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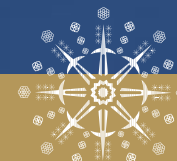
Volume 47, Number 4 Winter 2006



METHODIST
UNIVERSITY

*Commemorative
Edition*

*What was once MC Today
will soon become ...
Methodist University Today:
The Magazine for Alumni &
Friends of Methodist University*



The Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Methodist College



CONTENTS

1 MC NEWS

- * Trustees Vote to Change Name
- * Board of Visitor's Golf Tournament
- * International Students Meet Queen Noor

6 FAMILY & FRIENDS

- * Family Weekend
- * 50th Anniversary Celebration
- * Homecoming
- * MC Milestones

11 FEATURE STORY

- * You've Got Mail @ Methodist.edu

12 MONARCH ATHLETICS

- * Women's Soccer Receives At-Large Bid
- * Hall of Fame Golf Tournament

13 ALUMNI NEWS

- * Alumna Selected as CFO
- * Class Notes

16 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On the Cover: The Yarborough Bell Tower at winter's twilight represents half a century of strength and heritage in higher education. Methodist University's new institutional logo stylizes this campus landmark.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$600,000 FEDERAL FUNDS

U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge presented Methodist University with \$600,000 in federal funds to support the Occupational Environmental Management and the Forensic Science academic programs. The presentation took place on Oct. 20, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in Yarborough Auditorium in Walter and Margaret Clark Hall. Those present included trustees, state and local officials, business leaders, faculty, staff, and students.

"I know the importance of education," said Congressman Etheridge. "I'm proud today to have the opportunity—really on behalf of all of the citizens of this country—to invest back in the next generation of young people who are going to make a difference."

Etheridge requested and secured the funding in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 and the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006. These are the first federal funds awarded to Methodist University in ten years.

"Here at Methodist we have over 2,000 talented students," said Alfred Cleveland, chair of the Board of Trustees at Methodist

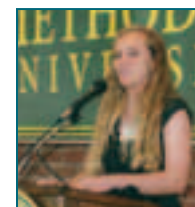


Congressman Etheridge with Methodist College Trustees (L-R): Jerry Keen '65; Harvey Wright '70, vice-chair; Al Cleveland, chair; Ron Matthews; Congressman Etheridge; Dr. Elton Hendricks, president; Bill West '69; Keith Allison; and Dr. Louis Spilman '64.

The Faces of PHILANTHROPY

Excited faces filled the room as more than 120 donors, students, and staff met on Nov. 9, 2006 during the Endowed and Annual Scholarship luncheon in the lobby of Reeves Auditorium. Held annually, this event brings scholarship donors and students together to meet, say thank you, and learn a little more about the individuals who made their scholarship possible. Throughout the event, donors and students could be seen talking, laughing, and exchanging phone numbers and addresses.

Rebecca Willis Spade and her husband, Bill, spoke to the group about her father, the late Hubert M. Willis, and the Haymount United Methodist Men's group that established an endowed scholarship in his honor. Willis, an active supporter of education, also spearheaded the effort to plant dogwood trees around Fayetteville. The Hubert M. Willis Scholarship honors his devotion to his church, his faith, and Methodist College. The Haymount United Methodist Men hold an annual barbecue and chicken dinner to fund the scholarship, whose principal now exceeds \$80,000.



Another speaker was Methodist University student **Lydia Haig**, one of the recipients of the Hubert M. Willis Scholarship. She expressed her thanks and explained how the financial assistance she received had made a difference in her being able to attend Methodist. Haig, a physical

University. "It is our mission to educate them to realize their full potential so that they can compete in a rapidly-growing, intensely competitive global society."

President M. Elton Hendricks, who accepted the check, noted the significance of these federal funds. "Methodist University ranks as one of the top ten private employers in Cumberland County with a full-time employment base of about 360 people and an annual budget of about \$40 million," said Dr. Hendricks. "An investment in this University is truly an investment in Cumberland County."

education major involved in many campus ministry activities, wants to teach and coach field hockey and lacrosse.

Laurice Evans, an education major now in her senior year, shared the story of her persistence through a 12-year quest to obtain a college degree and her desire to set a positive example for her 8-year-old son. Evans, who will graduate in May 2007, thanked the donors for their assistance in making her dream of becoming a teacher come true.

Entertainment was provided by Methodist University's scholarship vocal ensemble One Spirit, who, at one point, serenaded Linda Gravitt '82 with a rendition of "Pretty Woman," much to the audience's delight.

Ray Baker '71, scholarship coordinator, thanked the donors for their continued interest in and support of Methodist University and its students. In the 2005-2006 academic year, Methodist College designated \$8.3 million, or 22 percent of its \$37 million annual budget for financial aid. The endowed and annual scholarship program provided another \$306,000 in tuition assistance to 148 students. Scholarship funding is vital as approximately 85 percent of Methodist University students receive some form of financial aid.

To learn more about endowing a scholarship, please contact Robin Davenport or Ray Baker '71 in the Methodist University Development Office at (910) 630-7200.

Methodist College Becomes METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Trustees Vote to Change Name

The Methodist College Board of Trustees voted Oct. 28, 2006 to change the name of the institution to Methodist University. The unveiling of the name took place at the 50th Anniversary Founders' Day Convocation on Nov. 1 in Reeves Auditorium at 11:00 a.m.

"The truth of the matter is that the name change is something that has been talked about by the Board of Trustees for at least two years," said Alfred Cleveland, chair of the Board of Trustees. "It is coincidental that it is happening at the 50th Anniversary, but I think it is very appropriate that we are taking this action in our anniversary year."

"Words in higher education are used differently today," said Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, president of Methodist University. "A word that signaled something in 1956 does not necessarily send the same signal



today. The label that was appropriate in 1956 is not necessarily appropriate today."

Dr. Hendricks appointed the Rev. Dr. Michael Safley, vice president of Church and Community Relations and minister to the University, to chair the marketing committee, which will manage the transition to the new name. "Implementing such a significant change will take some time, but we are excited that we will have the opportunity to do so," said the Rev. Dr. Safley.

Although this is the first time Methodist College has changed its designation, it is the tenth independent institution in North Carolina to make the transition from college/institute/academy to university.

A Special Visit

Dr. Belton Joyner, former trustee, longtime friend of the institution, and keynote speaker during the 50th Anniversary Convocation, joins the Methodist University community for the Golden Announcement.



History of North Carolina Independent Colleges Name Changes

- 2006 Methodist University
- 2006 Chowan University
- 2002 Queens University of Charlotte
- 2001 Elon University
- 1996 Pfeiffer University
- 1995 Wingate University
- 1993 Gardner-Webb University
- 1991 High Point University
- 1979 Campbell University
- 1932 Johnson C. Smith University

PROFESSOR from Duke Divinity School VISITS METHODIST



Dr. Randy L. Maddox, professor of theology and Wesleyan studies at Duke Divinity School, joined the Methodist University community for the Third Annual Wesley Heritage Celebration on Oct. 23, 2006. Dr. Maddox presented two lectures—his first lecture was titled "The Whole Wesley's Mission of Holistic Salvation: A Model for Today," and his second lecture addressed "A Heritage Reclaimed: John Wesley on Holistic Health and Healing." Dr. Maddox is an ordained elder in the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Methodist University held its second annual Board of Visitor's Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006. This unique walking tournament, held on the University's private golf course, pairs Methodist Professional Golf Management students with community members. Freshmen and sophomores serve as caddies, while a junior or senior plays on each team. Pictured above is the winning team of (front row): Chris Manning '98, Brian Walker, student Nick Bova, and Tim Holtsclaw '92, who each received a Scotty Cameron Putter. Other prizes included Titleist Hybrid Irons and Titleist Pro-V1 golf balls. See additional photos of tournament at www.methodist.edu/alum_dev/dev_vboard.htm.



Clergy Friends

Back row (L-R): The Rev. Leonard Doucette '74, president, the Rev. Dr. John Tyson, the Rev. Bobby Tyson, Jr., the Rev. Bill Boykin, the Rev. Joe Forbes, the Rev. Dr. Jerry Jackson '75, the Rev. Henry Lee '73, the Rev. Dr. Mike Safley '72, vice president for Church and Community Relations, Methodist University. Front row (L-R): The Rev. Michael Davis secretary, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Sheppard '77, Tom Walden, Methodist University Trustee, the Rev. Gil Wise '83, Dr. Louis Spilman '64, Methodist University Trustee, and the Rev. James Malloy '78.

❖ **Natallia Yesaulenka**, a junior in the Reeves School of Business at Methodist University, a United World College (UWC) graduate, and a Davis-UWC Scholar, at the International Programs Reception, Sept, 19, 2006.



❖ **Antigone**, played by **Debora Deklein**, is comforted by Haemon, played by Brogden Heidenreich, during Methodist University Theatre Department's production of Jean Anouilh's "*Antigone*," October 5-8 2006. The play was translated and directed by department chair Dr. Paul Wilson.



❖ The Professional Women of Fayetteville present a check to Methodist University for their endowed scholarship. Pictured above (L-R): Robin Holtz, treasurer; Karla Allen, vice president; Robin Davenport, vice president of Development at Methodist University; Rebecca Lewis, scholarship recipient; Lynne Greene, president; Jean Bowden, secretary.

Accolades



❖ Twenty-two international students from Methodist University met her Majesty, Queen Noor of Jordan, at the 50th anniversary gala for the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 5, 2006. Queen Noor serves as president of the United World Colleges (UWC). Methodist University currently has 28 UWC graduates.

Center for Entrepreneurship Honors Local Leaders

Methodist University's Center for Entrepreneurship hosted its 33rd Annual Economic Outlook Symposium at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux on Nov. 1, 2006. The annual event recognizes local business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

David Herring '65 was awarded the Economics and Business Alumnus of the Year Award. Owner of the Admiral Management International Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Herring has played an integral part in the company's success. Herring says his accomplishments were made possible by the "excellent academic experience" he had at Methodist University.

Dr. Linda McAlister took home The Greater Good Award for her devotion to the Fayetteville community. As a physician, she dedicates herself to helping women with health education. Whether it is through her monthly radio show, speaking at community forums, or spending extra time with her patients, Dr. McAlister looks to treat the "whole person." McAlister expressed her gratitude to her parents, staff, and patients as well as to "the other working women [in Fayetteville] who are the fabric of the community."

The Business Person of the Year Award was presented to Gary Smith. Smith is the president and founder of SMITH advertising agency, one of the top agencies in the Southeast. "I owe my success to my parents," Smith said. "My dad taught me to be independent and confident."

The final award, Entrepreneur of the Year, was presented to Carlie C. McLamb, owner of one of the largest IGA retailers in North Carolina. Opening his first store in 1961 with only his wife, McLamb now owns and operates 12 stores with 638 employees. He said he was "humbled by this honor" and asked that everyone meet the person he felt was responsible for his success—his "mama."

The speaker for the event was Kirk deViere, owner of deViere



Pictured above (L-R): Dr. Sid Gautam, director, Center for Entrepreneurship; Gary Smith, Business Person of the Year; Dr. Linda McAlister, recipient of The Greater Good Award; David Herring '65, Economics and Business Alumnus of the Year; and Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, president, Methodist University. Not pictured: Carlie McLamb, Entrepreneur of the Year.

Management group and chair of the Cumberland County Business Council. He presented his take on keeping Fayetteville a vibrant and growing community. "The outlook of our community is filled with opportunities, but as business leaders we must create the path of action for our vision to be successful," deViere said. He believes that by focusing on the climate of small businesses, revitalization of downtown, and education, Fayetteville will ultimately be successful.

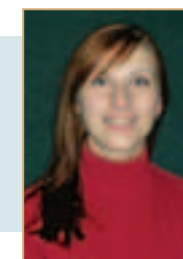
Walter McDowell served as the keynote speaker for the evening. McDowell is the Chief Executive Officer, Carolina-Virginia Banking, for Wachovia Bank, N.A. He spoke about the vitality of the housing market and the economy. McDowell feels that Fayetteville should have "no fear of an economic recession" because North Carolina's market is "growing almost twice as fast as the rest of the nation." He also feels that BRAC will be a great benefit to the Fayetteville community. McDowell sees this as a time of "Goldie Locks economics" the market is "not too cold, not too hot, but just right."

The award winners were honored at a reception in the home of President Hendricks on Nov. 30, 2006.



❖ **Jen Pasion**, an accounting major at Methodist University, won a \$2,000 scholarship from the North Carolina CPA Foundation. Pasion competed against approximately 80 other applicants from various colleges and universities around the state.

❖ John Sallstrom, P.A.-C., president of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants Endowment, and Ronald Foster, P.A.-C., director of the Physician Assistant Program, presented **Anastasiya Carney**, a clinical student at Methodist College, with a \$2,000 scholarship on Sept. 15.



Delta MU Delta Receives Jablonsky Award

The Eta Sigma Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society at Methodist University, established in 1995, received the Jablonsky Award this fall. The award is presented to the chapter that not only exceeds national standards, but has developed outstanding programs to provide additional service to members and has developed creative ways to further chapter growth, development, and visibility.



"KING" ARRIVES on a Harley

After a long wait the Monarch has an official name that was announced during the Homecoming pre-game ceremonies. "King" entered Monarch Stadium on the back of a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle carrying in the game ball. The former Monarch officially retired and handed the reign to King. The name was selected by a committee of students, staff, and administrators from over 50 suggestions. Football Coach Carl Funderburk submitted the winning name.



Milo McBride '68 presents MUA Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award to Dr. M. Elton Hendricks

METHODIST UNIVERSITY Distinguished Alumnus Award 2006

Over 200 Methodist College alumni reunited with former classmates and members of the faculty under the big white tent set up behind Margaret and Walter Clark Hall on Homecoming Saturday, Nov. 4, for "Lunch on the Green." **Mark Moses '97**, proprietor of Carrabba's Italian Grill, donated a mouthwatering meal of chicken marsala, pasta, and salad. Proceeds from the \$5-per-person luncheon benefited Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, whose principal now exceeds \$92,000.

Monarch cheerleaders and Methodist University's scholarship vocal ensemble *One Spirit* entertained luncheon guests, who were also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Methodist College and the recent decision to rename the institution Methodist University. Many alumni expressed pride in their alma mater's growth and were pleased with the new name and status of their school.

Homecoming Chair **Betty Neill Parsons '64** presided over a brief Methodist University Alumni Association awards ceremony. The MUA Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award for 2006 was presented to **Dr. M. Elton Hendricks**, president of Methodist University, by **F. Milo McBryde '68**, the 2002 recipient and former mayor of Fayetteville. Dr. Stacey Weaver and Dr. Richard Pearce received this award in the years that they retired from the College. However, the Alumni Association Board believed that it was fitting and long overdue to bestow this honor on Dr. Hendricks in recognition of all that he has accomplished for the institution since he assumed the presidency.

Since the fall of 1983 when Dr. Hendricks took office, enrollment has more than doubled, from 760 students in fall 1984 to over 2,100 in fall 2006. Academic programs have been strengthened and expanded in numerous ways. The Reeves School of Business was established in the 1980s and unique majors like the Professional Golf Management program were added. More recently, three master's degree programs

were begun: the Master of Medical Science or Physician Assistant program, the Professional M.B.A. at Pinehurst, and the Master's in Justice Administration.

Under Dr. Hendricks' leadership, three highly successful capital campaigns have provided many quality facilities, including the Science Building addition and Fitness and Wellness Center, both under construction. The College endowment has grown to \$14.2 million, and the most recent capital campaign, "*Seeds on Good Soil: A New Season*," has attracted over \$14.7 million, which is the largest campaign raised with private dollars in Cumberland County.

The Outstanding Alumni Service Award was presented to the **Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Sheppard '77**, who has remained interested and involved in his alma mater ever since his graduation almost 30 years ago. From the very beginnings of the Clergy and Laity Friends summer work team efforts in the 1980s, he pitched in to help with campus projects such as painting residence halls and the Chapel and building benches in the Student Union, among other things. He is a long-time member of the Clergy Friends Association, and he also serves on the MUA Board of Directors.



The Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Sheppard '77, recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Service Award

The MUA Outstanding Faculty Award was presented to **Jane Weeks Gardiner**, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, in recognition of her commitment to her students and the University, and her talent that she shares so often and generously at campus functions.

Methodist College Milestones

March 13, 1956

The Fayetteville College Foundation invites the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church to build a senior college in Fayetteville; offers a 600-acre site, \$2 million for initial construction, and at least \$50,000 in annual support.

May 14, 1956

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church holds a special meeting in Goldsboro, N.C., and votes to build a senior college in Fayetteville.

November 1, 1956

Methodist College, Inc. is formally chartered by the state of North Carolina after filing a Certificate of Incorporation with Secretary of State Thad Eure.

June 22, 1957

Methodist College Trustees elect L. Stacy Weaver, superintendent of the Durham City Schools, president and hire Stevens and Wilkinson of Atlanta to design and supervise construction of the campus.

November 4, 1957

The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church meets in special session in Fayetteville; votes to launch \$5 million Capital Funds Campaign to generate \$2 million for building Methodist.

August 26, 1958

Trustees and friends hold groundbreaking ceremony at the campus.

1956



Dr. and Mrs. Hendricks with the Monarch Cheerleaders on Family Weekend



Jean Jessup '70 and Wanda Herring '66 at the 50th Dinner and Dance

Dan DeCrisco '86 and his wife, Miriam, with Dr. Folsom



"King" poses with MU students



Gene Clayton at the Dinner and Dance



Barbara Sheppard, Dr. Kelli Sapp '91, Nona Fisher '88, & Dennis Sheppard '77



Dave & Wanda Herring '65 & '66



Alumni observed classes during Open House



Richard Dean '69 and Parker Wilson at Homecoming



The Breeze Band at the Dinner & Dance



The MC Alumni Art Exhibit at the Mallett Rogers House



Whitney Larrimore '00 & Stephanie Oldman Mathis '00

2006

Methodist College Milestones

January, 1960

College publishes first catalog, hires administrators and faculty, sets September opening date.

May-June, 1960

Contractors complete first phase of campus construction: Classroom Building, Science Building, Student Union, and Boiler Plant.

September 20, 1960

Classes begin and the College opens with 169 students and 12 faculty members.

April, 1963

Students approve an S.G.A. constitution, elect four officers and four senators from each class. Methodist joins five other colleges to form Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

June 1, 1964

Methodist graduates first class of 43 students; Bishop Paul Garber speaks of Francis Asbury.

November 30, 1966

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awards MC full accreditation.

March 13, 1967

Students select an alma mater or school song written by Lois Lambie, a local teacher.

1969

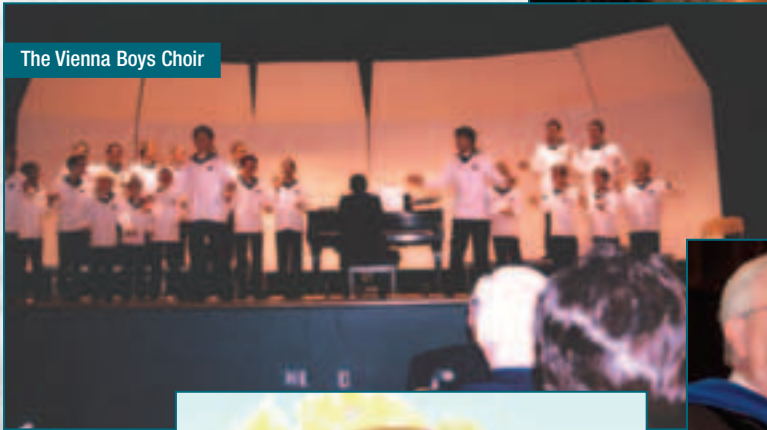
Hensdale Chapel opens; College reduces required assemblies from two to one per week.



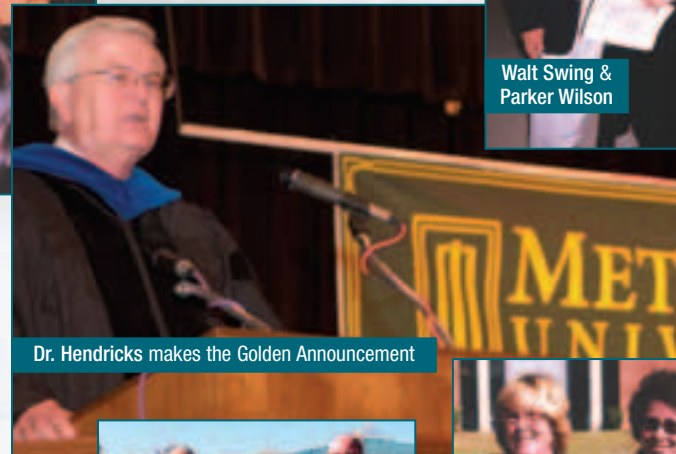
One Spirit performs at the 50th Anniversary Convocation



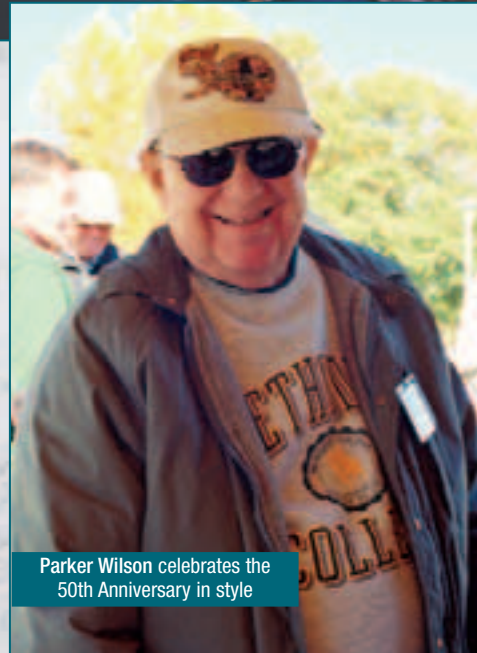
The Vienna Boys Choir



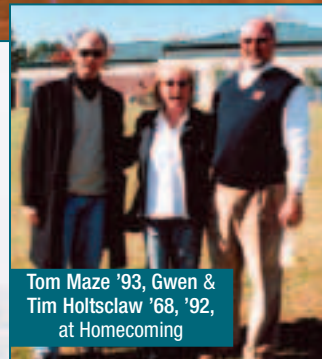
Walt Swing & Parker Wilson



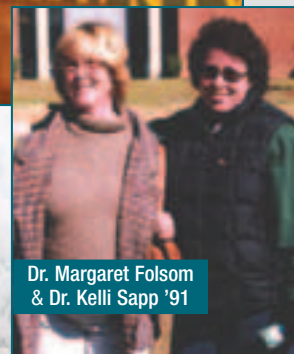
Dr. Hendricks makes the Golden Announcement



Parker Wilson celebrates the 50th Anniversary in style



Tom Maze '93, Gwen & Tim Holtsclaw '68, '92, at Homecoming



Dr. Margaret Folsom & Dr. Kelli Sapp '91



Pictured at left (L-R): Dr. Preslar, professor of English at Methodist University, and Irina Chirica, professor of American Studies, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi in Romania.

You've Got Mail

@Methodist.edu



by Maria Sikoryak-Robins

THE YEAR WAS 2001. The top ten Internet searches, according to Yahoo! Inc. were, respectively: PlayStation 2, Britney Spears, WWF, Dragon Ball Z, Napster, World Trade Center, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Dale Earnhardt, NASCAR, and Internal Revenue Service. Never would anyone imagine adding to this list "Used Books."

For Irina Chirica, however, the search was on. A professor of American Studies in the English Department of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi in Romania, Chirica was on a mission. "Hello," she wrote in an e-mail that would soon be sent to hundreds of professors nationwide. "My English Department is planning to introduce a course about 'The Ethnic Literature of the United States.' Unfortunately for us, we do not have the funds to purchase books for this project. The average salary of a Romanian academic university professor is approximately \$200 a month, and there are no institutional funds for our project. So, this American Studies project is at a dead end."

After studying John Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity," Chirica noted that his inspiring words had given her an idea: "We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities for the supply of others' necessities."

Perhaps, she thought, "If I write to American colleagues and ask them to send us some USED books that they could dispense of, this could help us out of our quandary." Her e-mail continued: "Not soap...we have no use for soap...If you send the books via M-bag, the expedition costs \$1 per pound. The books reach us in three months. Quite late, but we'll still be here after three months, the English Department is not leaving anywhere."

Chirica received about 30 responses to her e-mail. However, "Eighty percent of what they sent," she remembered, "was what I didn't need."

Then she heard from Dr. Preslar, professor of English at

Methodist University. "I was inspired when I read that," said Dr. Preslar. "I just could not let that letter pass...I had to do something about it."

Dr. Preslar decided he would go on a mission to solicit resources from his colleagues and search bookstores for books and resources to send to Chirica. Formal exchanges followed and the two colleagues continued frequent e-mail correspondence. "All that time I was collecting and supporting her in her ventures," noted Dr. Preslar, who paid every expense entirely out-of-pocket. "Her teaching," he remembered, "was dependent on what I could provide."

In the spring of 2004, Chirica invited Dr. Preslar to teach at her university. He prepared a course and left on April 1 to teach 25 master's-level students. "As a group those are the best students I've ever taught in my entire career," said Dr. Preslar. "It was invigorating."

In return, Dr. Preslar invited Chirica to come to Fayetteville, N.C., in September 2006 as a visiting professor at Methodist University. According to Dr. Christian, professor of English at Methodist University—who helped make her stay in the United States possible—she inevitably spent every minute that she had in Davis Memorial Library. Chirica, who currently teaches 24 credit

hours per week in Romania, went on a quest to absorb everything she could during her short stay in North Carolina. "To graduate professors in this country," noted Dr. Preslar, "that [24 credit hours per week] would be unthinkable."

While Chirica's stay was short-lived, the two colleagues admit that there will always be a standing invitation. "As we look to the future," said Dr. Preslar, "I hope there will be an ongoing relationship between Methodist and Chirica's University." Dr. Preslar also hopes to return to Romania—even after his retirement.

"That's the delightful possibility," he said.

"We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities for the supply of others' necessities."

JOHN WINTHROP

Methodist College Milestones

1977

College awards first honorary degree, establishes Army ROTC program.

1983

Trustees elect Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, academic dean at Randolph-Macon College, third president.

1986

College creates Reeves School of Business to honor Sanford, N.C. businessman.

1989-90

MC completes soccer field house, tennis courts, first nine golf holes; field's first football team; builds March F. Riddle Center.

1996-99

College starts the physician assistant program; completes golf course; leases land for office park and soccer complex; builds Joe Stout Hall, Medical Science Building, Player Golf and Tennis Center, Math and Computer Science Building, library annex, Clark Hall, Cape Fear Commons.

2001

College enrollment tops 2,000.

2003

College awards first master's degrees to seven graduates of the physician assistant program.

2004-6

College creates six academic schools, completes third capital campaign, adds two master's degree programs, and builds Creekside Apartments, a fitness and wellness center, and an addition to the Science Building.

2004-6

Trustees approve name change for the College. In Convocation on Nov. 1 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Hendricks announced that Methodist College will now be known as Methodist University.

—Compiled by Bill Billings '68



Women's Soccer Receives At-Large Bid to NCAA Tournament



Monarchs return to tournament after eleven-year absence

recognized that in order to guarantee a spot in the NCAA tournament, they would have to win the conference tournament. The Monarchs defeated Peace and Averett before advancing to the championship game.

Down 2-0 at halftime, freshman Whitney Roberson (Kitty Hawk, N.C.) scored in the 59th minute before junior Chrystal Bradley (Fairfax, Va.) blasted a free kick into the back of the net with one second remaining to send the game into overtime. Unfortunately, Christopher Newport defeated the Monarchs 3-2 in a shootout to earn the automatic bid.

Down, but not out, Methodist was still hoping for an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament. When the bracket was released the following Monday morning, the Methodist women's soccer team became one of 60 teams competing in the tournament receiving an at-large bid. On Nov. 11, the team took on the Maryville College Scots in Maryville, Tenn., losing a tough 2-0 battle through the rain and 35 degree weather.

Tommasi is pleasantly surprised with his team's first season and everyone has raised their expectations for next year with plans to return to the NCAA tournament in 2007.

Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, Methodist women's soccer was almost guaranteed a spot in the NCAA Division III tournament. The Monarchs made eight appearances in ten years all leading up to the national championship game in 1995. The first head coach, Joe Pereira, built a powerhouse before taking over at Old Dominion University in 1995. During the ten seasons prior to this fall, Head Coach Phil Stephenson and Head Coach Bobby Graham worked to take the team back to the NCAA tournament.

When first-year Head Coach Tony Tommasi arrived in August, he admitted he wasn't sure what kind of team he would have this season. Everyone soon realized he had eighteen women prepared to work hard over the next three months to reach postseason play. Throughout the 2006 season, the Monarchs received numerous team and individual accolades, most notably the USA South regular season championship. However, the team

Hall of Fame Golf Tournament

ON JUNE 1, 2007, the Monarch Booster Club will host the 10th Anniversary Hall of Fame Golf Tournament at King's Grant Golf Club in Fayetteville, N.C. The goal of the tournament is to raise funds that the Monarch Booster Club can use for the academic year to enhance the University's athletic programs. Created in 1998, former Athletic Director and current USA South Athletic Conference Commissioner Rita Wiggs initiated the tournament that has grown over the years and now incorporates the Lowdermilk Scholarship Fund. The tournament is a flighted event with awards presented to the top teams in each flight, in addition to the Lowdermilk Award given to the top Methodist College alumni team. Last year's tournament raised almost \$10,000 for Monarch athletics.

The tournament is a four person captain's choice event. For more information about registering for this year's tournament or to become a sponsor, call (910) 630-7182. To become a member of the Monarch Booster Club, visit www.methodist.edu/monarchs/boosterclub.htm. The Booster Club is also accepting nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame. To submit a nomination, call (910) 630-7182 or (910) 630-7172.



2006 Methodist Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees (L-R): Stephanie Cullipher (daughter of Dr. Ernie Schwarz), Heather Hugus Purgason '00, Amy Todd, Jamelle Ushery '98, and Catherine Byrne '91.

BIRTHS

Brian Cuppett '92 and his wife, Lisa, welcomed their second son, Nicholas Brian Cuppett, in April 2006. Older brother Andrew is 2 and the family resides in New Jersey.

Denise Darby-Hysell '92 and her husband Ron welcomed daughter, Rebecca Lynn, to their family Nov. 26, 2005. She joins her sisters Kimberly (12) and Elizabeth (4). Currently Denise is manager at FASTsigns in North Palm Beach, Fla.

On May 2, 2006, **Amanda Sykes Autry '94** and husband Rufus celebrated the birth of their second child, Jeffrey Hayden Autry. Big sister Emily (7) is very happy with the addition. In August 2006 Amanda was awarded her second master's degree in school administration from Campbell University and is currently the media coordinator for Armstrong Elementary.

Darren Thompson '96 and his wife, Lisa, announce the birth of their son, Landen Jace, on Nov. 9, 2006. Landen weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz., and was 20 3/4" long. Darren, Lisa, Ragan, Tate, and Landen are currently living in Fayetteville, N.C.



James Taplie Coile '98 and wife Jenn celebrated the birth of their son Zachariah George on Nov. 6, 2006. Zack weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz., and was 21" long.

Jennifer (Loesekann) Jumper '01 and Nathan Jumper '98 are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Tyler Andrew. He was born on May 18, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz., and was 22" long. Tyler is their first child.

Kevin and Erin Dzielecki '99 welcomed the birth of our first child, Anna Grace Dzielecki on Sept. 4, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz.

Erin (Updegrove) Brouillard '01 and husband Jake welcomed daughter Madisyn Lynn into the world on Aug. 11, at 6:48 a.m. Madisyn Lynn weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz., and was 19" long. The family lives in Naples, Fla.

ENGAGEMENTS

Robert L. Giannini, III '70 and wife Pat of Philadelphia, Pa., recently announced the engagement of their daughter Kathleen Amanda Giannini to David Bradbury, son of William and Margaret Bradbury of Yardley, Pa. Kate is a 3rd grade teacher with the Abington, Pa., School District. Dave works for a mortgage investment firm in Montgomery Co., Pa. Both are graduates of Pennsylvania State University. A June 2007 wedding is planned.

Kenneth Nettles of Fayetteville and Anita Gillis of Ruskin, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin Royal Nettles of Norfolk, Va., to **Robert Neil Arbogast '97** of Norfolk Va., son of Michael and Edie Arbogast of Moyock. The couple plans to marry at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 28, 2006 at Melange Bed and Breakfast in Hendersonville. The bride-elect is a corporate trainer at American Funds in Norfolk, Va. The groom-elect is a recreation specialist for the city of Virginia Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Young announce the engagement of their daughter **Amy Michelle Young '98** of Fayetteville, N.C., to Brian Edward Beisheim of Fayetteville, N.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Beisheim of Acton, Mass. The couple plans to marry at 6 p.m. on Oct. 13, 2006 at Northwood Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church in Fayetteville. The bride-elect is an instructor in staff development at Cumberland County Department of Social Services. The groom-elect is a C-130 pilot in the Air Force.

WEDDINGS

Connie Hudson Perkins '75 and husband Tom are pleased to announce the marriage of their eldest son Isaac, to Katherine Fuccella in Richmond, Va., on Aug. 12, 2006. Their younger son Jeremy is a junior at Methodist University.

Steven Vinci '00 and Dr. Stephanie Chuive recently wed in Barkhamsted, Conn., on Aug. 26, 2006. Steven is an editor/copywriter for AliMed, Inc. in Dedham, Mass., and Stephanie is a Research Fellow in Harvard University's School of Public Health. The couple resides in Brookline, Mass.

Anna M. Shelton '02 was wed to Jason Cranford on April 22, 2006 in Emmanuel Luthern Church in Lincolnton, N.C. The couple honeymooned in Florida and reside in Lincolnton.

Leemour Banks Smith '02 married Shelton Smith at University Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., where the couple currently resides.

Lee Hubbard '04 married Debbie Ormand on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Morris Chapel UMC in Sanford, N.C. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Douglas Curran. The couple honeymooned in Asheville, and will reside in Lillington. Lee works for Lee County Schools and Debbie is a school psychologist with Cumberland County Schools.

Hugh Matthis '04 and Lyndsey Dorr '05 tied the knot on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Pinehurst at the Community Presbyterian Church. A reception was held at National Golf Club. The new Mr. and Mrs. Matthis will live half of the year in New Jersey and the other half in Georgia.



Ashleigh Radford '05, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. David Radford '78**, was married to Brett Dipolito on Sept. 9, 2006 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Durham, N.C. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Leonard Doucette '74, whose wife, Mrs. Coleen Shaw Doucette '74, is also an alumnus. Many of the guests were Methodist College alumni as well. Ashleigh is an administrative assistant at BB&T in Raleigh. Brett is a Teaching Professional at Golftec in Cary. They honeymooned in Mexico and currently reside in Apex, N.C.



Back row (L-R): Sean Wright '05, Jeff Brooks '05, Patrick Bucolo '05. Middle row (L-R): John Elkins '75, Jody Dulin '05, Susan (Cox) Ryan '90. Front row (L-R): Brenda (Ellyson) Radford, Ashleigh (Radford) Dipolito '05, David Radford '78.



CLASS NOTES

1984
David Auchmoody '84 has recently accepted the position of senior firefighter at the Apex Fire Department. His current assignment is driving Engine Two for Lt. Chad Edmunds.

1989
Everette and **Tracie Grimes McDonald '89** celebrated their 15-year wedding anniversary on Sept. 21, 2006. Everette teaches art, music, and physical education at Flora Macdonald Academy and also coaches cross country. He is an assistant minister at Love and Joy Christian Center in Lumberton. Tracie is a group home manager for Life Solutions in Lumberton. They both celebrated their 40th birthdays this year!

1992
Jennifer Akers Curtis '92, husband Curt, and their one-year-old son, Benjamin, have recently moved to Alexandria, Va. It is a welcomed move considering Jennifer and Curt spent the past year apart with Curt stationed in Korea, while Jennifer and Benjamin stayed in Tennessee with Jennifer's family. Jennifer would love to see old friends if you are in the area!

1996
Darren Thompson '96 was the recipient of the first ever Spirit Industry Trade Association (SITA) Leadership Award. The award was given during the SITA annual meeting in July 2006. Darren is director of Project Development at Cheer, Ltd., Inc. in Fayetteville, N.C.

2001
Brandon Spiece '01 is now a history teacher and head wrestling coach at Douglas Byrd High School in Fayetteville
Garret Stempfer '01 and wife Tara are expecting their first child in March. Garret recently accepted an asset analyst position with Mellon Financial Corp. and most recently worked as a financial advisor with New England Financial. His wife Tara just completed her doctorate of physical therapy from Drexel University.

Steven Wintersteen '01 and wife Laura, along with Steven's family, recently purchased the Cassadaga Country Club in Cassadaga, N.Y. They are the first local family to own the club in forty years. Steven was previously a golf pro in Florida before returning to his hometown.

2002
Laina Carter '02 has opened her own business, Sophisticates Salon, in Andrews Commons Shopping Center just north of the Methodist University campus. She reports that many MU students are loyal customers! To say hello to Laina, call (910) 487-4242.

2003
Terrance Abraham '02 and wife, Molly '03 work for the Cumberland County School System where Molly is a 4th grade teacher at Long Hill. She is also pursuing her master's in administration. Terrance is a teacher's assistant at Pauline Jones Elementary and is also working for Beasley Broadcasting Group as an on-air personality for WZFX Foxy 99.1

Anne Zahran Benenhaley '03 recently received her master's degree in liberal studies from UNC-Greensboro and is currently teaching English at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Alexander Fernandez '03 has been a management analyst with the U.S. Census Bureau, a part of the Department of Commerce, in Washington, D.C., since 2004. He resides in Fairfax, Va. Alexander anticipates a promotion to GS-11 later this year. "I continue to remember the great times I had at Methodist College and I am proud of graduating from such a great place!"

Elena Blanina '03 recently relocated to New York, N.Y., and began working for Credit Suisse, a financial services company.

2004
McKinley Bailey '04 was recently elected to the Iowa State House of Representatives. Representative Bailey received his associate's degree from Methodist College and his bachelor's degree in international studies with a concentration in international business from the University of Iowa. Most recently he founded and served as president of the University of Iowa Veterans Association—a non-partisan organization dedicated to helping returning veterans adjust to university life and supporting all of those who still serve. He also served as a veterans advisor in the University of Iowa Veterans Center, an entity that the university created in part as a result of lobbying by the Veterans Association.

2005
In October, **Matt Seals '05** accepted a position at Salem UMC in Simpson, N.C., as director of Youth Ministries.
Crystal Martinez '05 recently took a position as the group account manager working for the Camden Riversharks, a Minor League baseball team in Camden, N.J.

ALUMNA SELECTED as CFO of United Methodist Church Pension & Health Plan



Sharon E. Strother '77 became the new chief financial officer of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) of The United Methodist Church on November 6, 2006.

The denomination's offices are in Evanston, Ill., where she will oversee the General Board's accounting and actuarial departments.

The GBOPHB manages and invests over \$14 billion in assets. It is responsible for the supervision and administration of the retirement, health, and welfare benefits, plans, and funds for more than 66,000 clergy and lay employees of the church.

Strother served as treasurer-business manager-pensions officer of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church (NCCUMC) from 2002, when she was elected to the position, until Oct. 31, 2006, when she resigned to take the post with the GBOPHB. She was conference controller from 1990 to 2002.

Prior to joining the NCCUMC, Strother was an in-charge auditor for McGladrey & Pullen, CPAs; the accounting manager for the City of Fayetteville, N.C.; an accountant/auditor for Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, CPAs; and an auditor for the North Carolina State Auditor's Department. She is a certified public accountant and holds a bachelor of arts degree from Methodist.

Strother and her family will continue to live in Cary, N.C., while she commutes to Evanston on a weekly basis.

Professor Receives Grant



Paul Joseph, assistant professor of mass communication, received a grant from the Cumberland County Arts Council to produce an independent video project of his original short story called "The Ultimate Case." The video has been released and is available on DVD. **Dr. Carl Dyke** and **Dr. Bill Watt** were primary characters in the video.



Thank You

Methodist University extends a special thanks to the Mid-South Sports, Inc. Team for doing radio and Web cast broadcasts this year.

The Mid-South Sports, Inc. Team (L-R): Chris Foster, Steve Driggers '76, Charles Koonce, Dave Foster '76, and Andrew Foster.



