrow to carry the gospel message around the world."

Alton has served on the SAGU Board of Regents and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Southwestern in December 1997. Alton believes "the integration of faith and learning is extremely important. Helping young people reach their full kingdom potential is one of the most important tasks we could ever undertake."

Both Alton and Johanna are published authors. Alton has authored four books: *Building a Winning Team*, *Hope for America's Crisis*, *The Acts 2 Church*, and *The 360° Disciple*. Johanna's book, *Tangled Destinies* (no longer in publication), is an account of her family's hardships through the Nazi holocaust and an Indonesian revolution and their subsequent immigration to the United States.

The Garrisons have one daughter, Lizette. She recently married Michael Nene, who works with Convoy of Hope. Lizette works for AG Trust, which is the development ministry of the General Superintendent. ■



## SAGU Dedicates Wellness Center

On Friday, December 11, 2009, SAGU dedicated the newly completed Alton and Johanna Garrison Wellness Center. The Garrisons, A/G General Superintendent Dr. George Wood, Waxahachie mayor Ron Wilkinson, representatives from Citizens National Bank and 3i Construction Company, and a number of SAGU Board of Regents members were present for the event.

"This facility is a dream come true and something this campus has been excited about since its construction was announced," said President Kermit S. Bridges. "Our objective was to achieve what some call the 'wow factor,' that is, to far exceed people's expectations. The students and guests I've heard from today confirm we have accomplished that goal."

Alton Garrison serves as the Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. As Assistant General Superintendent, he serves as the Commissioner on Discipleship and as Executive Director for the Discipleship/Church Ministries Division, which includes all of the adult, youth and children ministries of the church.

A graduate of SAGU, Alton Garrison has made many contributions to the university. While pastoring in North Little Rock, Garrison was the national chairman for the university's

Momentum for the New Millennium capital campaign. Garrison led First A/G in North Little Rock in contributing a \$500,000 lead gift to launch the campaign, which was the single largest gift SAGU had ever received at that time. The campaign raised a total of six million dollars to construct the Full Life Center and purchase the former North Campus.

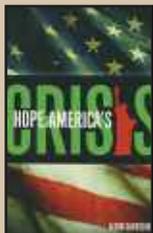
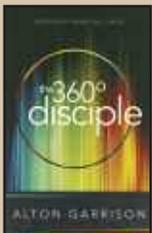
Alton and Johanna have been strong advocates for SAGU. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university in 2007. Alton is also a long time member of SAGU's Board of Regents.

The 31,650 square foot facility named in the Garrisons' honor meets a variety of fitness and recreation needs. Amenities include weight and aerobic equipment, an elevated walking/jogging track, racquetball courts, multipurpose gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna, lockers, and showers. It is open to the entire campus family and helps promote general wellness.

To honor the Garrisons, a donor wall is on display in the lobby of the new facility. Additionally, SAGU has created a video telling the compelling story contained on the monument and in the article at left. The video is visible on SAGU's Facebook fan page ([www.facebook.com/SAGUFans](http://www.facebook.com/SAGUFans)) or the SAGU Homepage ([www.sagu.edu](http://www.sagu.edu)). ■

## GARRISON BOOK ORDER

Alton Garrison's books can be ordered from Gospel Publishing House at [www.gospelpublishing.org](http://www.gospelpublishing.org)

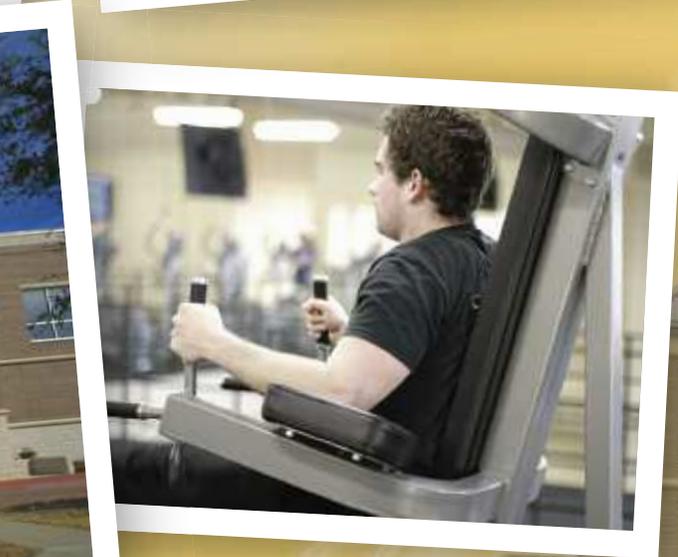


Watch a special tribute and footage of the dedication at [www.sagu.edu/wellnesscenter](http://www.sagu.edu/wellnesscenter)

# Alton and Johanna Garrison



# Wellness Center.



More photos are available in our exclusive online galleries at [www.sagu.edu/wellnesscenter](http://www.sagu.edu/wellnesscenter) or [www.facebook.com/sagufans](http://www.facebook.com/sagufans)

*Leaving  
her mark*

## Kelli Copeland Creel

**K**elli Copeland tentatively stepped on the SAGU campus in fall of 1996. A small town girl from New Caney, Texas, Kelli was extremely shy, almost reclusive. Yet, taking a deep breath, she stepped into the direction she knew that God had given her.

Almost immediately, Kelli found herself connecting with a group of students who were involved in Southwestern Missions Association (SMA). She began attending every outreach available and participating in overseas missions trips.

Kelli chuckled to herself as she remembered her first outreach. It was part of StreetHope, a group of students who witness in the streets of the West End district of Dallas. She had been terrified. It was a struggle for her to talk to people in general, much less strangers!

During the prayer session prior to the outreach, Kelli contemplated fleeing. There was still time to sneak out. Instead, Kelli decided to stick it out and go anyway. The night was by no means easy. God sent Kelli a couple of homeless people & a very confused teenager. That night, God stretched Kelli's faith.

The experience and subsequent outreaches had been so uncomfortable for her. Yet Kelli had been able to reach out to others and be changed in the process. Kelli continued to be heavily involved in SMA throughout her time at SAGU. Kelli often continued those Friday night adventures throughout her four years just to keep herself humble and uncomfortable and needy for the Lord.

One of her favorite memories at SAGU was the prayer times. It was these times of prayer for other nations that laid the foundation for a real love for people in Kelli's heart.

Even as an Elementary Education student, Kelli filled up her electives with missions courses. She knew she wanted to somehow



work overseas. Kelli graduated Spring 2000 and began her career. The next nine years would be a whirlwind of learning and serving as Kelli followed God.

Following graduation, Kelli struggled to find her niche. She helped a missionary couple work among the youth in Indonesia for six weeks. From there, Kelli went to work at a girl's rehabilitation home for awhile. Kelli knew she wanted to serve the Lord in some capacity, but she didn't know the next step she should take.

Kelli returned to the SAGU campus to meet with Dr. Larry Hester and Vice President Terry Phipps, hoping for some insight and direction. They informed her of a possible opportunity to use her teaching degree in missions at the Jerusalem School. Hope filled Kelli's heart at the news. It just fit. Kelli spoke with the director of the Jerusalem School on a Saturday. Four days later, she was on a plane to

Tel Aviv.

She arrived in Tel Aviv with little knowledge of local politics and almost no understanding of the vast differences between Jews & Arabs. Kelli's first two years in Israel and the West Bank were very much learning years. It was a time of sorting through what Kelli thought she knew and gaining God's perspective.

In the past nine years, Kelli has learned a lot, and continues to

*"During the prayer session prior to the outreach, Kelli contemplated fleeing. There was still time to sneak out."*

learn, about the culture in Israel. Cultural hurdles only add to the normal challenges of teaching. "But beyond the challenges, you also have overwhelming purpose," said Kelli. "I know my first few years here have produced some lifelong student relationships. Kids really appreciate you caring enough to leave your home to help them."

Early in her time in Tel Aviv, a young man caught Kelli's eye at a Bible study for teachers. As she looked at him from across the room, she thought, "I could marry this guy." After the Bible study, Kelli met the guy and learned his name was Jamison Creel. But she was sorely disappointed. She didn't like him at all. Over the course of the next year, Kelli and Jamison were thrown together at various outings and events. The two of them got to know each other, and Kelli is glad she was able to get a better look. Kelli had somewhat of a fairytale ideal of how Christian romance was supposed to look and feel. Jamison was real; Kelli liked that. The two dated for a year, broke up for a week when Kelli gave him an ultimatum, then married six months later.

Kelli and Jamison continued to serve at the Jerusalem

School a few years before returning to the States to deliver their first two children. The Creels returned to Jerusalem in 2006 with two young children and another on the way. "We took a leap of faith returning to the ministry with no real safety net in place, but God took care of us," Kelli commented. After only a couple of weeks, the Creels were asked to pastor a small church on the

Mount of Olives.

Today, the Creels have four young children: Andrew (5), Abigail (4), Maddie Grace (3), and Micah (age 15 months). They pastor a small church & run Bible studies in their home about five days a week. Kelli and Jamison also run a student ministry center where college-aged students from the States come over for a year, study the Bible on-site, earn college credit, get plugged into local ministry, and go through discipleship.

The students are typically involved in teaching in

local schools as well as other forms of outreach in the community.

According to Kelli, "More than anything, SAGU gave me a heart for missions. I appreciate the teaching, professors and the fun, but those were just the peripherals for me--the best thing SAGU did for me was prepare me spiritually for this phase, this battle in my life." ■

*"Beyond the challenges, you also have an overwhelming purpose."*



## Receive Income for Life while supporting the work of SAGU!

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*This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of his/her gift.*



For more information, please mail the no-obligation coupon, or call Craig Rinas, Planned Giving Director, at 972-825-4662 for a confidential personal benefits profile.

# Alison & LeyAnne Ward

## Alumni Stories

Sisters Alison and LeyAnne Ward graduated from SAGU with Master of Divinity degrees on December 11, 2009. They also earned their Master of Arts degrees in Theological Studies from SAGU. Alison was selected by the SAGU faculty to be the student commencement speaker. She was the first graduate student selected for the honor. Both plan to become Army chaplains and have already completed the Army Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course.

Their father was a hospital administrator with the Veterans Affairs Hospital system for many years. Due to his job, the family moved often before settling in Kingwood, Texas, after his early retirement.

The Wards were homeschooled by their mother. "I really enjoyed my homeschool experience," Alison commented. "I was able to experience aspects of life not afforded by public schools (through travel, excursions to museums, etc.) and my family was involved with local homeschool groups through which we connected with other homeschool families."

Homeschooling also made the Wards' schooling very portable for the relocations their dad's job required. According to Alison, "These moves shaped my perspective of life in general; I have a great appreciation for people of other cultures and social backgrounds."

The sisters grew up in the Assemblies of God and was involved in various areas of ministry, including Bible Quiz, drama, music, Fine Arts, and children. Alison and LeyAnne both felt they would be involved in some sort of ministry for their lives' work, but neither knew in which capacity of ministry God wanted them to serve.

While the two were driving past a hospital in 2007, the word "Chaplain" dropped into Alison's spirit and the feeling would not leave her. Alison's mother asked if she was thinking about military chaplaincy, which piqued Alison's interest.

LeyAnne also felt an inner confirmation in her spirit that this calling to chaplaincy extended to her as well. The two discovered the Army's Chaplain Candidacy program, which is designed to allow seminary students explore Chaplaincy.

According to Alison, "During this time of war against terrorism, the need for Chaplains has never been greater! Our men and women of the military are risking their lives to protect our freedoms, and we, as believers and bearers of hope, need to help them and their families through these difficult times. This is about souls, about ministering to the family unit and helping all members cope through the times of transition and separation."

As Chaplain Candidates, Alison & LeyAnne are enlisted as First Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. The Chaplain Candidate program allows seminary students to receive training and join the military while still preparing for chaplaincy. LeyAnne and Alison completed the

Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course (CHBOLC) in Summer 2008 and graduated from the United States Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS) at Ft. Jackson in Summer 2009.

Now that they have earned Master of Divinity degrees, the sisters plan to become ordained with the Assemblies of God, hopefully in April 2010, and complete the rest of the requirements necessary to be commissioned as full chaplains in the U.S. Army.

According to Alison, "SAGU provided me with a solid theological and Pentecostal foundation. I have benefited from several classes such as Crisis Intervention, Marriage & Family Counseling, Ministry with Cultural Diversity, Systematic Theology 1 & 2, etc. that will greatly aid in my ministry as an Army chaplain. SAGU also reinforced my Pentecostal heritage, and impressed on me the importance of maintaining it." ■

*"The need for Chaplains has never been greater! This is about souls, about ministering to the family unit and helping all members cope..."*



# VOLLEYBALL

## Brown Receives National Award

During the NCCAA Nationals, which were held in Orlando, Florida, Rachel Brown (Seguin, TX/ New Braunfels HS) garnered the biggest award during the festivities. She was named the recipient of the Susan R. Hellings Award. This award is given to the student-athlete who couples outstanding athletic performance with exemplary Christian character and leadership.



Veteran head coach Hansford "Hank" Moore said, "The Susan R. Hellings award is the most esteemed award a NCCAA volleyball player can receive. And Rachel is the standard for all student athletes. She maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average, led the Red River Athletic Conference over the last three years in assists, holds all of the assists records at SAGU and in three years her teams have won 84 matches." ■



## Volleyball Sets Record Season, Earn Highest Seed in School History

The SAGU volleyball team had a record-setting 2009 season, beginning 8-0 before vaulting to 18-2. They finished the season with a 23-8 record, the best in school history. The previous regular season record was set a year ago when SAGU had a 24-11 ledger.

According to Brittani Toole, "We had an amazing season, and I got to experience this season with some of the most amazing girls/sisters I have ever had the chance to play with. We all got along so well."

The Lions entered the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament as the #3 seed. They were one of six top teams to qualify for the single-elimination tournament held November 13-14 at Texas Wesleyan University in Forth Worth, Texas.

SAGU also earned a spot in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA)

tournament in Orlando, Florida, after sweeping the Central Region tournament. The #3 seed in a 10-team field, the Lady Lions earned the highest seeding in the school's history. Though the squad fought hard, they were unable to advance out of pool play.

Under Coach Hank Moore, SAGU Volleyball has had four consecutive seasons of 20+ wins with four trips to the NCCAA nationals. ■



## Toole and Daniels Receive National Awards



The National Christian College Athletic Association announced that both Brittani Toole (Whitehouse, TX/ Whitehouse HS) and

Kelani Keoho Daniels (El Paso, TX/ Franklin HS) are First Team All-Americans. Toole, a junior Middle Blocker led the NCCAA and the Red River Athletic Conference in kills and attacking percentage throughout the season. Daniels, a senior Outside Hitter, concluded an illustrious career at SAGU that saw her finish as the school's all-time leader in kills and serving aces.

The two were the thunder and lightning of the Southwestern attack, racking up over one thousand kills between them. ■





## FOOTBALL

### Lion Football Finishes Strong

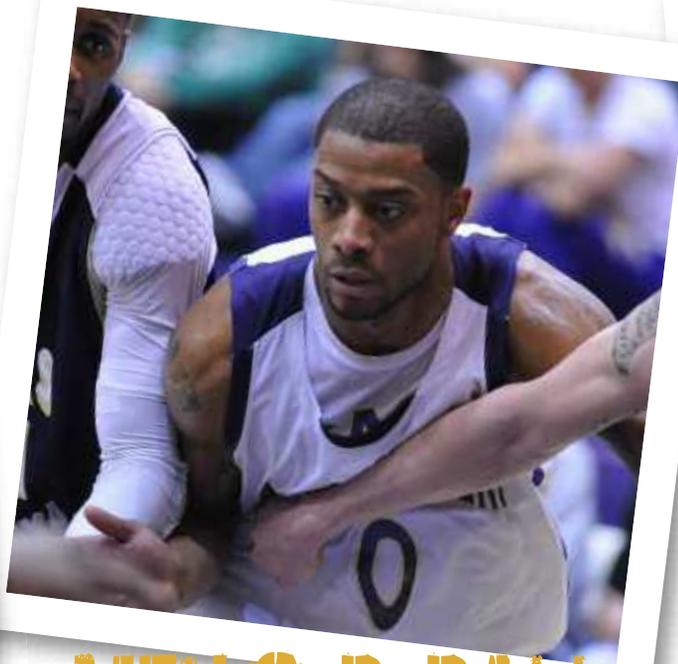
The men's football team ended their 2009 season with another win on the road. The 33-21 triumph over Bacone College became their third straight win to end the season. Despite a 3-7 campaign for the season, three losses were by a combined total of only eleven points.

In addition, the Central States Football League's 2009 All-Conference Team included eleven SAGU Lions. Offensive Tackle James J.W. Hall, linebacker Jared Hudgins, cornerback Nick Ekanem, defensive tackle Jonathan Hulett, and special teams Quentin Coleman were selected for the First Team. The Second team included Lions quarterback Jeremy Fowler, wide receiver David Howard, halfback Detrick Green and defensive tackle Josh Dowdell. Offensive guard Michael Thomas made the list as an Honorable Mention. ■

### First SAGU NAIA All-American Selections

Inside linebacker Jared Hudgins was nominated for CSFL and NAIA Defensive Player of the Week for his showing in the season finale. Hudgins remained at or near the top of the leader board in both interceptions and passes broken up. Nick Ekanem, a redshirt freshman, plays cornerback for the Lions. He finished in the top three in both passes intercepted and passes broken up. Ekanem led the CSFL in passes defended with 19 and was top in interceptions with six, most of those coming in the red zone. Nationally, he was also #1 in passes defended and #2 in picks.

According to Head Coach Jesse Godding, "We are extremely pleased with the national recognition from Jason Dannelly and the CollegeFanz Network. Obviously, Jared and Nick are extremely deserving young men who have demonstrated their capabilities at a nationally recognizable level." ■



## MEN'S B-BALL

### Lions Begin Conference Season

The SAGU men's basketball Red River Athletic Conference campaign began in January after nine non-conference games prior to the holidays. The competitive RRAC is comprised of eleven teams from three states.

The Lions (12-20) came on strong late last season to qualify for the RRAC post-season tournament. The club posted a 7-11 mark in conference games. For the 2010 season, senior co-captains 6'7" power forward Al Thompson and 6'8" center Jon Black anchor a fairly young starting lineup.

Coach Jerry Boone, in his sixth year at SAGU, has retooled the offense with the influx of new talent. The Lions have already shown flashes of an up-tempo style as well as an improving half-court game. ■

### Lions Baseball Delivers Holiday Smiles

Prior to the holidays, members of the SAGU baseball team gave a large amount of items to the Waxahachie Salvation Army and to the local Boys and Girls Clubs. The gifts included clothing for adults and children, toys and athletic supplies and equipment. Head coach Greg Hayes and various players were involved. ■

# VISIT ATHLETICS ONLINE



## WOMEN'S B-BALL

### Nicole Linen Named RRAC Player of the Week

Lady Lion Nicole Linen collected the Red River Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week award for Jan. 18-24. Linen, a 5'8" senior forward from El Paso, Texas, averaged a double-double in a 2-0 week for the Lady Lions. She scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds in a 65-60 overtime win over Jarvis Christian College. Linen followed with 22 points and 12 boards as SAGU defeated Wiley College 71-51. She also accounted for nine steals in the two games and a field goal percentage of 48.3% on 14-of-29 shooting. ■

### Lady Lions Give Christmas Gifts to Needy Children

The Lady Lions basketball team partnered with Rev. Carmen Ingram of Palmer First Assembly to provide Christmas presents for needy children in the area. This is the fourth year the team has participated in a local Christmas outreach.

Team members collected eleven shoeboxes full of toys for children 3-16 years old. Pastor Ingram distributed the gifts. This is the second year the team has helped children in Palmer receive Christmas presents.

According to Coach Arlon Beadles, "It's a great pleasure each year for the team to help children who might not have otherwise received anything for Christmas. Our team loves children and we are so glad to help." ■

### Women's Basketball Tied for 2nd

SAGU women's basketball team is currently tied for second in the RRAC and have been ranked as high as #10 nationally in NCCAA Division I. As of February 8, the Lady Lions held an overall win-loss record of 19-4, with a 12-2 record in the RRAC. ■



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his mark*

# Faculty Spotlight



## Bruce Stayments

**B**ruce Stayments served more than 25 years on the police force of his hometown, Elmira, New York. The three years prior to his retirement, Stayments served as police chief. Stayments started a community program to promote good fathering and won numerous awards in his career, including National Father of the Year for his work through the Dad School.

“I considered my whole profession my ministry,” said Stayments. “I believe I was a called police officer. God wanted me to do that and I had many opportunities to live my life as a Christian before other officers as well as the community I served.”

According to Stayments, “I always knew I wanted to be a policeman. God laid it on my heart when I was a little boy. I never really considered doing anything else as a career.” He became a policeman his junior year in

college and finished his undergraduate degree part-time.

As a police officer, Stayments began to notice a trend of fatherlessness among delinquents. When he would bring in minors, more often than not it was the mother who came to pick them up. According to Stayments, “What I saw while I was a policeman was that fathers were not involved in their kids’ lives. I saw all around me the effects of fatherlessness.” Bruce’s own father died when he was only eleven years old.

His interest piqued, Stayments did some research. The book “Fatherless America” by David Blankenhorn details what happens when fathers go missing and are not connected to their families. The result: kids involved in various societal ills.

Stayments started a community-policing program called “Elmira’s Partnership for Responsible Fathering.” A component of this program was

Dad School. For the program, Stayments had surrounding court systems send him men who needed help as fathers. These men needed reminders to be involved in their kids' lives and to realize how their behavior was affecting their kids' behavior. The class met once a week for 10 weeks to discuss effective fathering. Stayments ran the project for about 10 years.

In 1999, the National Fatherhood Initiative awarded Bruce Stayments National Father of the Year. He also received various other awards relating to the community program, including International Association of Chiefs of Police and Parade Magazine's Officer of the Year Special Citation for Community Policing Program: Dad School Foundation for Improvement of Justice's Community Policing Award. In addition, Stayments spoke across the country, including speaking to Congress and a national television segment on Court TV.

Stayments also served as the Death Investigator for the County Medical Examiner's Program of Chemung County, New York, for about 5 years. As such, he was the eyes and ears of the medical examiner and in charge of evidence at the scene. Stayments also served as a liaison between the police department, families and medical personnel. Since he was on call, it was a very time consuming period in Stayment's ministry as a policeman. He was often the only person there to minister to the family of the deceased person. Stayments would hug them and pray with them in their time of need.

His favorite part of being a police officer was simply serving the community and helping people. "I got into police work to help people and that was the most fun," Stayments commented. "It was very rewarding."

Knowing he would like to someday become a college professor, Stayments pursued his master's

degree. He earned his M.A. in Criminal Justice Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, New York, while working and raising a family. He began teaching Criminal Justice part-time at local colleges and did so for approximately twenty years.

Stayments retired from the police force in 2008 in order to teach full-time. Before he joined the SAGU faculty, however, Stayments had the opportunity to go to Afghanistan and work with the U.S. State Department as



**Stayments joins SAGU students for a game of Hoover ball on campus following a heavy downpour.**

International Police Advisor. "It was a fascinating experience," said Stayments. "I loved it."

While in Afghanistan, Stayments was asked to be the base pastor. Once interested in military chaplaincy, he had received Bible training through Berean School of the Bible for a year. The base church was comprised of 11 different nationalities and held three services a week.

Bruce Stayments became a SAGU faculty member in Fall 2009. "Now I'm pouring into my students who endeavor to be what I was," Stayments commented. "The unique thing about Southwestern is that we prepare people from all walks of life to minister in the profession to which they're called. God is calling people

from all professions."

"I hope to impart to students that God is calling them into something, maybe in the realm of criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, probation or something to do with the court systems," said Stayments. "It's a high calling and God wants them there for a reason. They'll be in a unique position to be light in a lot of dark places."

According to Stayments, "Police officers are in such a crucial position. They come in contact with people at the worst times in their lives. Policemen are God's agents to minister the government and enforce laws and bring order."

"It was a privilege to be one," says Stayments. "Now it's a privilege to launch and motivate young lives into my beloved profession."

Stayments has a lot of ideas for hands-on applications, such as crime scene search and evidence collection. He plans to start a Criminal Justice club and do internships, field trips, competitions, obstacle courses, etc.

Stayments loves the interaction with students. He has lifted weights and played "Hoover ball" with students. "The best of teaching is being able to launch young lives into whatever God has for

them," Stayments commented. "Maybe they'll remember the guy that had been a cop that was a Christian and loved people."

Bruce and Jann Stayments have been married 27 years. They have four daughters, one biological and three adopted. Brittney (24) and Bianca (22) both live and work in New York. Molly (19) is currently a sophomore at SAGU and Shauna (14) goes to Waxahachie Academy. The Stayments attend University A/G, where both their younger daughters are plugged into the youth group. Bruce enjoys physical fitness and holds several weight-lifting records in Police Olympics. ■

# The Campus Connection



## Communication Arts Students Visit Trinity Broadcasting Studios

Dr. Skip Redd and twelve Communication Arts students went to the Trinity Broadcasting Studio in Irving, Texas, Tuesday, September 22. Students were able to tour the studio and witness first-hand the production of a television program.

"The trip started our school year off with a phenomenal opportunity for the Communication Arts Department," said Dr. Skip Redd, Communication Arts Department Chair. "The privilege of experiencing the Trinity Broadcasting Network television production facility, watching behind the scenes, and the actual production taping of an international ministry was greatly valued. Experiences such as these help bridge the gap of the textbook and academia to real life environments."

According to Trae Swayze, "A magnificent display of communication and teamwork spanned all over the TBN facility. Their professionalism was a breath of fresh air and has given me hope for the

future of Christian television. They reach their target audience strategically and efficiently."

Students were particularly impressed by the equipment and display of teamwork exhibited at the studio. Danielle Chambers commented, "The control room is huge! The switcher looked so confusing but the guy in charge did it like it was nothing. The cameras were amazing I could not believe how clear the picture was when we all could see it in the control room."



"The whole setup at TBN's studio was very impressive," said Matt Retek. "What you see in front of the screen is one thing, what you see behind the scenes is another. I enjoyed sitting in the control room and watching the director do his work. Their editing suite was bigger than my dorm room."

According to Danielle, "[The staff at TBN] all worked together professionally and the communication between them all was fantastic." ■

## First Steinway Grand Piano Delivered

SAGU's first Steinway grand piano was delivered on Friday, November 20. The SAGU Music Department continues towards joining the elite group of All-Steinway Schools and providing students with the best musical instruments available.

According to Linda Robins, Music Department Chair, "The students are rapidly becoming Steinway fans! It is so exciting to watch their response as they not only play the instrument, but even as they listen to the instrument. There is an automatic 'oh my, listen to how the piano sings' response. The prac-



tice room schedules are full, and the students are definitely increasing in their piano skills with the Steinways. The performance level is rising!"

"Having Steinways in our practice rooms at school has been absolutely amazing," commented student Hannah Borden. "Now when I practice, I can make each note come to life in a way that can only happen on a Steinway. Practicing is the highlight of my day! I am so thankful for God providing us with these Steinways. Because of them, I am able to move on to the next level as a pianist, and ultimately as a minister in music."

The SAGU Music Department is raising funds for 25 Steinway pianos to become an All-Steinway School. So far, with the help of donors, SAGU has purchased four Roland digital pianos for classrooms, four Boston upright pianos for practice rooms, three Steinway studio pianos for practice rooms, two Steinway vertical grand pianos for faculty offices, and a 6'2" grand piano for the Rehearsal Hall. ■

## SAGU Wins Top Honors at Ethics Match

The Business Department fielded two teams in Ethics Match™ 2009, held Nov. 6, in Fort Worth, Texas. One of the teams took championship honors. The Texas Independent College Fund (TICF) sponsors this annual event to promote the study of business ethics. The theme of the competition was Consilium Virtusque—reason with honor.

Fourteen member schools of the TICF competed in the match. “Our team is always one of the finest at the competition,” remarked President Kermit S. Bridges. “I am so proud of them overcoming such strong competition from well-known educational institutions.”

Other member schools of the TICF include Austin College, East Texas Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University, Howard Payne University, LeTourneau University, McMurry

University, St. Edward’s University, Southwestern Adventist University, Southwestern University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Dallas, and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

“If it hadn’t been for our second team putting our first team through such rigorous practices, we may not have taken top honors this year,” commented Barry Gordon, chair of the business department and the teams’ coach.

According to Gordon, “There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that the many hours of



hard work everyone put into this pays off not only in the competition, but in the application of business ethics each student will use later as they ascend to marketplace leadership.” ■



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online exclusively at  
[www.sagu.edu/chapel](http://www.sagu.edu/chapel)

## SAGU Hosts Multi-district PK Retreat

SAGU hosted the first multi-district PK (Preacher’s Kid) Retreat September 5-7. The event was held on the SAGU campus and the North Texas District Council campground. Three hundred twenty-five PKs from seven districts attended the event.

Speakers for the event included Dr. Garland Owensby, SAGU Youth Ministries Coordinator, and SAGU President Dr. Kermit S. Bridges. The Call, a SAGU traveling ministry group, led wor-

ship for the retreat.

Students spent Saturday night at the campground and then came to SAGU for Sunday morning service and breakfast. For many of the PKs, the retreat was their first time to visit the SAGU campus. The group then enjoyed an afternoon at Six Flags Over Texas. The retreat concluded with a time of worship and a Q&A session Monday morning. ■

## Student Film Airs in Australia

The Communication Arts Department produced its first student film in the summer of 2008. The film, entitled *Breaking News*, has aired nationally on NRB and JCTV and won a REMI award last summer. It recently aired in Australia on the Australian Christian Channel (ACC).

“The favor of God upon *Breaking News*, the first-ever student film produced by

Communication Arts students, continues to amaze me,” commented Communication Arts professor Rob Price. “Who would have ever imagined that a short 30-minute film shot in the Waxahachie area by a handful of college students would be broadcast on national TV ‘down under’ in Australia? I’m learning that there is a growing desire from TV networks for program content with redemptive messages.” ■



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# The Campus Connection



## Drama Department Performs Clue

The SAGU Drama Department performed “Clue” October 22-24. “Clue” is a play based on the fictional murder mystery board game of the same name. In keeping with the nature of the board game, the production had three alternate endings.

SAGU’s production of “Clue” included cast members Cara Miles (Mrs. White), Taylor Johnson (Mr. Green), Amber Williams (Mrs. Peacock), Danielle Chambers (Ms. Scarlett), Brent Gwin (Col. Mustard), Matt Retek

(Professor Plum), Taylor Coakley (Wadsworth), and Melissa Todd (Yvette).

“I’m very excited to be able to play the role of Colonel Mustard,” Brent Gwin commented. “When I would play the board game with my family as a child I always chose the Colonel Mustard character and it is great to bring him to life.”

The Drama department has already set a slate of new plays for 2010. Details will be made available at [www.sagu.edu/news](http://www.sagu.edu/news). ■

## Harvesters Minister in South Africa, Release CD



The Harvesters, one of SAGU’s traveling music groups, recently visited South Africa to minister. The four-part harmony southern gospel quartet was invited to sing at a minister’s institute in Durban held by the International Assemblies of God in South Africa.

The conference was Sept. 28-Oct. 1. The Harvesters ministered in song throughout the conference, with many requests for encore.

The Harvesters returned to the States with a new appreciation for the work being accomplished in South Africa. According to Josiah Hartmann, “It was great to be a blessing to the church leaders of the South African Assemblies of God as well as be blessed by them through their acceptance, hospitality, and food.”

The Harvesters recently released a self-titled CD. The 10-song CD includes ten songs including “I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary,” “Goodbye World Goodbye,” “I Believe,” and “Give It Away.” There is also an exclusive rendition of “Softly and Tenderly” arranged by lead vocalist Caleb Barnett. ■



**Listen to their playlist and order the cd at**

[www.sagu.edu/harvesters](http://www.sagu.edu/harvesters)

## SAGU Holds First-Ever Christmas at Southwestern

On Monday, November 30, the SAGU Alumni Association and Southwestern Women’s Auxiliary sponsored the first annual “Christmas at Southwestern.”

According to Alumni Director Devin Ferguson, “This is an exciting new tradition! We hope it will continue as a strong tradition at SAGU for many Christmases to come.”

The event included homemade Christmas treats, hot chocolate and cider, music from the SAGU Jazz Band and SAGU Choir, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The evening began



in the Sheaffer Full Life Center and culminated with the first annual Lighting of the Campus in front of the Farmer Administration Building. ■

# Faculty Notes

## SAGU Faculty Member Published in Poetry Anthology

English professor Amy George was recently published in "The Working Poet: 75 Writing Exercises and a Poetry Anthology." The work includes a poem and writing exercise authored by George.

George's poem "Adopted" was previously published in the October 2008 issue of the journal *Pirenes Fountain*. The poem is composed of snapshots of memories from the experience of being adopted. "The Working Poet" anthology includes this poem as well as a writing exercise entitled "Taking Them Where You've Been." The writing exercise guides students in producing a poem similar to "Adopted" based on their own experience.

"I am very pleased with the anthology and humbled to be a contributor alongside poets of a much higher caliber," George commented. "The most special aspect of being a contributor in this particular collection is that my exercise was published alongside the work of Antonio Vallone, the professor who oversaw my thesis and has been an invaluable mentor to me."

## Music Faculty Member Selected as Judge for All-State Jazz Ensemble



SAGU faculty member Joel Griffin was selected as one of the judges for the 2010 Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble. Griffin was part of a panel judging high school musicians from across the state. Judges were selected from members

of the Texas Jazz Educators Association. There was a panel of six judges for each instrument, with a total of 36 judges for the ensemble. Griffin was one of the six saxophone judges.

The Texas All-State Ensemble is a twenty-piece jazz ensemble comprised of the best high school jazz musicians from across the state of Texas. The ensemble performed during an evening concert at the Texas Music Educators Association's annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, February 10-13.

"It's not only a chance to see the best and brightest young jazz musicians in the state of

Texas," Griffin commented, "but it is also an inside chance to hear and connect with possible future students."

## Meredith Jones Selected for Dallas Symphony Chorus



Meredith Jones, SAGU Chapel Worship Director, was recently accepted into the Dallas Symphony Chorus. The chorus is the official vocal ensemble of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The concert schedule

spans the orchestra's Classical season and includes occasional pop and summer concerts.

Only 25 new members were added to the 200-member chorus this year. Members are selected through an intense audition process that evaluates candidates in various aspects of music.

"It's such a privilege to be part of the Chorus," said Jones. "There are all these amazing voices. It's a privilege to sing with them and sing all this amazing literature."

Meredith graduated from SAGU with a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance. She also earned a Master of Music from Texas A & M Commerce and is currently working on her doctorate at the University of North Texas.

## Dr. Wyckoff Honored with *Festschrift*



A *Festschrift* has been published to honor Dr. John Wyckoff, longtime SAGU professor and current Graduate Chair of Theological Studies. The title of the *Festschrift* is "Trajectories in the Book of Acts: Essays

in Honor of John Wesley Wyckoff."

*Festschrift* is a German word meaning "celebratory writing." Typically, colleagues and former students contribute essays to a volume that honors the esteemed academic figure. Some of the finest in Pentecostal and Charismatic scholarship have gathered to honor the accomplished career

of Dr. John W. Wyckoff.

Contributors to the *Festschrift* include Paul Alexander, LeRoy R. Bartel, Roger Cotton, Mario Escobedo, Janet Meyer Everts, James D. Hernando, Craig S. Keener, Byron D. Klaus, Jeff C. Magruder, Jordan Daniel May, Robert P. Menzies, Robert G. Reid, Bruce E. Rosdahl, James B. Shelton, Rob Starner, and Roger Stronstad.

The *Festschrift* includes topics such as "The Role of the Holy Spirit in Teaching Ministry," "The Gospel in the Old Testament According to Paul in Acts 13," "Pneumatological Function in the Narrative of Acts: Drawing Foundational Insight for a Pentecostal Missiology," "What Simon Saw but Luke Didn't Say: A Pentecostal Reading of the Samaritan Revival in Acts 8.9-24," "Holy Boldness in Acts with Special Reference to Pauline-Lukan Intertextuality," and "The Sending of the Seventy and Luke's Purpose."

According to Dr. Jeff Magruder, "A professor's greatest source of pride is his students. This *Festschrift* is a testament to the impact that John Wyckoff's work has had on his students, many of whom have now followed him into the world of theological education."

## Dr. Jeff Magruder Presents Paper



Professor Jeff Magruder presented a paper at the Evangelical Homiletics Society last Fall, spoke at the Meyerson Center in Richardson as the keynote speaker at PYCD and had an article published in *Enrichment Journal*.

## Dr. Linda Tjong Now Research Consultant



Dr. Tjong now serves as a Research Consultant for The Baylor Heart Hospital in Plano, Texas. She teaches research process and design to the nurses and helps them with their research projects. ■

# The Campus Connection

## Criminal Justice Students Tour Detention Center

Dr. William Armistead's Delinquent Behavior class visited the Waxahachie juvenile detention center on Friday, November 20. The eleven students witnessed first-hand how a county juvenile detention center operates.

The field trip consisted of a tour of the facility and its day-to-day operations. The SAGU group learned about living arrangements for the juveniles as well as the process of admission into the facility.

Students in the class include Human Services, Criminal Justice, and Social Work majors. "It is a learning experience to see how the department operates," said Aaron Foreman. "That type of hands-on learning helps prepare students for their careers."

SAGU also partners with Ellis County Juvenile detention center for practicum opportunities. ■



## Counseling/Psychology Students Train for HopeLine Call Center

On Saturday, November 14, representatives from Dawson McAllister ministries came to SAGU to provide training to Counseling/Psychology students. This training enabled SAGU to become a "Call Center" for calls in response to McAllister's radio broadcast. The broadcast is on over 200 radio stations and talks about various life issues.

Dawson McAllister is recognized internationally as a gifted youth communicator. He started his radio career in Christian radio talking to tens of thousands of teenagers and young adults over a 15-year span. In 2005, Dawson made the switch to Top 40 mainstream radio, where he has experienced great success. He can now be heard on over 75 Top 40 mainstream stations.

For both of Dawson's shows, Dawson McAllister Live & Dawson McAllister Late

Nights, he provides an off-air "HopeLine." Teens and young adults can find answers to their problems through this HopeLine in a one-on-one setting with a trained life coach.

According to the ministry's website, "Life can be tough, and it helps when you can talk to someone who truly cares. Dawson McAllister is a place on the radio where teenagers and young adults can tell their story, receive support and encouragement, and be assured they are not alone."

The HopeLine is staffed by Phone Coaches, operating out of call centers such as the one to be implemented at SAGU. During training for Phone Coaches, individuals are exposed to skills that are essential to helping callers. These skills include active listening, encouraging, as well as identifying local resources in the community from which the call has originated. Phone Coaches also

receive specific training on dealing with issues of suicide and abuse.

During the life of the HopeLine, Phone Coaches have handled hundreds of thousands of calls from desperate and hurting teenagers and young adults whose issues and concerns are complex and deep.

SAGU students will utilize both the Enrollment and Jeter Prayer Center call centers for HopeLine.

"I have been praying some time for an outreach ministry that would be a good fit for the Counseling Psychology department," commented Dr. Robert Mapes, Department Chair. "I believe this is a great opportunity for our students." ■



## SAGU Holds Credentialing Day 2009

Southwestern Assemblies of God University held its third annual Credentialing Day on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Approximately 120 students participated in the event. Dr. James Bradford, General Secretary of the Assemblies of God, spoke in chapel on Credentialing Day.

Credentialing Day offers students an opportunity to meet with district representatives regarding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God. SAGU is one of the leading A/G schools in producing A/G ministers and missionaries.

“Southwestern’s philosophy is that everyone is a minister,” said Dr. LeRoy Bartel, Dean of SAGU’s College of Bible and Church Ministries. “We believe that the vitality and growth of the church in the future will depend on people who, regardless of their vocation, partner together to plant and grow churches in fertile fields for a spiritual harvest across the nation and around the world! Consequently we want to do everything in our power to encourage as many students as possible,



regardless of their major here at SAGU, to participate in Credentialing Day.”

District officials who participated in SAGU’s Credentialing Day included Alfred Vargas from GLAD; Ron and Paula Kelley and Cindy Russell from Arkansas; Rob and Teresa Blakney from Louisiana; Derek and Teresa Youngblood from Mississippi; Michael Dickenson and Marcus McClain from New Mexico; James and Jo Jackson from North Texas; Tom Goins and Jack Salkil from Oklahoma; Virgil Illum from Rocky Mountain; Tim and Jill Barker from South Texas; and Glenn and Betty Beaver from West Texas.

Students who participated in Credentialing Day received valuable information regarding credentialing and its process. They could begin the application process and, in some cases, even take care of credentialing interviews. Additionally, SAGU is a national testing center for A/G credentialing. ■

## SAGU Debuts Crime Scene Investigation Course

SAGU recently introduced a new course within the Criminal Justice program. Professor Bruce Stayments is teaching “Criminal Investigation” this spring semester. The course examines the practical procedures, techniques and applications of private and public investigations. It provides students with a foundational understanding of the field of criminal investigation.

The Criminal Investigation class introduces students to basic concepts, methods and issues in modern professional criminal investigations as well as the context, role, and ethical and legal standards of police officers, investigators, and agencies. Topics include documenting the crime scene, forensics, identifying and arresting suspects, robbery, illegal drugs, and terrorism. ■



## 1950s

**Edgar H. Palser** (51-'55) lives in Concord, NC. He has retired after eleven years as a Regional Consultant for AG Financial Solutions but will continue his teaching and preaching ministry. His wife, Sarah, continues in Social Services for the visually impaired for the state of North Carolina.

## 1960s

**Barbara L. Sheddan** (60-62) received her License with the Northern California/Nevada District of the A/G in July 2009. She is currently a distance education student at SAGU working on her Bachelors Degree. In addition to teaching piano, she is working at Redwood Valley A/G with her

### DON'T SEE YOUR NAME?

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Information that came in during production is held until the following issue.

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daughter and son-in-law, Pastors Zach and LeAnne Pyzer. Barbara's other daughter and son-in-law, Suzi and Jorge Bustamantez, live in Yuba City. Barbara is blessed with seven grandchildren. She resides in Lake Port, CA.

**Gary Don Ford** (69-71) resides in Rio Grande City, TX, where he has managed the library for the Starr County Campus of South Texas College for the last 5 years. Gary holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Services from the University of North Texas and a B.M.Ed. from Evangel.

## 1970s

**Lattis R. and Charlotte (Stephenson) Campbell** (70-83) live in Eagle River, AK, where they work as nationally appointed U.S. missionaries. Lattis is the Director of the Alaska District's School of Ministry, which began in January of 2009. One year later, AKSOM has enrolled almost 200 students across the State of Alaska.

**Brenda D. Clifton** (72-73) reside in Oklahoma City, OK. She has one son and two grandchildren.

**John N. Hall** (73-77) recently published a book on the history of Oak Cliff Assembly called "And the Latter Days..." It includes some of the history of SAGU. He is currently working on the second and third books of the Oak Cliff trilogy. John, who has been a printer since graduating Southwestern, is married to Andrea (Searcy). They have two children, Tony, 29, and Sarah, 14. John and Andrea reside in Red Oak, TX.

**Monte Warcup** (74-78) celebrated 25 years service with the Oklahoma City Fire Department in April 2009. Monte loves his career and has no plans for retirement in the near future. Monte's family includes his wife Deb, his son Tyler, his daughter Lauren, and his son-in-law Ryan.

**Rick Bowles** (78-82) lives in Rockwall, TX. He became the Executive Director of the Greater Dallas Fellowship of Christian Athletes in June of 2009.

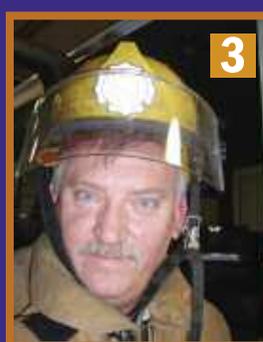
**Andy and Sheryl (Thompson) Harris** (79-82) have served as pastor of Central Assembly of God, Bossier City, LA, for the past 13 years.

**Garry L. Steffe** (79-84) and his wife Teresa moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in June 2007. They minister to people who struggle with drug addictions and alcoholics at Faith Farm Ministries. Garry is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God.

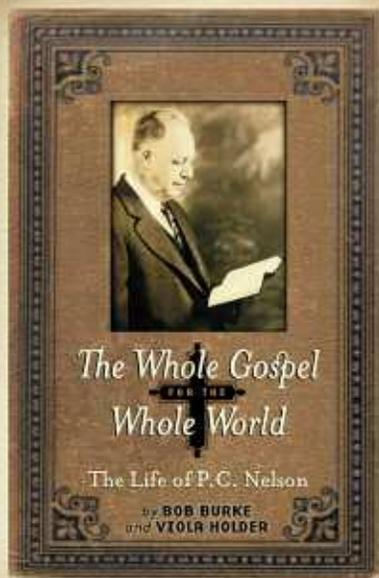
## 1980s

**Wylie Sword** (83-85) and his wife Dorene (Burklow) have two children ages 12 & 14. Wylie and Dorene are the co-pastors at Celebration Fellowship Foursquare Church in Wichita Falls, TX.

**Rafael A. Herrera** (84-88) lives in Selma, CA, where he writes monthly columns for a few local newspapers. He is a Marketing/Advertising Director for two radio stations in Fresno, CA. Rafael is currently teaching and training men who are leaders in their communities, jobs, and churches



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and will be finishing up his M.Div. in February.

**7** Richard D. Crowson (89) resides in Melbourne, FL. He is working on his fourth master's degree and is working at NASA.

## 1990s

Jo Ann Celestino-Cottrell (91-93) resides in Arlington, TX, and is a first grade ESL teacher at

Berry Elementary in the Arlington ISD.

Heather (Rogero) Harrington (92-94) is pastoring at Calvary Gospel Church of the Assemblies of God in Arlington, VA, where she resides.

**8** Kristen Welch (92-94) and her husband reside in Texas with their three kids. Kristen is the author of a Mom blog "We are THAT family." She will be traveling to Kenya, Africa, with the child advocacy group, Compassion International and blogging her experiences.

Noel Giger (94-94) started ReDeemed unique art in 2009 using recycled and repurposed mate-

rials to design unique and inspirational art and jewelry. She uses vintage hymnals, sheet music, hand-painted papers and other interesting things. Noel resides in Little Elm, TX.

Tony (94-97) and Christy (Wyatt) Harrison (93-97) have been the Directors of Children and Family Ministries at Christian Life Cathedral in Fayetteville, AR, for 8 years. They have a 14 month old son named Briggs and are expecting their 2nd child at the end of July.

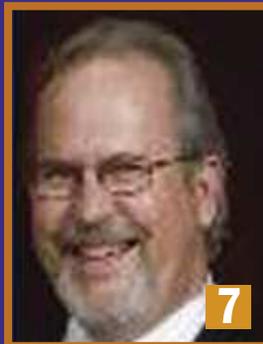
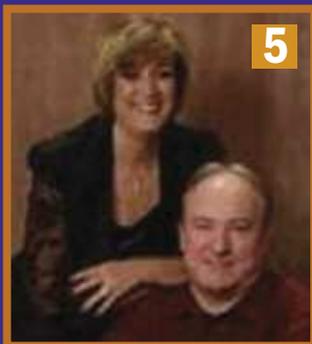
Brandi D. Lewis (94-03) lives in Richardson, TX, and is coaching gymnastics at Highland Park HS and Acrobatic Gymnastics at WOGA. She also coaches a Senior Elite Men's Pair on the USAG Senior National Team that are training for 2010 World Championships in Poland. Brandi is a nationally rated judge.

Cheyenne S. (Vestal) Fowler (96) and her husband, Barry recently had their third son, River Falcon, on April 15, 2009. They are beginning their 14th year in youth ministry in Tennessee. Cheyenne and Barry currently reside in Union City, TN.

Justin Walker (96-04) lives in Red Oak, TX, and in November of 2009 earned his Ph.D. in Leadership in Educational Administration (K-12) from Capella University. Justin's dissertation was a Descriptive Analysis of Alternative Schools in Texas.

Chad and Misty (Bray) McCaslin (97-01) reside in Sapulpa, OK, with their two kids Kaden, 6, and Brock, 3. They are starting "City Church" in Tulsa, OK.

*continued next page*



**9** Carmen A. (Roebuck) Lovelace (98-02) with her husband and their two children are newly appointed A/G missionaries to Cambodia. Their ministry will focus on church planting and discipleship. They are currently in Springfield, MO, working on their itineration and hope to move to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in the fall.

**10** Elvis Plaku (98-03) resides in Tirana, TX, and is working on his MBA through the online program of Regent University in the School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship. He is engaged to be married to Dorins Toci.

**11** Charles H. and Patty (Green) Thompson (99-01) live in Huntsville, TX. Charles is the youth pastor at First Assembly of God and Patty is teaching 4th grade at Stewart Elementary. They have one daughter, Madison Faith.

## 2000s

**12** Peter Morgan and his wife Ann-Marie (01-02) reside in Matteson, IL. Ann-Marie teaches at a local high school and will be finishing her master's degree in English within the next year. Peter is currently attending Loyola University Chicago and is in their MA Christian Ethics program. They have two daughters, Abigail and Samantha.

## Celebrations

**13** Wes Burroughs (48-50) and Annelle (Wallace) (47-49) celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on December 29, 2009. After pastoring 4 churches in California until 1970, Wes then worked as Director of Planned Giving at People's Foundation with People's Church in Fresno, CA, as well as The Salvation Army, in San Francisco. They enjoy living in Fresno, CA, close to their son's and daughter's families.

Nelda M. (Halsell) and Bobby Porter (78-80) celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on February 4, 2010.

**14** Chresten and Bridgette Tomlin (94-96) welcomed their second daughter, Libbie Camille, on December 7, 2009. She weighed 7 lb 6 oz and was 18.25" long. Libbie joins her big sister Bonnie.

**15** Blanca (94) and Martin (95) Zamarripa welcomed their third child and only baby girl, Criselle Aileen, on June 19, 2009. Older brothers Joshua, 7, and Benjamin, 4, are excited to have a new baby sister.

**16** Matthew Lowrey (96-97) and his wife are the proud parents of 15-month-old, Sean Michael. They reside in San Diego, CA.

**17** David and Carrie Jackson (97-99) are the proud grandparents of twin grandsons. John Wayne Powers III and Jessie James Powers were born December 23, 2009, at Baylor Hospital in Waxahachie, Texas.

**18** Angela Dietzel (99-04) married Tomas Zelaya on October 6, 2009. They plan to remain working for Long Island Teen Challenge until 2011 and then continue education to go to the nations. They reside in West Babylon, NY.

**Brandon Morgan (02-07)** and Rebecca Martinez were married on July 5, 2008 in Waxahachie, TX. They reside in Waxahachie, where Brandon case manages at-risk students for a non-profit organization. Rebecca is a homemaker.

**19** Scott Cieri (05-08) and Ashley Folden (01-05) were married on December 6, 2008 in Wichita, Kansas. They reside in Waxahachie, TX, and both teach 7th grade in the public school system.

**20** Wade Bearden (07-09) and Priscilla Van Winkle (04-09) were married on January 9, 2010 in Austin, TX. They currently reside in Grand Prairie, TX, where they are youth pastors at Abundant Life Assembly of God.

## Lion Cubs

**21** Carmen A. (Roebuck) Lovelace (98-02) and husband Josh welcomed Emma Claire into their family on June 28, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 22 inches long. They reside in Springfield, Missouri.



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## In Memoriam

**Marie Reimer (56-58)** was ushered to her eternal abode on July 16, 2009. Marie ministered in child evangelism with her friend Betty during their first summer. Marie married William Reimer December 1957 and they ministered as a team for many years in the West Texas, Northern California, and Southern California districts of the A/G.

**22 Laura (Dixon) Durham (90-93)**, age 37, went to be with her Lord and Savior on November 14, 2009, after a sudden illness. Laura was born in Waxahachie, TX, on June 23, 1972. She is survived by her husband, Rev. John Durham ('92-'94), and two sons, Justin Michael and Collin Martin of Roysce City, Texas. Laura and John lovingly served in ministry (AR, KS, NTD) for over fifteen years. Laura attended Waxahachie High School and graduated as the 1990 Valedictorian of Garden City High in KS. Laura was a devoted homemaker, mother, and

partner in ministry. She enjoyed Bible study, cooking, cake decoration, finance, family fun, and cuddling with her boys. When she became your friend, there was no doubt that she would walk the extra mile for you. She had an incredible servant's heart and was a faithful prayer warrior. A celebration of her life was held at University Assembly of God, Waxahachie, on Friday, November 20th. Services were officiated by Rev. Gaylan Claunch, Rev. Jim Jones, and Rev. Calvin Durham. Laura's body was laid to rest in the Union Cemetery, Nocona, TX. ■



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## School of Distance Education

### Bachelor's & Associates Degrees

#### Bachelor's

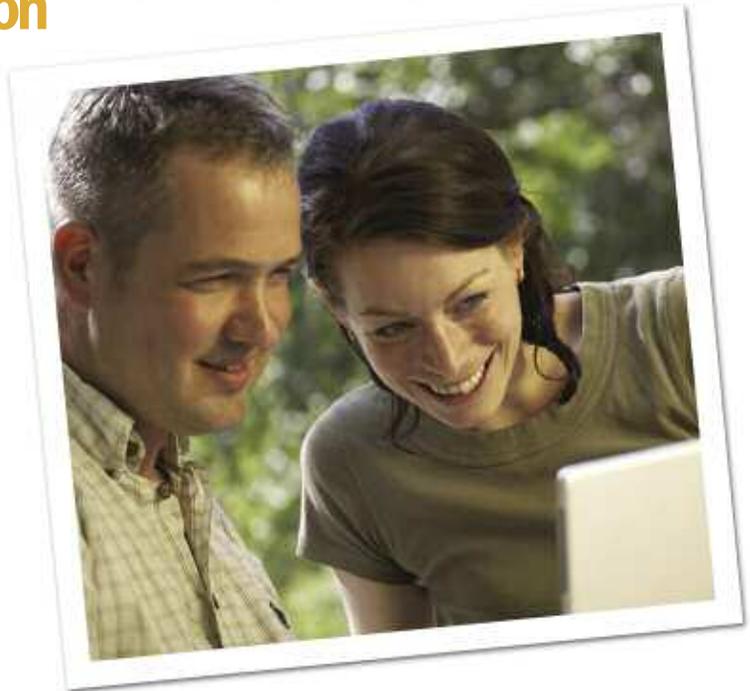
- Accounting
- Ancient Studies
- Biblical Studies
- Bilingual Education
- Business Administration
- Children & Family Ministries
- Church Ministries
- Church Planting & Revitalization
- \* Communication
- Counseling
- Counseling Ministries
- \* Criminal Justice
- \* Digital Media
- \* Drama
- Education
  - Elementary Education
  - Bilingual Education
  - Middle & Secondary
    - English Language Arts/Reading
    - Social Studies/History
  - \* Music Education
    - \* Instrumental
    - \* Piano
    - \* Vocal
  - Non-certification track
- English
- History
- Human Services
- Management

- Marketing
- \* Media Ministries
- \* Music Ministries
- Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Pastoral Ministries
- Professional Development
- Psychology
- \* Social Work
- \* Sports Management
- Theological Studies
- World Ministries
- Youth & Student Ministries

#### Associates

- Bible
- Business Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Education
- English
- \* Foreign Language
- General Business
- General Studies
- \* Media
- Music
- Psychology
- Social Studies

\* Partially offered through distance education. Some on-campus coursework required.



## Harrison School of Graduate Studies

### Master's Degrees, On Campus & Distance Education

#### Children & Family Ministries

- Counseling Psychology**
  - Counseling Psychology (Clinical)
  - Human Services Counseling (Non-Clinical)

#### Education

- Curriculum Development
- Christian School Administration
- Early Education Administration
- Early Childhood/Elementary Education
- Middle & Secondary Education
- Principalship
- School Counseling

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- Business Administration
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- Church Ministries
- Church Planting & Revitalization
- Communication
- Counseling
- Counseling Ministries
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Media Arts
- Drama
- Education
  - Bilingual Education
  - Elementary Education
  - Middle & Secondary
    - English Language Arts/Reading
    - Social Studies/History
  - Music Education
    - Instrumental
    - Piano
    - Vocal
- English
- History
- Human Services
- Management
- Marketing
- Media Ministries
- Music Ministries

- Music Performance
  - Instrumental
  - Piano
  - Vocal
- Pastoral Ministries
- Professional Development
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sports Management
- Theological Studies
- World Ministries
- Youth & Student Ministries

### Associates

- Bible
- Business Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Education
- English
- Foreign Language
- General Business
- General Studies
- Media
- Music
- Psychology
- Social Studies

**Enrollment** .....2,013

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- Men's Basketball
- Men's Baseball
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- Women's Volleyball
- Cheerleading

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